

Stoker's Dracula

IDH2930 - (Un)common Read: #28715

Monday, 6:15 PM to 7:05 PM

Anderson 032

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Office Hours: Monday Noon to 2:00 PM in Anderson 330

Course Description

We all know of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. Highly adaptable, we have seen films, television shows, plays, or ballets based on it. Despite this relative cultural ubiquity, what do we really know about the infamous Dracula, the heroes, the heroines, the spaces, and the themes of the epistolary novel itself? By closely and slowly reading this text together, the brilliance of the story can be, against Dracula's will, brought to light. What does the novel say about the idea of Europe? Of the law? Is it a warning of coming fascism? What is the power of liminality? What are the necessities or dangers of autochthonous attachment? What is a monster? Is Dracula part wolf? Bat? What is a vampire in our political bestiary or demonology? Why is Dracula presented with aristocratic sensibility? What are the political powers of blood? Does the novel critique or reinscribe Victorian views of gender? Is it a work of anti-psychiatry? How does it see erotics, abjection, and power? What does it mean to be a Gothic novel? How does horror function? Hopefully, we will come to a resolution on these questions.

Or maybe, we will remain in the cold and quixotic "shade and shadow," as Dracula so taunts.

Assignments and Other Elements of Student Assessment

- Attendance (10%): The attendance grade is calculated as the percentage of meetings attended. If you cannot attend class, simply contact the instructor before class. Please consult the university policy here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>
- Oral participation in class discussion (55%): This class seeks to cultivate the ability to think critically and, more importantly, creatively about a text. This is best done in a community of others attempting the same goal. Failure to participate openly will not only hurt the pedagogical goals of your peers but also yourself.
- Creative Letter (35%): *Dracula* is epistolary. In keeping with this literary form, you will write a letter to one of the characters in the book as a character from the book. Any combination is possible (I would recommend writing as Dracula). The letter must set forth your own interpretation of text in a legible manner despite its literary façade.

Text

The book is available for purchase at the University Book Store:

Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*. The Country Life Press, 2021.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1: Introduction

Suggested Reading:

Derrida, Jacques. "Plato's Pharmacy." *Dissemination*, translated by Barbara Johnson, The Athlone Press, London, 1981, pp. 61–172.

Week 2: Holiday

Week 3: Pages: 3-12

Week 4-15: We will slowly be making our way through the text at a pace to be determined per the interests of the class.

Miscellaneous Points

- Honor's Specific Grading

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Completion credit.

- **Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#). It is the student's responsibility to contact the DRC at the beginning of the semester and to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

- **Academic Honesty**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code \(Links to an external site.\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

- **Resources for Health and Wellness and Honors**

Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519. Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu. Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

Technical Support for E-Learning, Canvas, and HonorLock: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk \(Links to an external site.\)](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website \(Links to an external site.\)](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website \(Links to an external site.\)](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

- **Grading Scale**

Grade:	Range:	
A	100 %	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0 %	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0 %	to 61.0%
F	< 61.0 %	to 0.0%