

# **ROM 442: Dracula and Vampire Lore**

Summer 2024, Sections 48234 & 48235

## **Contact Information**

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**Office Hours:** T, Th 3:00-4:00 pm AZ time, all meetings are on zoom. You can contact me via email for an appointment or for other questions and problems. I will get back to you within 24 hours.

## **Course Description**

Dracula and vampire stories are more than Gothic horror tales of blood thirsty demons to whom we are drawn in fear and who are haunting the imagination. They symbolize human fear and fascination with perpetual tension between the dark and the light, the wrestling match between Christ and Satan, the sacred and the profane. Seen or sensed through a hot wash of blood, these struggles are also associated with the complex allegories of sexuality in its double representation: its purity and unimaginable innocence or reeking with sin and the foul odor of depravity. Associated with the eerie, other-worldly images, the deeply embedded religious and cultural themes and the exploration of history and folklore illuminate the complexity of the central symbol of the vampire as the perfect model for Bram Stoker's character and for the stories and movies of every generation.

## **Course Objectives**

Our objective is to re-appropriate, re-configure, and re-contextualize male and female vampires as literary or cinematic metaphors, culturally charged in fiction and film to enact new energies in our everchanging world. Through seductive or devouring constructions, depicted or portrayed as celebrated figures, vampires are Gothic creatures that teach us the constraints, roles, and agency of gender and social conventions.

Vampire stories are not only local phenomena placed in Transylvania, as the common stereotype is incessantly spread. Legends about Dracula and the Count himself may be 'untrue,' but events that took place during the life and reign of the Wallachian Voivode Vlad Tepes, better known as Vlad the Impaler, are nonfictional. He ruled during the time of the Ottoman Empire expansion to Europe - his fight against the Turks gives us a reason for the altered understanding of Vlad as a vampire figure. You will learn that although occurring and recurring in continuously changed environments, Count Dracula affects everyone to the same degree, still remains as secret and

elusive as before, pitted against mysterious spaces of faraway castles from Whitby, UK (the origin of Stoker's *Dracula*), to Bran and Poenari Castles in Transylvania, as well as Alexandre Dumas's *The Vampire of the Carpathian Mountains*.

Following such leads, the course proposes to explore the Count's ageless figure paying a special attention to vampire beliefs and theories both in the main novel and the film screenings of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and in documentaries and more recent cinematic productions, following the evolution of a genre still very present in our contemporary culture.

The Fantastic and Gothic, as concepts in literature and film, encouraging us to think at a multiverse instead of a universe, will be discussed, analyzed and exemplified. Moreover, we will encounter ancient and modern vampires, spirits and "creatures" from other real or imaginary realms haunting the world of the living worldwide.

## **Learning Outcomes**

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Distinguish between myth and historical reality, with focus on both fictitious and real characters portrayed in cinema and historical/modern figures.
- Discuss, analyze and write critically and comparatively about various beliefs in the world (literature, movies, series, documentaries, legends).
- Develop a deeper global awareness and understanding of other cultures than their own.
- Apply the theory of the fantastic and Gothic to various fiction genres, including the vampire narratives.

## **Textbooks and Required Purchases**

Students do not need to purchase any course materials. The materials will be provided within each module on Canvas.

## **Course Assignments**

As you follow the brief summary of assignments for each module given below, please keep in mind that completion of this course also means that you demonstrate General Studies Designations criteria for: Global Awareness, History, Humanities, and Literacy.

You are responsible for writing 7 papers for the course, 5 short papers and the Midterm Essay and Final Exam Essay papers. All of these papers must be substantive and well developed, using examples and quotes from the reading materials. They also must use proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, and MLA Formatting (Times New Roman, 12 pt font, 1" margins, double-spaced). As part of the online submission process, all papers will be submitted through the plagiarism detecting application Turnitin.

The 5 short papers are typically 1 to 2 pages in length in which you will demonstrate your understanding of the reading and viewing materials for the module. The two Midterm and Final

Exam essays will provide a more in-depth analysis of themes from Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula" (for the Midterm essay) and either the film "A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night" or "Miss Christina" (for the Final Exam essay).

The short papers will be due in modules 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. These modules are each worth 10 pts and therefore each is 10% of the overall grade. The Midterm Essay and Final Exam Essay papers will be due in Modules 4 and 7 and are each worth 25 pts and therefore each is 25% of the overall grade.

## **Peer Groups**

As part of Module 1, you will be expected to self-select into a Peer Group of three-five students. Instructions on doing this can be found in Canvas. This is an opportunity for you to meet one another and establish an academic dialogue in this course. To earn the full 8 points for your first essay, you need to discuss your writing plans with your group. Though certain themes and quotes may overlap, all papers throughout the course are individual assignments and the flow and organization of those writings should be unique to each individual (e.g., do not copy each other). Please list the names of the students in your peer group at the bottom of your first paper.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Module 0: Let's Get Started**

This module will help you get started in the course. Note that you will not be able to access the other course modules until you submit the Academic Integrity survey located in this module.

### **Module 1: The Pre-History of the Literary Vampire (10 pts)**

This first module is worth 2 points for your personal presentation and 8 points for the writing of a short paper, for which you are encouraged to collaborate with other students in your course. Your paper in this module can be a choice of topics, A or B. In this module you will self-select into a Peer Group. Since this is a lighter-assignment week, you should begin the Module 3 reading "Dracula, Prince of Many Faces," and Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula" due in Module 4.

### **Module 2: The Gothic and the Literary Vampire (10 pts)**

In this module, you will write another short paper based on a selection from topics A or B. Since work in this module is fairly light, be sure you are on your way to finishing "Dracula, Prince of Many Faces" due in Module 3, and are on your way to the reading of Bram Stoker's "Dracula," which is fairly long and will form the material for your midterm essay in Module 4.

### **Module 3: The Historic Roots of Dracula (10 pts)**

Again, you are to write one short paper; however, this paper involves the synthesis of information from the module reading, a film, and a documentary. Allow yourself time to think about how you will use information from all three materials to support your writing.

#### **Module 4: Victorian Culture (25 pts) Midterm**

You are going to write a 2-3 page midterm essay about Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula." This essay follows the same expectations as the short paper (MLA Formatting: Times New Roman, 12 pt font, 1" margins, double-spaced) and must be substantive and well developed, using examples and quotes from the reading materials. The essay must also use proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

#### **Module 5: Cinematic Transformations (10 pts)**

You will enjoy seeing three different movies and then write a 1-2 page short paper of basically one movie per detailed paragraph, and to include introduction and conclusion paragraphs. Since this is a lighter assignment, you would be wise to start reading the stories in Module 6 to free yourself for the work of Module 7 that will include your final exam essay.

#### **Module 6: Vampires and Vampirettes in Fiction (10 pts)**

You will be reading only two stories, quite light reading, and write one, 1-2 page short paper. This week you need to be seriously reading the selections in Module 7, which requires extensive reading and viewing of two movies, before writing your final exam paper. In addition, one of the two movies in Module 7, "Miss Christina," is available only a short time (Feb. 13-25), so you need to make the most of your time before that week.

#### **Module 7: Vampirettes in Film, Fiction, and Among Us (25 pts)**

You are to read the stories "Carmilla" and "Clarimonde," read the two critical essays by Mutch and Whisker, and watch the two movies. For the movie "Miss Christina" you can also listen to the short lecture on Vampires and Feminism embedded in your canvas Module 7. You will select one of the two topics, A or B, and write the final exam essay, due by Tuesday, Feb. 28, 11:59 p.m. Arizona time.

#### **Course Deadlines**

Specific readings and viewings are outlined for each module in Canvas. Module assignments will be due each Sunday by 11:59 pm Arizona time, except for the Final Exam Essay, which is due on Tuesday, Feb. 28, by 11:59 pm Arizona time. Expect your grade to be posted by Thursday of the week following your submission (e.g., the first assignment in Module 1 due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 15 will have grades posted by Thursday, Jan. 19).

#### **Late or Missed Assignments**

Notify the instructor BEFORE an assignment is due if an urgent situation arises and the assignment will be submitted late. Published assignment due dates (Arizona time) are firm. No late submissions are accepted without valid or medical excuse.

## Submitting Assignments

All online assignments MUST be submitted via the associated assignment submission feature in Canvas. Do NOT submit an assignment via email.

## Grading Scale

Your grade will be determined based on the following grading scheme:

A+	97% - 100%
A	94% - <97%
A-	90% - <94%
B+	87% - <90%
B	84% - <87%
B-	80% - <84%
C+	76% - <80%
C	70% - <76%
D	60% - <70%
E	0% - <60%

## Grade Appeals

Grade disputes must first be addressed by discussing the situation with the instructor. If the dispute is not resolved with the instructor, the student may appeal to the department chair per the University Policy for Student Appeal Procedures on Grades

## Drop/Add and Withdrawal Dates

This course adheres to a compressed schedule and may be part of a sequenced program, therefore, there is a limited timeline to drop or add the course. Consult with your academic advisor and notify your instructor to add or drop this course. If you are considering a withdrawal, review the following ASU policies: Withdrawal from Classes, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, and a Grade of Incomplete.

## Communication and Technology Requirements

Your Canvas Email/Messages is an official means of communication among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon messages in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly. ***All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.***

This course requires a computer with Internet access and the following:

- Web browsers Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)
- Adobe Flash Player (free)
- Webcam, microphone, headset/earbuds, and speaker

- Microsoft Office or Google Drive (Microsoft 365 and Google Drive are free for all currently-enrolled ASU students)
- Reliable broadband internet connection (DSL or cable) to stream videos.

*Note:* A smartphone, iPad, Chromebook, etc. may not be sufficient for completing your work in ASU courses. While you will be able to access course content with mobile devices, you must use a computer for all assignments, quizzes and exams, and virtual labs.

## Technical Support

This course uses Canvas to deliver content. It can be accessed through MyASU at <http://my.asu.edu> or the Canvas home page at <https://myasucourses.asu.edu>. To monitor the status of campus networks and services, visit the System Health Portal at <http://syshealth.asu.edu/>. To contact the help desk, call toll-free at 1-855-278-5080.

## Other Campus Resources

Please refer to the following additional resources available to ASU students:

- ASU Academic Success Program (tutoring)
- Counseling Services
- Financial Aid
- Disability Resource Center
- Major & Career Exploration
- Career Services
- Student Organizations

## Absences

For the first short essay assignment, you will need to self-select into a peer group and discuss with your group your plans for the first writing assignment. You may then work with this group throughout the course. Absences may be excused on a case-by-case basis. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with your instructor. However, that does not guarantee that an exception will be made.

Documentation will be required by your instructor in order to excuse your absences. You must email or call your instructor to arrange for makeup work if necessary. Any assignment submitted late, without a doctor's note, will not be graded. Please contact the instructor if there are extenuating circumstances, at which point the instructor reserves the right to determine whether or not the late assignment will be graded.

Students that need to be absent from class due to religious observances (ACD 304-04: Accommodations for Religious Practices) or due to participation in university-sanctioned activities (ACD 304-02: Missed Classes Due to University-Sanctioned Activities) should notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester about the need to be absent from class and make arrangements to make up missed assignments and in-class work.

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, and laboratory work, academic transactions, and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification, and dismissal from ASU. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>.

## **Accommodating Students with Disabilities**

Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services should contact SAILS immediately. The SAILS Tempe office is located on the first floor of the Matthew Center Building. SAILS staff can also be reached at (480) 965-1234 (v) or (480) 965-9000 (TTY). For additional information visit: <https://coass.asu.edu/accessibility>.

## **Expected Classroom Behavior**

Netiquette is defined as appropriate online behavior. For this course, netiquette includes keeping course collaborations focused on the assigned topics, maintaining a positive and polite atmosphere, and using tact in expressing differences of opinion.

If students are asked to participate in a synchronous meeting via a video conferencing application, students are expected to use their web cameras so they can be seen. Students should ensure that background noises and distractions are removed (food, TVs, music, other people in the room). Students should dress appropriately for this academic meeting. They should remember that any inappropriate distracting behavior via a virtual meeting will be dealt with in the same manner as in the physical classroom.

## **Policy Against Threatening Behavior**

All incidents and allegations of violent or threatening conduct by an ASU student (whether on or off campus) must be reported to the ASU Police Department (ASU PD) and the Office of the Dean of Students. If either office determines that the behavior poses or has posed a serious threat to personal safety or to the welfare of the campus, the student will not be permitted to return to campus or reside in any ASU residence hall until an appropriate threat assessment has been completed and, if necessary, conditions for return are imposed. ASU PD, the Office of the Dean of Students, and other appropriate offices will coordinate the assessment in light of the relevant circumstances.

## **Reporting Title IX Violations**

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education

program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately. ASU online students may access 360 Life Services, <https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html>.

## **Policy on Sexual Discrimination**

Arizona State University is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for the entire university community, including all students, faculty members, staff employees, and guests. ASU expressly prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by employees, students, contractors, or agents of the university based on any protected status: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and genetic information.

## **Copyrighted Materials**

All content in this course, including video lectures/meetings, presentations, assignments, discussions, quizzes, and exams is protected by copyright and may not be shared, uploaded, sold, or distributed.

Students must refrain from uploading or submitting material that is not the student's original work to any website, course shell, or discussion used in this course or any other course unless the students first comply with all applicable copyright laws. Instructors reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement. Any recording of class sessions by students is prohibited, except as part of an accommodation approved by the Disability Resource Center.

## **Syllabus Disclaimer**

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Please remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.