ENGLISH 104:
AN INTRODUCTION TO FICTION (AND ITS AFTERLIVES)

INFORMATION

Instructor: Courtney Floyd
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Office: 234 PLC Hall
Office Hours: MWF 10-11 & by appt
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Class Meetings
Fall 2017 (12119)
MWF 9-9:50
Condon 260

REQUIRED TEXTS


Note: please use the copies available in the Duck Store or purchase the ebook editions on the Broadview Press website (link on Canvas).

Other required reading: your campus email, the Canvas course site, and other short readings which will be announced and posted on Canvas throughout the term.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In English 104, we’ll be reading Bram Stoker’s 1897 novel, Dracula, as well as reading and watching a number of modern Dracula adaptations in order to answer the following questions: what is fiction? what does is do? what is it for? and how do those things change with time? As we read and examine various texts, we’ll talk about how different forms of media—including film, television, comic books, web comics, and Twitter—affect the function of fiction. We’ll also talk about plots, genres, characterization, setting, point of view, focalization, popularity, literary value, and why fiction matters in the real world to people like you and me—especially as it relates to intersectional issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability.

Dracula illustration by Edward Gorey
OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will be able to analyze and close-read fiction texts in order to make an interpretive argument. You will also be able to discuss the value of fiction both in and beyond the classroom.

English Department Learning Outcomes

- Read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions;
- Draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;
- Perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts;
- Write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;
- Employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;
- Employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay’s thesis.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

*Attendance is required.* You are allowed one week of absences (3 class sessions) whether excused or unexcused without penalty. Thereafter, each subsequent absence will lower your grade by 1/3 of a letter grade (~3%). If there is an emergency or you have accessibility needs that will prevent you from attending class for more than one week, email me or come to office hours to discuss possible options.

I expect you to arrive on time. If you arrive over 10 minutes late or it is evident you are not prepared for class,* you will be marked absent for the day.

*This includes, but is not limited to: not doing the reading or viewing, forgetting your book, forgetting your notebook, and forgetting your writing utensils.

You will also be counted absent for: sleeping in class, failure to participate in discussions, cellphone use, and use of social media during class time. Let’s not waste each other’s time.

Cell Phone Use

This is a small, discussion-based class. As such, cell phones are highly disruptive. The ringer must be turned off before the start of class. You may not text, answer, or make calls in class.

Laptop & Tablet Use

Is allowed, though you must ensure that your sound is turned off prior to the beginning of class and submit notes for each class period.
Students Needing Accommodation
I am committed to making the course and materials accessible to all students, and the University of Oregon strives to create inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations, please notify me and the Accessible Education Center (164 Oregon Hall; http://aec.uoregon.edu), so we can make appropriate arrangements. Even if your disability is not documented, please speak with me early in the term so we can discuss how to make your experience in English 104 a success.

Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct
Any student who has experienced sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, coercion, and/or sexual harassment is encouraged to seek help. Please visit https://safe.uoregon.edu for information. You are also strongly encouraged to contact Renae DeSautel, Sexual Violence Response & Support Services Coordinator, desautel@uoregon.edu. She will keep your information confidential. In addition, the UO Ombuds office (541 346-Brock, ENG 104, 5 6400 or ombuds@uoregon.edu) can provide confidential support and assistance. You can also contact any pastor, priest, imam, or other member of the clergy. All of these people, including all UO faculty members, have an obligation not to reveal your name or other specific information without your permission, although faculty members do have to provide “general information” that will help us create a safer campus. As your instructor, I can also reassign work partners and make other necessary accommodations.

Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty (plagiarism) is not tolerated in this course or at this university. All work submitted must be your own and written exclusively for this course. The use of sources—ideas, quotations, paraphrases; from papers, articles, books, websites, films, music videos, YouTube videos, TedTalks, songs, lectures, handouts, social media, magazines, or any other format—must be properly acknowledged and documented. If you have any doubts or questions about plagiarism or the University’s policy on it, come talk to me or see UO’s Student Conduct Code: (http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx).

In accordance with English Department policy, cases of clearly established plagiarism or cheating will result in a final course grade of “F,” and all incidents will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, as required by University Policy. In cases of a second offense, plagiarism or cheating can result in dismissal from the University. Plagiarism is not worth the risk!

Miscellany
☞ If you need to contact me outside of class or office hours, the best way to do so is to send an email. During the week, I will respond to all emails within 24-48 hours (as long as they have been sent from a valid university address). However, if you email me during the weekend, do not expect an answer until the following Monday.
☞ I do not write recommendations for students unless (1) they not only attended class consistently but also frequently attended office hours or otherwise established a strong working relationship with me and (2) I have known them for at least one term. This policy enables me to write qualitative recommendations that speak to students’ personalities and skills.
☞ I expect you to participate in each discussion and in small groups, and you should always bring your book or text to class so that you will be able to reference the readings we discuss. Participation will be the determining factor for grades that are on a
grade boundary.

This syllabus, in addition to all course handouts, PowerPoints, supplemental readings, etc., will be available on Canvas. You can access Canvas at the following URL: http://canvas.uoregon.edu

COURSE WORK

Required Assignments:

Reading Quizzes (10%)
There will be ten reading questions this term. I may assign them at any time, and they will assess your reading/viewing comprehension.

Mini Essays (20%)
In the first half of the term, you will write two mini essays which make an interpretive argument about something in Dracula. This might be a character, a setting, a theme, etc. Your argument should tell us what this thing means and why it matters, using the literary vocabulary we’ve discussed throughout the term.

Midterm Exam (20%)
The midterm exam will be a mix of multiple choice, short answer, vocabulary, and essay questions.

Dracula’s Afterlives Presentation and Report (20%)
For this assignment, you will select an adaptation of Dracula which we have not discussed in class. This might be a song, a card game, a board game, a video game, a short story or novel, fanfiction, a film, a comic, a fictional podcast, etc. After playing, watching, or listening, you will prepare a brief, 5 minute presentation on the adaptation and answer the following questions: is it fiction? If so, what specific elements count as fiction? what can it teach us about what fiction is for and what it does/should do? You will also submit a 1 page report which answers these questions about your adaptation of choice in essay form.

Final Group Creative Project and Report (30%)
For the last weeks of class, we will collaboratively write a short story set within the Dracula universe. We will be using Storium, a website that combines creative writing with role playing game elements, but the game will be accessible only by our class. You will create and propose one or more characters and write/play as the character(s). After we’ve completed the story, you will write a brief, 1 page reflection on the process and what it has taught you about our course questions: what is fiction? what does it do? what is it for? and how do those things change with time?

Optional Extra Credit Opportunities:

- Bringing Dracula to Life Individual Presentation (worth 100 points)
- Bringing Dracula to Life Group Presentation (worth 50 points)
- Dress as a Vampire Day (worth 10 points)
GRADING SCALE

All percentages are based on a 1,000 point scale, where:

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GRADING POLICIES

Formatting Guidelines for Written Work
All written work should be typed in MLA format: double-spaced lines, 12-point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins. Use the MLA style guide for quoting and citing sources. Failure to format correctly and cite sources may significantly lower the assignment or essay grade.

Submission Guidelines
All assignments should be submitted to me through Canvas, unless otherwise noted. I will not accept, grade, or comment on assignments submitted via email.

Late Work
All assigned work is due at the time specified on Canvas. If you must miss class, turn in your work before our class meeting to receive credit. Late work will not be accepted.

Lost or Missing Work
If an assignment is lost or missing, you are responsible for providing another copy to turn in by the due date. I advise that you save digital and/or hard copies of all of your work (drafts and revisions) to avoid issues with lost work.

Discussion of Grades
If you would like to discuss the grade you received, please stop by my office during my posted office hours or make an appointment to meet me in my office outside of designated office hours. I do not discuss grades in the classroom or via email, for privacy reasons.

Your continued enrollment in this course signifies your acceptance of the terms of this syllabus.
This schedule of assignments is subject to change.

Readings and viewings are due by the beginning of class on the days listed. “Cv” denotes texts and/or media that are available on Canvas.

**Week One: What is fiction? What does it do? What is it for?**
- 9/25 Introduction to the Class.
- 9/27 Story Shapes and Story Cycles
- 9/29 Fiction According to the Victorians

**Week Two: Dracula and the Elements of Fiction**
- 10/2 Read: Dracula Dedication and Note and Chapters 1-2 (29-57)
- 10/4 Read: Dracula chapters 3-4 (58-85)
- 10/6 Read: Dracula chapters 5-6 (86-108)

**Week Three: Dracula and the Elements of Fiction**
- 10/9 Read: Dracula chapters 7-8 (109-138)
- 10/11 Read: Dracula chapters 9-10 (139-168)
- 10/13 Read: Dracula chapters 11-12 (169-199)
  Mini Essay One Due on Canvas

**Week Four: Dracula and the Elements of Fiction**
- 10/16 Read: Dracula chapters 13-14 (200-231)
- 10/18 Read: Dracula chapters 15-16 (232-256)
- 10/20 Read: Dracula chapters 17-18 (257-286)

**Week Five: Dracula and the Elements of Fiction**
- 10/23 Read: Dracula chapters 19-20 (287-314)
- 10/25 Read: Dracula chapters 21-22 (315-341)
- 10/27 Read: Dracula chapters 23-24 (342-369)
  Midterm Due on Canvas

**Week Six: Dracula and the Elements of Fiction**
- 10/30 Read: Dracula chapters 25-26 (370-401)
  Dress as a Vampire Day!
- 11/1 Read: Dracula chapter 27 and Note (402-419)
- 11/3 Closing thoughts and Extra Credit Presentations
  Mini Essay Two Due on Canvas

**Week Seven: How Does Medium Affect Fiction?**
- 11/6 How does medium affect fiction?
- 11/8 Watch: Lugosi Dracula.
- 11/10 Watch: Nosferatu
Week Eight: *Dracula’s Afterlives*
- 11/13 Watch: Buffy Dracula episode
- 11/15 **No Class.** Watch: Storium Player Tutorial (Cv)
  - Read: Wendig, “Kick-Ass Characters” (Cv) and “Awesomepants Supporting Characters” (Cv)
- 11/17 **No Class.** Read: Storium story information and instructions.
  - **Character Homework Due on Canvas**
  - **Character Submissions Due on Storium**

Week Nine: *Dracula’s Afterlives*
- 11/20 Read: Bite-Sized Dracula (Cv).
- Thanksgiving Holiday. **No Class.**
- Thanksgiving Holiday. **No Class.**

Week Ten: *Dracula’s Afterlives*
- 11/27 Mina Murray’s Journal.
  - *Dracula’s Afterlives Presentations*
- 11/29 Kate Beaton Dracula comic.
  - *Dracula’s Afterlives Presentations*
- 12/1 Discussion of final project outcomes.
  - *Dracula’s Afterlives Presentations*
  - **Final Group Project Report Due on Canvas**