

# *Stoker's Dracula*

IDH2930 - (Un)common Read: #26461

Wednesday, 6:15 PM to 7:05 PM

Anderson 034

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Office Hours: Monday Noon to 2:00 PM in TBA

## 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 make legible 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.

Special attention in this class will be given to cultivating the skills and creativity of developing your own readings of the text. Secondary readings will include Derrida, Marx, Foucault, Freud, Lacan, and others. They will serve as templates, examples, and inspiration for our hermeneutic exercise.

Please do not hesitate to share secondary readings you find on your own or to share your own theories on the Canvas discussion page.

## 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 limit 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 the text in a legible manner despite its literary façade.

Text

Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*. Ballard Classics, 2024.

Schedule of Classes

Week	<u>Primary Reading</u>	Secondary Reading (Canvas)
Week 1	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapter 1	On Reading:  Derrida, “Plato’s Pharmacy.” <i>Dissemination</i> ,
Week 2	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 2 and 3	On Harker’s Journey to Europe’s Frontier:  Selection from Anderson’s <i>Imagined Communities</i> .  Said, “Introduction.” <i>Orientalism</i> .
Week 3	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 4 and 5	Looking in the Mirror:  Lacan, “The Mirror Stage.” <i>Ecrits</i>
Week 4	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 6 and 7	The Uncanny:  Freud, “The Uncanny”
Week 5	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 8 and 9	On Dracula’s Arrival to England:  Selection from Marx’s <i>Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte</i> .
Week 6	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 10 and 11	On Marriage:  Selection from Pateman’s <i>The Sexual Contract</i>
Week 7	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 12 and 13	On the Moral Ontology of Dracula:  Tanizaki, “In Praise of Shadows”

Week 8	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 14 and 15	“Blood is the life!”:  Wolfe, “Vitalism and the Metaphysics of Life: the Discreet Charm of Eighteenth-Century Vitalism”
Week 9	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 16 and 17	Renfield and Psychiatry:  Selection from Foucault’s <i>Discipline and Punishment</i>  <i>Firing Line</i> episode featuring Thomas Szasz.
Week 10	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 18 and 19	On Erotics  Selection from Kristeva’s <i>Powers of Horror</i> .
Week 11	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 20 and 21	Law and Pleasure:  Lacan, “Kant avec Sade”
Week 12	<i>Dracula</i> : Chapters 22 and 23	Why is there a Texan?  Young, “The Settler Unchained”
Week 13	<i>Dracula</i> : Finish	Film preparation:  Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema”
Week 14	No reading. Watching Coppola’s “Bram Stoker’s <i>Dracula</i> ” in class.	
Week 15	No reading. Watching Coppola’s “Bram Stoker’s <i>Dracula</i> ” in 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](mailto: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](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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%

Grade:	Range:	
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%