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| Dr. Dejan Kuzmanovic  dkuzmano@uwsp.edu CCC 427, 346-4719 | *Charm & Dread of the Undead*  **English 303:**  **The Myth of … the Vampire**  Wed 6:30-9:00 pm, CCC 238 | Office Hours:  Tue 12:45-1:45, Wed 4:30-5:30, Thu 9:45-10:45 and by appointment |

**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.

**SAFE SPACE:**

**The classroom must be a safe space for all students**, requiring appropriate classroom conduct. 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. The Golden Rule: treat others as you expect to be treated.

**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

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Upon the completion of this course, you should be able to:

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| * Read closely, think critically, and write effectively about texts and cultural artifacts that use vampire themes to address lasting questions about the human condition. * Explore and thoughtfully respond to ideas, beliefs or values different from yours. |

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING POLICY:** % of the course grade

D2L Assignments 20%

Daily Work Grade 20%

Creative/Reflective Paper 10%

Analytical Paper 20%

Final Paper 20%

Presentation or Discussion Paper 10%

**PAPERS:**

You will write three short papers (3-4 pages each) in response to one of several suggested topics.

In the **first paper**, 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 paper** will be a literary analysis of a specific aspect of Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*. Finally, for your **third paper**, you will choose between reflective, creative and analytical topics.

All papers 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.

**D2L ASSIGNMENTS:**

In order to encourage consistent engagement with the readings and class activities, I will assign **weekly assignments** (short informal writings to post in D2L by 11:30 pm on specific Mondays).

I will assign 13-14 D2L assignment, and 12 of them will count toward the grade. You can earn up to 4 points for each assignment for a total of 48, and I will give you each 2 points as a gift.

**D2L Assignments Rubric:**

*4 points: Exceptionally good work.* You fully understood the reading and responded to the prompt thoughtfully and clearly. Your work could serve as a model for other students.

*3 points: Good work,* on par with most students in the class. You understood the reading well and responded to the prompt with some insight and few confusing or vague statements.

*2 points: Below average work.* You response offers some good observations, but it has limited development and/or contains substantial confusion, vagueness, or sloppy writing.

*1 point: Barely acceptable work* -- sketchy, very vague or confusing, or largely inaccurate

*0 points:* Failure to turn in a report, plagiarism, or complete misunderstanding of the task

**DAILY WORK GRADE (DWG):**

There is nothing more important in this class than doing all assigned readings on time and coming to class prepared and willing to discuss them. In order to reward consistent adherence to the reading schedule and active engagement in discussion and other class activities, I will assign **up to 3 points to each student every week**: 1 point simply for attending, 2 points for at least some voluntary and productive participation in discussions, 3 points for frequent and consistently helpful participation. This adds up to a total of 45, and I will give you each 5 points as a gift.

We will spend 2.5 hours together every Wednesday evening. If we are all prepared and all contribute energy and ideas, that time will be spent productively, interestingly, and pleasantly.

Your D2L Assignments grade and Daily Work grade will be determined as follows:

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| A = 46-50 pts | A- = 42-45 pts | B+ = 38-41 pts | B = 34-37 pts | B- = 30-33 pts |
| C+ = 26-29 pts | C = 22-25 pts | C- = 18-21 pts | D+ = 14-17 pts | D = 10-13 pts |

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

**Discussion paper** will be a two-page response to a text of your choice among the ones assigned for a particular meeting. 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 discussion 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.

**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.

**Email me your paper or handout by 5:30 pm on due date, so I can make copies for all.**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

This discussion-based class can be effective only if you are both physically and mentally present. When you are absent, you are not contributing to your classmates’ learning and exploration.

I can excuse only documented absences caused by serious illness or official university business.

**There is no penalty for one unexcused absence.** Save it for real needs, whether planned (travel, doctor’s appointment, etc.) or unplanned (emergencies, personal issues, not feeling well, etc.).

Additional absences will have an impact on your grades:

* For 2nd unexcused absence, your Daily Work Grade will be lowered one full letter grade.
* For 3rd such absence, your Daily Work Grade will be lowered another full letter grade.
* For 4th such absence, your Course Grade will be lowered one full letter grade.
* For 5th such absence, your Course Grade will be lowered another full letter grade.

**No student will pass the course with more than five absences.** Students who accumulate three or more absences by mid-semester will be strongly encouraged to drop the course.

**ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS:**

Being a Pointer entails a number of responsibilities and rights of which you should be aware. You should be familiar with the UWSP Dean of Students’ web page about student conduct: [https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Behavioral-Conduct-for-Students.aspx](https://www3.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Behavioral-Conduct-for-Students.aspx).

**Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct are serious violations.** Read more about academic misconduct: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx> and academic integrity: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/AcademicIntegrityBrochure.pdf>. When unsure whether certain action is appropriate or not, please feel free to talk to me about it.

**Freedom from physical or verbal harassment:** Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at UWSP, and it is your right and duty to report it. You should be aware of UWSPCommunity Bill of Rights and Responsibilities: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf> and our Bias/Hate Incident Reporting (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Bias-Hate-Incident.aspx>). You can report (anonymously, if preferred) any bias/hate incidents you experience or witness, such as sexual assault and blatantly racist or homophobic behavior.

**UWSP is committed to providing appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities** and temporary impairments. Please do not hesitate to talk to me if you need special arrangements of any kind. If you have a disability or a condition requiring assistance, please contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center on the 6th floor of Albertson Hall (library) as soon as possible.  DATC can be reached at 715-346-3365 or [DATC@uwsp.edu](mailto:DATC@uwsp.edu). For more information, see <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/toQualifyForDisabilityServices.aspx>.

**UWSP Emergency Procedures** can be found at [www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures).

**Please turn off all electronic devices** unless you use them for the sole purpose of taking notes. Texting, emailing, or Web browsing in class is not allowed because it will distract both you and others from class activities. Being inattentive will adversely affect your Daily Work Grade.

**Most handouts, class notes, and other content will be available in D2L**, so find them there if you miss a class. You may want to take a look at a classmate’s notes, or you can always ask me.Check your e-mail regularly for any updates, and feel free to email me with any questions.

The English Department policy is that **students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities** without written permission from the instructor.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE** (You will be notified in advance of any changes.):

# Please follow this schedule of reading assignments and deadlines for major writing assignments If necessary, I will give you advance warning about any changes in the schedule.

# 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. 24 Our Vampires, Ourselves: Why Study Vampire Literature?**

**Jan. 31 Romanticism and the Gothic: Vampires’ Literary Origins**

Read: Byron, Polidori, and Rymer (handout)

Vampire poems (311-20)

**Feb. 7 Thinking Vampires: Superstition, Science, Philosophy**

Read: “The Tomb of Sarah” (147-55)

“A Case of Alleged Vampirism” (183-91)

“The Horla” (786-99)

**Feb. 14 Male Bonding & Desires (with or without a vampire femme fatale)**

Read: “A Mystery of the Campagna” (40-58)

“The Sad Story of a Vampire” (177-82)

“The Stone Chamber” (436-54)

**Feb. 21 Female Bonding & Desires (no homme, fatal or otherwise)**

Read: “Carmilla” (107-46)

**Feb. 28 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)

**Saturday, March 3: Paper 1 due in D2L by 11:30 p.m.**

**Mar. 7 Psychic Vampires**

Read: “The Transfer” (428-35)

“The Parasite” (485-508)

**Mar. 14 An Englishman in Transylvania**

Read: Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, Chapters I-IX

**Mar. 21 A Transylvanian in England**

Read: Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, Chapters X-XIX

**March 29 No class – Happy Spring Break!**

**Apr. 4 England vs. the Vampire**

Read: Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, Chapters XX-end

**Saturday, April 7: Paper 2 due in D2L by 11:30 p.m.**

**Apr. 11 – May 9** Readings (from *Vampire Archives*) and activities to be determined

**May 16, 7:15-9:15 p.m.** No final exam. However, we do have to meet.

There may be presentations, or we might watch a movie.