

## Vampires and Mad Scientists: Novels and Films

We'll read Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818) and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897), and we'll talk about the nineteenth-century emergence of two cultural icons: the vampire and the mad scientist. We'll talk about gothic and sci-fi genres and their horrific protagonists. We'll think about why these stories get told by multiple narrators, about why it takes numerous narratives to tell their tales, and about the narrators' structural arrangement of their chunks. We'll also watch classic and contemporary films adapted from these novels, all of which update the stories for twentieth-century spectators. What happens, we'll ask, when Frankenstein's Creature anticipates 1990s anxieties about new reproductive technologies? When Dracula addresses fears about AIDS or past Nazi atrocities? Indeed, these monsters magically reappear during cultural and political crises; they arouse and allay spectators' unease, as filmmakers provide audiences the thrill—and pleasure—of horror. During our classes, we'll watch selected film clips, read short historical or critical essays, and look at Victorian illustrations.

Please buy (or borrow) these editions:

--Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, ed. J. Paul Hunter. (Norton Critical Edition, of the 1818 text—which is important), \$17.50.

--Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, ed. Nina Auerbach & David J. Skal. (Norton Critical Edition, contains essays on the novel and films), \$17.50.

### Reading Schedule:

Thurs., Sept. 28: Introduction: Names, Faces, Interests

*Read:* Mary Shelley, Preface; *Frankenstein* (1818), vol. I; & "Introduction," (pp. 169-73)

Thurs., Oct. 5: *Read:* *Frankenstein*, vol. II

**\*\*Screen:** James Whale, *Frankenstein* (1931)

Thurs., Oct. 12: *Read:* *Frankenstein*, vol. III

*Read:* O'Flinn, "Production and Reproduction"

Thurs., Oct. 19: **\*\*Screen:** James Whale, *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935) &

**\*\*Screen:** Kenneth Branagh, *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (1994)

Thurs., Oct. 26: *Read:* Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897), chs. 1-7 &

**\*\*Screen:** F. W. Murnau, *Nosferatu* (1922)

Thurs., Nov. 2: *Read:* *Dracula*, chs. 8-14 & pp. 331-35 &

**\*\*Screen:** Werner Herzog, *Nosferatu the Vampyre* (1979)

Thurs., Nov. 9: *Read:* *Dracula*, chs. 15-21 &

**\*\*Screen:** Francis Ford Coppola, *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992)

Thurs., Nov. 16: *Read: Dracula*, chs. 22-27

*\*\*Screen: Jim Jarmusch, Only Lovers Left Alive (2014)*

**Leader:** Dianne F. Sadoff is Professor Emerita of English and former Director of Cinema Studies at Rutgers; she has also taught at Antioch College, Colby College, and Miami University.

**Thursdays:** 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., 8 weeks: September 28 through November 16.

**Location:** Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville