

Themes in Literature: Evolution of the Vampire



English 290-002
Spring 2013
Morton Hall 104
MW 3:30-4:45

Instructor: E. Ashley Bisette Sumerel
Office: MO 103D
Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:00 and by appt.
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COURSE OVERVIEW

Required Texts and Materials:

- Ryan, Alan. *The Penguin Book of Vampire Stories*. 978-0140124453
- Stoker, Bram. *Dracula: Norton Critical Edition*. 978-0393970128
- Rice, Anne. *Interview with the Vampire*. 978-0345409645
- Butler, Octavia. *Fledgling*. 978-0446696166
- Select episodes of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* - may be purchased, rented, or checked out that the library
- Microsoft Word and PowerPoint (If you do not have access, you can use "[Tealware](#)")
- Adobe Reader (free download here: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>)
- A saving device such as a flash drive

Course Description: Vampires. From the ghastly, ruthless monster to the sympathetic version with a conscience, these mythological creatures have fascinated readers for centuries. In this course, we will explore the ways in which the vampire myth has evolved, as well as the common themes that seem to occur throughout every vampire story.

Course Goals:

- To trace the development of the vampire mythology and to explore the major concepts and issues presented in literary texts. (AIL 2, WI 5)
- To demonstrate the ability to critically analyze, appreciate, and make cogent subjective judgments about vampire literature. (AIL 1)
- To sharpen critical and close reading skills and develop a familiarity with literary terms and conventions through assigned readings and lectures (AIL 1)
- To create sustained, thoughtful, and persuasive arguments according to the standard conventions of English (WI 1; WI 4)
- To select and choose textual sources to generalize, explain, and interpret content about issues in a given text. (WI 1, WI 2)
- To demonstrate an understanding of the ethical use and citation of others' ideas used as supporting materials (WI 3)
- To sharpen intellectual curiosity and develop confidence as a speaker and facilitator of discussions (AIL 3)
- To analyze and evaluate the claims about the development and/or continuity of vampire literature. (WI 5)

Course Requirements:

Response Papers – 10 points
Participation – 10 points
Close Reading Essay – 20 points
Analysis Essay – 20 points
Group Project – 20 points
Final Exam – 20 points

Final Grading Scale:

93-100 points – A (Excellent)	73-76 points – C (Average)
90-92 points – A-	70-72 points – C-
87-89 points – B+	67-69 points – D+
83-86 points – B (Good)	63-66 points – D (Passing)
80-82 points – B-	60-62 points – D-
77-79 points – C+	Below 60 points – F (Failure)

BLACKBOARD

We will be using Blackboard quite a bit in this course. This is where important materials for the course will be posted. To login, go to learn.uncw.edu. If at any point during the semester you have problems with Blackboard, you can receive assistance from the Technology Assistance Center. The email address is tac@uncw.edu and the phone number is 910-962-HELP (4357). If you do email the TAC, be sure to put “Blackboard” in the subject line.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in this course is worth 10 points of your final grade. I will judge participation on the following:

- Evidence of having read the required material
- Participation in discussion, workshops, and other class activities
- Attentiveness during class
- Performance on occasional quizzes
- Assigned class work and homework
- Proper classroom behavior (see “Policies”)
- Coming to class prepared. This means having completed all assignments before the class period, and bringing all necessary materials. For each class meeting, you should bring:
 - ✓ The textbook for your particular reading assignment
 - ✓ Printed copies of online texts, when applicable
 - ✓ This syllabus
 - ✓ Pen and paper for taking notes
 - ✓ Other materials as requested



RESPONSE PAPERS

Part of your grade will be based on periodic response papers. These typed responses should be **3-4 paragraphs in length**. Prompts will be available on Blackboard. Responses must be turned in via Blackboard by the beginning of class on the due date. Late response papers or response papers turned in incorrectly will not be accepted. *At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest response grade.*

ESSAYS, EXAM, AND GROUP PROJECT

- ✓ You will be writing two essays for this class. Part of your grade for these essays will be based on rough drafts, peer editing, and revision. *Essays submitted incorrectly will be considered late until they are turned in properly.* All deadlines in this class are firm, so be sure to plan wisely and save all work in at least two places. For each day that an essay is late, the grade for that assignment will be reduced by **2 points**.
- ✓ This course also requires a final exam. You **must** take the exam on the date scheduled. Late exams will not be accepted.
- ✓ Finally, you will complete a group project which will include research, writing, and a visual component.

**More details on all of these assignments will be available on Blackboard.*

The Writing Center:

I encourage all students to obtain online help from the Writing Center for their essays. You may either visit in person or submit drafts far in advance for online consultation. For more information, visit:

<http://www.uncw.edu/ulc/writing/index.html>



EMAIL

Sometimes, I will send information via campus email, so you should check your email often. All students will be responsible for knowing this information. “I forgot to check my email” is not an excuse. Email is also the best way to contact me if you have questions throughout the course. I will do my best to respond to your email within 24 hours during the school week, but you should allow a longer period for response on weekends. Therefore, it is a good idea to work on assignments ahead of time in case you have questions.

***Email Etiquette:**

Include course title, section number, and a few words about your question in the subject line. Your email should use correct grammar and complete sentences. Also, be sure to use proper etiquette, including a greeting such as “Dear Ms. Sumerel” and concluding with a salutation such as “Sincerely, John Doe.”

ATTENDANCE

Attendance in this course is mandatory. You may miss 3 classes without penalty. After that, your grade will be reduced by 2 points for each missed class, **regardless of the reason.** I recommend that you save your absences for when you really need them, as I do not make distinctions between excused and unexcused absences. Arriving to class late, leaving early, or leaving during class for an extended period of time will count as half an absence.

** Please do not come to class if you have an illness that is contagious, such as the flu.*

Religious Observance Policy:

In accordance with NC SL 2010-211, you are entitled to two excused absences for religious observances **per academic year.** You must inform me in writing the first week of class if you will be missing any classes due to religious observance. In addition, please inform the Registrar the first week of class who will then confirm your intentions with the impacted course instructors. *Please note that an absence due to religious observance WILL count as one of your 3 permitted absences. However, submitting this information in writing will make it possible for me to work with you if the religious observance falls on class periods such as peer editing days, conferences, etc.*

Missed Classes:

If you do miss class, it is **your** responsibility to find out what you have missed from another classmate. I will not respond to any email that asks what was missed in class on a particular day. In the space below, write down the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of three people near you. **I do not give make-up quizzes.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

**Read this
section
carefully!**

POLICIES

Classroom Behavior:

It is imperative that the classroom be an environment that lends itself to discussion and learning. My expectation is that all students will behave in a way that is professional and respectful to everyone. Students must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Unless given permission for a particular assignment, do not use laptops/tablets/Ipads in the classroom. Ipods/mp3 players and other distracting objects are prohibited.
- **Turn off cell phones and put them away before entering the classroom; cell phones should remain off and out of sight for the duration of the class period.** Use of cell phones for any reason will not be tolerated.
- There should be no talking while the instructor or a fellow student has the floor.
- Be open-minded and respectful to each other during discussions and the sharing of written work.
- Students should be attentive and on task at all times.
- Students are expected to come to each class period with all required materials.
- Class is not over until the instructor dismisses it. **Students should not begin putting away their materials until this time.**

Note that part of your participation grade is based on proper classroom behavior. In addition, students failing to adhere to these classroom behavior guidelines may be asked to leave the classroom and counted absent for the day.



Zero Tolerance Policy:

UNCW practices a zero tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies, contact UNCW CARE at 962-2273; Campus Police at 962-3184; or Wilmington Police at 911. For University or community resources visit: <http://www.uncw.edu/safe-relate/campusResources.htm>. Violence prevention information and resources are available at <http://www.uncw.edu/safe%2Drelate/>.

Disabilities:

If you have a disability and need special accommodations, you should let me know *within the first week of classes*. You will also need to register with Disability Services for proper documentation. The phone number for Disability Services is 910-962-7555.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:

Academic Dishonesty is unacceptable and is grounds for failure for this course. All students are responsible for knowing the guidelines listed in this UNCW Academic Honor Code:

http://www.uncw.edu/policies/documents/03_100FINALHONORCODE_Aug2009.pdf

Please be especially familiar with UNC-W's position on plagiarism as outlined on in the UNCW Student Handbook. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty in which you take someone else's ideas and represent them as your own. Examples of plagiarism include:

1. You write about someone else's work in your paper and do not give them credit for it by referencing them.
2. You give a presentation and use someone else's ideas and do not state that the ideas are the other persons.
3. You get facts from your textbook or some other reference material and do not reference that material.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS
(Subject to change)

Reading assignments should be completed before the beginning of each class period. Always bring the reading assignment with you to class, including printed copies of any texts you read online.

Wed.	1/9	First Day of Classes “The Vampire”
Mon.	1/14	“Vampires, Vampires, Everywhere!” (online)
Wed.	1/16	“The Vampyre” (Penguin) Excerpt from “Varney the Vampire” (Penguin) Response 1 Due *Last day for drop/add
Mon.	1/21	No Classes
Wed.	1/23	<i>Carmilla</i> chapters 4-16 (Penguin)
Mon.	1/28	<i>Dracula</i> chapters 1-5 (Norton)
Wed.	1/30	<i>Dracula</i> chapters 6-11 (Norton)
Mon.	2/4	<i>Dracula</i> chapters 12-17 (Norton) Response 2 Due
Wed.	2/6	<i>Dracula</i> chapters 18-23 (Norton)
Mon.	2/11	<i>Dracula</i> chapters 24-27 (Norton)
Wed.	2/13	“Suddenly Sexual Women in Bram Stoker’s <i>Dracula</i> ” (Norton) “The Occidental Tourist: <i>Dracula</i> and the Anxiety of Reverse Colonization” (Norton)
Mon.	2/18	Rough Draft Due – Peer Editing
Wed.	2/20	Close Reading Essay Due “The Girl with the Hungry Eyes” (Penguin)
Mon.	2/25	<i>Interview with the Vampire</i> p3-70 Response 3 Due
Wed.	2/27	<i>Interview with the Vampire</i> p70-156 Last Day to withdraw with a grade of W
Mon.	3/4	Spring Break
Wed.	3/6	Spring Break
Mon.	3/11	<i>Interview with the Vampire</i> p159-257
Wed.	3/13	<i>Interview with the Vampire</i> p257-340 Response 4 Due

- Mon. 3/18 In-class viewing: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* –“Welcome to the Hellmouth”
- Out-of-class viewing from 6:00-8:00pm. Location TBA.**
Buffy the Vampire Slayer – “The Becoming, Part 1” (S2) and “Buffy vs. Dracula” (S5)
**Note that if you are unable to attend, you will be responsible for watching these episodes on your own before class on 3/20. You can access these episodes on Netflix, purchase the seasons, or check them out at the library.*
- Wed. 3/20 “Sex and the Single Vampire” (online)
 Prior to class, watch *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* – “The Becoming, Part 1” (S2) and “Buffy vs. Dracula” (S5)
Response 5 Due
- Mon. 3/25 “Fearless Vampire Kissers” (online)
- Wed. 3/27 “Abstinence vs. Indulgence” (online)
- Mon. 4/1 **Rough Draft Due – Peer Editing**
- Wed. 4/3 **Analysis Essay Due**
Fledgling, chapters 1-5
- Mon. 4/8 *Fledgling*, chapters 6-12
- Wed. 4/10 *Fledgling*, chapters 13-20
- Mon. 4/15 *Fledgling*, chapters 21-29 and Epilogue
Response 6 Due
- Wed. 4/17 Project Presentations
- Mon. 4/22 Project Presentations
- Wed. 4/24 Last Day of Class, review for final exam
- Fri. 5/3 Final Exam