INTRODUCTION TO SLAVIC CIVILIZATION

“The Vampire in Slavic Cultures”
SLA 301 (45030), REE 302 (44440), CL 305 (33545), EUS 307 (36270)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Prof. Thomas J. Garza
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Class time: TTh 3:30-5 pm in CAL 100

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Required texts:
• The Vampire in Slavic Culture, Course Reader (CR), T. J. Garza, ed., Cognella Press, San Diego: CA, 2010. [order online]
• The Vampire: A Casebook, Alan Dundes, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1998. [at the UT Co-op]

Supplementary texts: [all available at the UT Co-op]

I. GENERAL

Eight hundred years before Bram Stoker gave us the West's most memorable vampire in *Dracula* (1897) and long before the exploits of Vlad "the Impaler" Tepes horrified Europe (1431-46), the Russian Primary Chronicles write of a Novgorodian priest as *Upyr' Likhij*, or Wicked Vampire (1047). The Slavic and Balkan worlds abound in histories, legends, myths and literary portraits of the so-called undead, creatures that literally draw life out of the living.

This course examines the vampire in the cultures of Russia and Eastern Europe, including manifestations in literature, religion, art, film and common practices from its origins to 2011. Texts – both print and non-print media – will be drawn from Russian, Czech, Slovak, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Serbian and Croatian sources. Participants will be asked to separate historical fact from popular fiction, and form opinions about the place of the vampire in Slavic and East European cultures.

The course is conducted in English. No knowledge of Russian required, though readings in Russian and other Slavic languages are available for majors and concentrators in these related fields.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

*Attendance and Participation:* You are expected to attend class meetings regularly, participate actively in discussions, do all assigned readings and film viewings, and prepare written assignments. Because the readings and critical approaches covered in this course are cumulative in design, your regular participation is required. Students missing more than three (3) class sessions will receive a reduction of their final grade. Students who miss more than five (5) classes, or who do not complete all four of the required components of the syllabus cannot pass the course. In extreme circumstances, the instructor may excuse absences.

*Short Essays:* Two brief (3-4 pages) reaction papers to one of the readings or media presentations covered in class are due by Thursday, September 29, and Thursday, November 8. While these essays are not research based, they may contain references or support from external sources. NO LATE PAPERS, PLEASE!

*Midterm Exam I:* A comprehensive midterm exam over all material covered (readings, films, slides, and lectures) in the first half of the course will be given on Thursday, October 20. The specific format of the midterm will be announced well before the exam date.

*Midterm Exam II:* An second midterm – comparable in format to the midterm – covering the material (readings, films, slides, lectures) from the second half of the course – will be given on the last day of class, December 2.

*Special Accommodations:* Any student with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community
III. Grading

In addition to regular attendance and participation, there are four components of the final course grade. These components and their relative weights are:

- Short essay I (3-4 pp.) 25%
- Midterm exam I 25%
- Short essay II (3-4 pp.) 25%
- Midterm exam II 25%

All grades for this course will be assigned using the plus/minus system as follows:

- A (4.00) A- (3.67) B+ (3.33) B (3.00) B- (2.67) C+ (2.33)
- C (2.00) C- (1.67) D+ (1.33) D (1.00) D- (.67) F (0.00)

COURSE OUTLINE

Thursday, August 25

Introduction to SLA 301
Overview of syllabus and course design for 301

- Definition of terms: “Slavic” and “Vampire”
- Establishment of scene: the Carpathians and the Balkans
  View scene from Coppola’s Bram Stoker’s ‘Dracula.’

For next meeting, read definitions of term “vampire” in the CR pp. 5-28, and “The History of the Word Vampire” in Dundes, pp. 3-11.

Tuesday, August 30

On Vampires and Upyri

- The relationship between Slavic upyr and European vampire

For next session, read “Heretics as Vampires and Demons in Russia” by Oinas, “Vampirism: Old World Folklore” by McNally & Floresçu, “The Need Fire” by Fraser and “‘Spoiling’ and ‘Healing’” by Ivanits in the CR pp. 29-66.
Thursday, September 1  
**Origins of Vampire Beliefs in the Slavic World**

- Understanding the place of the vampire in the Slavic world


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Tuesday, September 6  
**From Folktales and Myths: Harpies and Sirin**

- Folk belief, folklore and demons in the Slavic world
- Relationship between religion, paganism, and the vampire


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Thursday, September 8  
**Are Werewolves Vampires, Too?**

- Werewolves, the undead and vampires
- The meaning behind the “vukodlak” in Slavic


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Tuesday, September 13  
**Finding the Real “Dracula”**

- Getting to know Transylvania
- The life and times of Vlad Tepes

For next meeting, read “Crusader Against the Turks” by McNally and Florescu, and “Epilogue: The Imprisonment and Final Reign of Dracula” in CR pp. 137-158.

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Thursday, September 15  
**Vlad “The Impaler” Dracula**

- Who was the real Dracula?
- Why does the “myth” live on in Transylvania?

Tuesday, September 20  

**Elizabeth Bathory**
- How “vampirization” reports became part of the European tradition
- View scenes from *Daughters of Darkness* and *I Vampiri*

For next meeting, read “Vampires and the Slavs” in CR pp. 181-186.

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Thursday, September 22  

**Vampires in the Slavic Lands**
- The Balkans as backdrop for the vampire
- The vampire myth behind nationalism


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Tuesday, September 27  

**South Slavic Vampires**
- The vampire as part of Balkan identity
- The Age of Reason and Enlightenment and the “Vampire Epidemic”

For the next meeting, read “Gypsies, Vampires and the” in CR pp. 205-210.  
**First Reaction Paper is due on Thursday!**

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Thursday, September 29  

**Gypsies (Roma) and Vampires**
- Roma: A culture within a culture
- Dispelling and creating racial prejudices
- **Short Essay I due today**

For the next meeting, read Oinas’ “East European Vampires” in Dundes, pp. 47-56; and “Vampires in Russia,” by Melton, and “Tale of a Russian Vampire” by Blavatsky in CR pp. 211-220.

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Tuesday, October 4  

**Russian Vampires**
- Differences in East Slavic from the South Slavic Balkans
- Listen to part of Oinas’ lecture on vampires

For next meeting, read Summers’ “Russia, Roumania and Bulgaria,” and Melton’s “Vampires in Romania” in CR pp. 221-262.

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Thursday, October 6  

**Central European Vampires, I**
- The vampire in its historical home
Hungarian woodcut

Tuesday, October 11  Central European Vampires, II
• Beginnings of a literary tradition in vampire tales
• View and discuss scenes from The Golem

For next meeting, read “Peter Plogojowitz,” “The Shoemaker of Silesia,” and “Visum et Repertum” by Barber, and “Russian Stories” in CR pp. 277-306.

Thursday, October 13  Early Vampire Stories
• Connections between Vlad Tepes and European literature
• How the vampire legend reached Stoker in literature

For next meeting, read Polidori’s/Byron’s “The Vampyre,” Chapter 2 from Stoker’s Dracula, and “From Dracula to Nosferatu” in CR pp. 309-330.

Tuesday, October 18  The Literary Vampire: From Byron to Bram Stoker’s Dracula
• Connections between Vlad Tepes and European literature
• How the vampire legend reached Stoker in literature

For next meeting, prepare for Midterm Exam (No new reading.). Midterm covers material from the beginning of the course up to The readings from 10/13.

Thursday, October 20  Midterm Exam
• In-class written exam over material covered (texts, films, slides, lectures)

For next meeting, read Gibson’s “Dracula and the Eastern Question” in CR pp. 337-348, and watch and watch F.W. Murnau’s Nosferatu.

Thursday, October 25  The Literary Vampire: Film and the Slavic Tradition
• Orientalism and the vampire as the “Other” in film
• View scenes from Nosferatu (1922) and Gothic (1986)

For next meeting, read Neruda’s “The Vampire” in CR pp. 349-352; and watch Todd Browning’s film Dracula (1931) with Bela Lugosi.

Thursday, October 27  The Best of the Worst: Bad Vamps and Doggies
• Sampling of filmic vampire portraits that didn’t make the syllabus
• What makes “bad” films so good?
Happy All Hallow’s Eve!!

Tuesday, November 1       The Vampire in Czech Literature
  • Question of sexuality and gender in vampire literature
  • View scenes from Browning’s Dracula (1931)


Thursday, November 3      The Vampire in Russian Literature, I
  • Creating a literary standard for Russian for horror
  The works of Karamzin, Pushkin, and Zhukovsky

For next meeting, read Tolstoy’s “The Family of the Vurdalak” in CR pp. 383-400.
Second Reaction Paper is due on Thursday!

Tuesday, November 8       The Vampire in Russian Literature, II
  • A return to folk motifs in literary Russian
  • View selection from Mario Bava’s The Wurdalak
  • Short Essay II due today.

For next meeting, read Gogol’s “Viy,” and Turgenev’s “Phantoms: A Fantasy,” in CR pp. 401-456.

Thursday, November 10     The Vampire in Russian Lit., III
  • The connection between death in 19th c. Russian literature
  • View selection from Ptushko’s Viy

For next meeting, read Bulgakov’s “When the Dead Rise from the Grave,” and “News from Yalta” from The Master and Margarita in CR pp. 457-470.

Tuesday, November 15      The Vampire in Russian Literature, IV
• Fantasy moves from the 19th to the 20th century
• View selection from Bortko’s *Master and Margarita*

For next meeting, read Pelevin’s “A Werewolf Problem in Central Russia,” and selection from *Night Watch* by Lukyanenko in CR pp. 471-508.

**Thursday, November 17  **  **Russian Vampires for the New Century**
• The Postmodern Slavic vampire in literature and film

For next meeting, read Barber’s “Forensic Pathology and the European Vampire” in Dundes, and “Protection from Blood Drinkers,” by Konstantinos and “The Rational Slayer” by McClelland in CR pp. 511-536.

**Tuesday, November 22  **  **How to Kill a (Slavic) Vampire**
• Death of the undead?
• View scenes from *Day Watch* (2006) and *Day Representative* (2004)

For next meeting, read song lyrics for Vysotsky, Lika, Linda, Detsl in CR pp. 539-550.

**Night Watch (2004)**

| Happy Thanksgiving! |

**Thursday, November 29  **  **Vampires and Russian Pop Music**
• View Russian music videos of the 1990s and 2000s
• Incorporating vampires into pop culture

For last meeting, read lyrics for The Leg Cramps, B-2, Uma2rman, Night Snipers, Serioga, Grigoriy Leps and others in CR pp. 551-571.

**Tuesday, November 30  **  **Russian Rock, Goths and Vamps**
• View Russian music videos of the 2000s
• Final exam format
• Course-Instructor Survey

Prepare for Second Midterm.

**Thursday, December 2  **  **Second Midterm**
Have a safe and very vampiric holiday season!