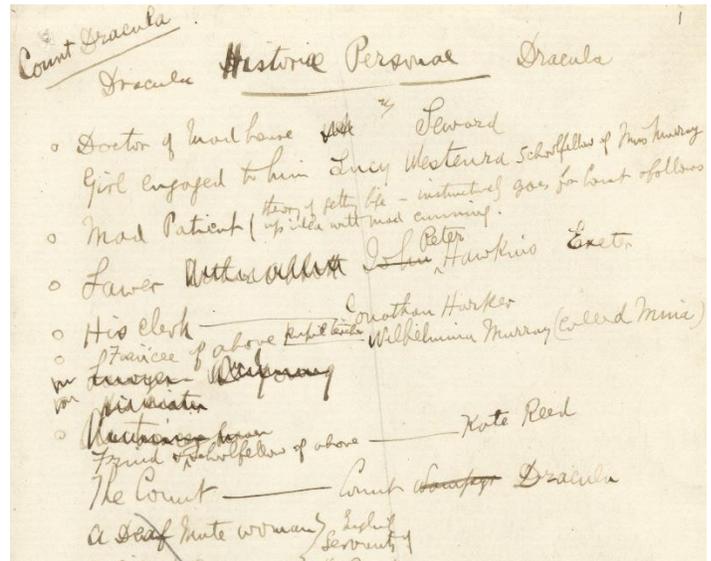


Bram Stoker's Notes for *Dracula* with Edward G. Pettit

Description

For all you Dracuphiles, this course is for you! Bram Stoker's Notes for *Dracula* is comprised of over 100 pages of outlines, early plot ideas, and research notes, compiled by the author over the seven years he developed and wrote his most famous novel. At each class meeting, we'll take a close look at the Notes (you'll get to handle them in person at The Rosenbach) to investigate the ways Stoker conceived and developed his characters and plot over time. Then we'll discuss how the author's research brings both his novel and vampire lore to life.

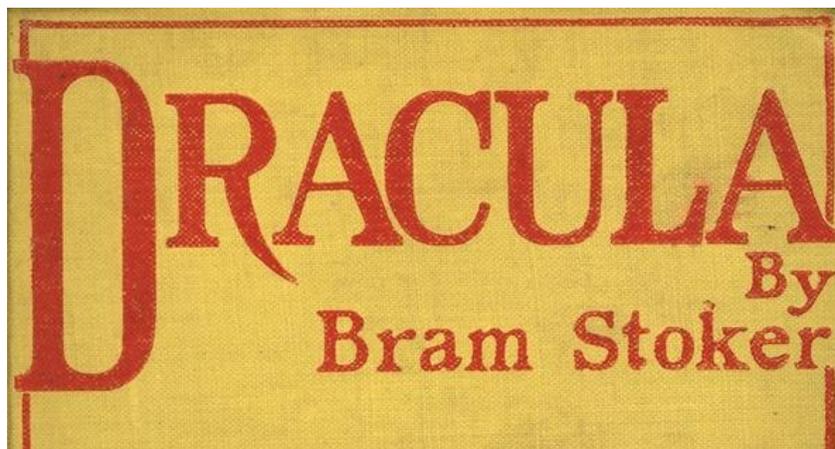


Required Texts

Drafts of Dracula, edited and annotated by Robert Eighteen-Bisang and Elizabeth Miller. (Tellwell Talent, 2019, ISBN 0228814294).

This is the second edition of the facsimile edition of Stoker's Notes that the editors published in 2008. This new edition contains ALL the text from the Notes, but does not include images from every page of the Notes. It also includes all the deleted text from the *Dracula* typescript (which is in the collection of the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle Washington). We'll be using this book throughout the course.

Please read *Dracula* in its entirety before the first meeting. Any edition will do, as we'll refer frequently to it during our meetings. If you are looking for a reliable text, Norton has just published a second Critical Edition of *Dracula*, edited by John Edgar Browning and David. J Skal (Norton, 2021, ISBN 0393679209)



Here's a brief overview of what we'll examine in each meeting:

Nov 15

We'll examine how the Notes show Stoker's original conception of his novel, including his early character lists (except Dracula, we'll save him for the final meeting), and how he developed the plot over the early chapters. We'll compare this to his final published novel and discuss some of the key differences.

Readings: I'll send you a list of the pages from *Drafts of Dracula* that feature some of the Notes.

Dec 13

Over the years, Stoker kept redeveloping his plot, including developing a thematic structure for the entire novel. We'll examine these developments, as well as look at the ways he kept track of his intricate overlapping narratives. We'll also look at his detailed research notes about Whitby that he gathered while vacationing there with his family.

Readings: I'll send you a list of the pages from *Drafts of Dracula* that feature some of the Notes.

Jan 10

For our final meeting, we'll examine what the Notes reveal about how Stoker came up with Dracula, the character, including his name. And also look at the research he did to provide the background for Dracula, vampires, and Transylvania. Finally we'll look at the posthumously published short story, "Dracula's Guest", which was cut from the original opening of the novel and see how it relates to the Notes and still has echoes in Jonathan's adventures in Dracula's Castle.

Readings: Along with select pages of *Drafts of Dracula*, please read "Dracula's Guest." I will provide a pdf if you don't have a copy of the story.

About the Instructor

Edward G. Pettit is the Sunstein Manager of Public Programs at The Rosenbach. He writes, lectures, and teaches courses on a variety of 19th Century authors and topics, including Edgar Allan Poe, Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, Philadelphia Gothic, and Monsters. Recently he has hosted the Sundays with *Dracula* and Sundays with *Frankenstein* programs. When not attending *Moby-Dick* Marathon readings, he can usually be found at literary-themed cocktail parties.