

Dr. Dejan Kuzmanovic dkuzmano@uwsp.edu CCC 427	<i>Charm & Dread of the Undead</i> English 303: The Myth of ... the Vampire Mon 5:00-7:30 pm, CCC 224	Office Hours: Mon 1:30-2:30, Tue 3:00-4:00, and Zoom meetings by appointment
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By [the order of UWSP Chancellor](#), all students, employees and visitors are required to wear acceptable face masks when inside campus buildings. This policy is in effect until further notice. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in withdrawal from the course. Rare exceptions must be approved by the Disabilities and Assistive Technologies Center (DATC@uwsp.edu). For other COVID-related UWSP policies and practices, visit <https://www.uwsp.edu/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>.

SAFE SPACE: A classroom must be a safe space for all students. Showing respect for every individual – regardless of their age, sex, race, ethnicity, religious or political opinions, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other forms of difference – is essential for everyone’s success and wellbeing. Please follow the Golden Rule: treat others as you expect to be treated!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Why do vampires still excite us? Why do we fear them so? Why can’t we get enough of them? In an effort to answer these questions, we will study vampire stories in literature, film, folklore, and popular culture, in order to explore the wealth of symbolism and cultural meaning that has accrued around this intriguing figure. We will discuss formal elements of selected literary texts and films as well as their philosophical, psychological, and sociological preoccupations. These explorations will inevitably make us investigate some of our personal and cultural anxieties and desires. To quote a title of a book on vampire lit, we will examine “Our Vampires, Ourselves.” The course will consist of class discussions with occasional mini lectures on various topics.

REQUIRED READINGS (available for purchase on the Campus Bookstore):

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
- *The Vampire Archives: The Most Complete Volume of Vampire Tales Ever Published*
- Occasional handouts with stories, poems, and essays distributed throughout the semester

REQUIREMENTS:

	% of course grade
• Attendance & Canvas Activities	25%
• Presentation or Discussion Paper	10%
• Two Short Essays (3 pages)	40% (20% per essay)
• Final Essay (5 pages)	25%

To pass the course, you must:

- Turn in the final project, one short essay, and earn at least 610 points.
- Miss no more than 3 class meetings, except in the case of prolonged illness.
- Miss no more than 5 Canvas assignments.

COURSE GRADE:

A = 940-1000 points	C = 740-769 points
A- = 900-939 points	C- = 700-739 points
B+ = 870-899 points	D+ = 670-699 points
B = 840-869 points	D = 640-669 points
B- = 800-839 points	D- = 610-639
C+ = 770-799 points	F = 0-609 points

Important: This course uses the Canvas default grading system. You must earn at least 61% of the points for a passing grade, for both the course and individual assignments. Avoid missing assignments. If you get an F on an assignment, you will still receive some points for it, but if you simply fail to turn it in, you will receive no points, which could lead to a low grade or failure.

ATTENDANCE & CANVAS ACTIVITIES

A = 230-240 points	B = 202-210 points	C = 178-186 points	D = 154-162 points
A- = 220-229 points	B- = 194-201 points	C- = 171-177 points	D- + 146-153 points
B+ = 211-219 points	C+ = 187-193 points	D+ = 163-170 points	F = 0-145 points

All students will automatically receive 10 welcome points to bring the DWG total to 250.

Attendance: You can earn 6 points every week by being present in class – in body *and* in mind! Students who doze off, repeatedly check their phones, or appear inattentive in other ways will receive fewer, if any, points for that day. **Please turn off all electronic devices** unless you use them only for taking notes. Texting, emailing, or Web browsing in class is not allowed because it will distract you and others from class activities. This is an easy way to **earn up to 90 points**. Absences will mean not only losing points, but also having a harder time studying for the tests.

Canvas Activities: There will be 1-2 simple Canvas assignments each week worth 5-10 points – reading quizzes, discussion posts, or short written responses – for the total of **150 points**.

Extra points for in-class participation: At my discretion, I will award **up to 20 extra points** to students who make a strong effort to participate. Keep in mind: you don't need brilliant ideas; any relevant thought or question is valuable. Step outside of your comfort zone and speak up!

If you miss more than 3 class meetings or 5 Canvas assignments, you will fail the course. I might excuse one absence for documented medical reasons or official university business. If you do miss class, you will find all PowerPoint notes, handouts, and assignments in Canvas. You should ask a classmate to see their notes. Then you could email me if you have questions.

Email will work only for simple and quick information. For a substantial conversation about the readings, assignments, or other activities, come to my office hours or set up a Zoom meeting.

ESSAYS:

All essays should have titles, be double spaced, printed in a regular font (size 11-12) with a one-inch margin, and turned in on time. I will deduct half a letter grade for each day a paper is late.

You will write two short essays (3 pages each) and a longer essay (5 pages) in response to one of several suggested topics. In the **first essay**, you will either provide a personal reflection on an issue raised in our readings or respond to a creative prompt, such as to imagine a dialogue between characters from different texts, write a character's diary entries, or rewrite a scene from another character's point of view. The **second essay** will be a literary analysis of a specific aspect of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. There will be several options for your **final essay** – reflective, creative, and analytical – based on multiple readings of your choice. You will receive detailed guidelines for each essay a couple of weeks before due date.

PRESENTATION or DISCUSSION PAPER (you will choose one of these two options):

Discussion paper will be a two-page response to a text assigned for a particular day. You should not merely summarize the reading or try to discuss all of it. Instead, focus on a particular aspect of the text (an idea, a motif, a character, a symbol, a passage, etc.), offer your interpretation of it, and end the paper by asking 2-3 discussion questions. You will read your paper in class and lead a discussion based on your questions for 10-15 minutes. Ask specific questions in the paper (not simply “Do you agree with me?”) and prepare follow-up questions and comments that you can use to handle silences and encourage further discussion. The grade will be based on the quality of both the paper and discussion. I will give you a model for this paper early in the semester.

Presentation will be on a background topic: a relevant historical or critical issue, a text or film not covered in the class, a representation of vampires in popular culture, vampire cults and fan-clubs, etc. You may select a topic of your choice (contingent on my approval) or a topic suggested by me. You should provide a handout (outline, quotes, etc.) and provoke discussion. A visual component, images in a PowerPoint or a video clip, is optional but highly recommended.

Email me your paper or handout by 4:00 pm on due date, so I can make copies for all.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Read closely, think critically, and write effectively about texts or cultural artifacts that use vampire themes to address perennial questions concerning the human condition.
- Investigate and thoughtfully respond to a variety of ideas, beliefs, or values held by persons in situations different from your own.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS:

Being a Pointer entails rights and responsibilities. You should be familiar with the UWSP policies regarding student conduct: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct are serious violations. Read about academic integrity: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf>
If unsure whether certain actions are appropriate or not, please feel free to talk to me about it.

You have the right to be free from physical or verbal harassment: Bullying is unacceptable. Be aware of the policies regarding sexual assault and incidents of bias or hate, and how to report them (<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Bias-Hate-Incident.aspx>). You can report (anonymously if you prefer) any incident of interpersonal violence or bias-based hateful behavior.

Copyright Note: All lecture materials and recordings are protected intellectual property. You may use them only for personal use related to class participation. Copying or sharing lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting them online or selling them to commercial entities constitutes illegal copyright infringement and violates university policies.

Names and Pronouns: Let me know if you would like to be addressed by a different name from the one in official records or if you identify with pronouns other than “he” and “she” (ex.: “ze” or “they”). Please join me in doing our best to respect other people’s self-identification choices. If you want to learn more about why pronouns matter, visit <https://www.mypronouns.org/>.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (any changes will be announced in advance):

Except for the weeks when we discuss *Dracula*, all page numbers refer to *Vampire Archives*. Please always bring the assigned readings to class, or you will receive reduced DWG points.

Prepare some comments or questions about the readings that you might share during discussion. We are all here to learn and exchange ideas in an atmosphere of intellectual curiosity and mutual respect. Your contributions need not be brilliant; any relevant comment/question is valuable.

Jan. 25 Our Vampires, Ourselves: Why Study Vampire Literature?

Feb. 1 Romanticism and the Gothic: Vampires’ Literary Origins

Read: Byron, Polidori, and Rymer (handout) & Vampire poems (311-20)

Feb. 8 Thinking Vampires: Superstition, Science, Philosophy

Read: “The Tomb of Sarah” (147-55), “A Case of Alleged Vampirism” (183-91)

Feb. 15 Male Bonding & Desires

Read: “A Mystery of the Campagna” (40-58), “The Sad Story of a Vampire” (177-82) & “The Stone Chamber” (436-54)

Feb. 22 Female Bonding & Desires

Read: “Carmilla” (107-46)

Mar. 1 What Vampires? Vampire Plots as Social or Psychological Commentary

Read: “Good Lady Ducayne” (3-18), “The Fate of Madame Cabanel” (59-68) & “The Lovely Lady” (473-84)

Mar. 8 Psychic Vampires

Read: “The Transfer” (428-35) & “The Parasite” (485-508)

Saturday, March 12: Essay 1 due in Canvas

Mar. 15 An Englishman in Transylvania (Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, Chapters I-IX)
Happy Spring Break!

March 29 A Transylvanian in England (Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, Chapters X-XIX)

Apr. 5 England vs. the Vampire (Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, Chapters XX-end)

Then we will move on to recent vampire stories. The specific schedule will be announced later.