

Dracula: Notes on a Vampire with Edward G. Pettit

Online course with an optional in-person session

In person at the Rosenbach Jan 31, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. ET

Online presentation on Zoom Feb 7, 6:30-8:30

Online meetings for all participants on Zoom:

2/21, 3/6, 3/20 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. ET

Description

Bram Stoker's *Dracula* has become the ur-text of vampire fiction and lore. Stoker researched and wrote the novel over seven years, synthesizing vampire folklore and fiction to create a work that has continued to inspire fiction and film for over a hundred years.

Many of the “rules” for both vampires and their hunters take their cue from Stoker's novel. Our approach will be to examine how Stoker shapes and develops his

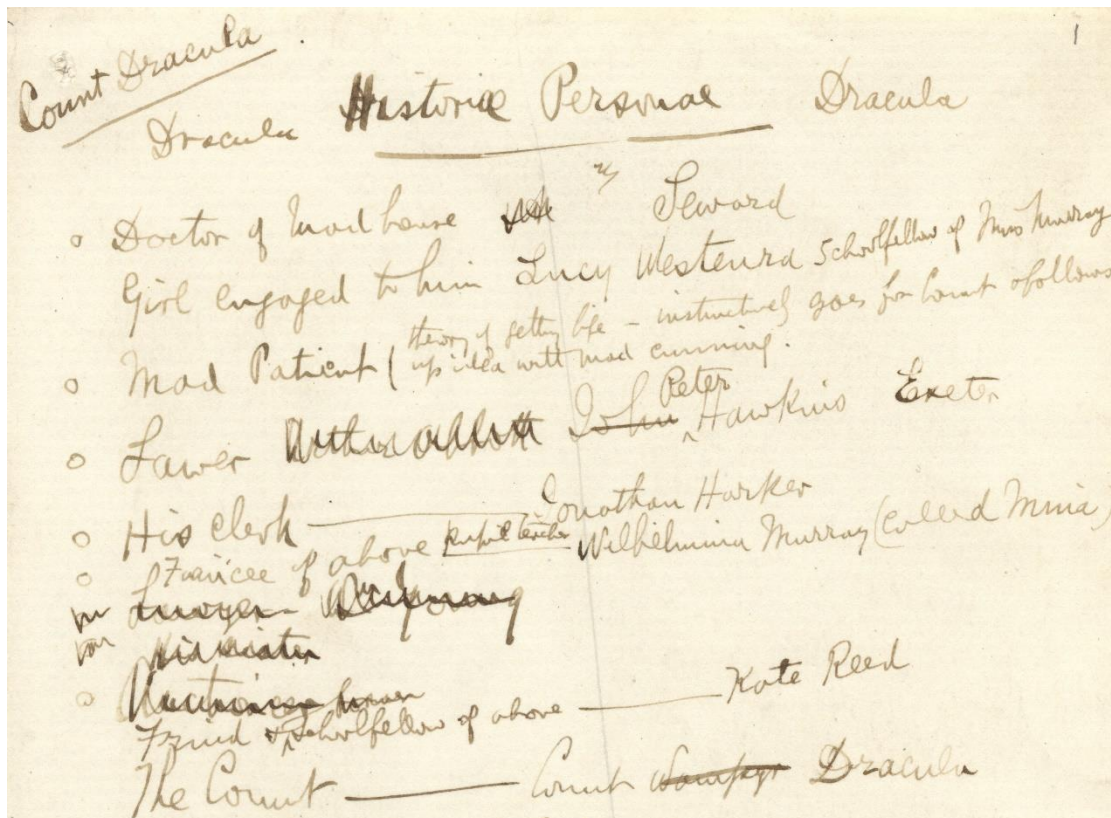
vampires, victims, and hunters (Dracula, Jonathan Harker, Lucy Westenra, Mina Harker, Renfield, Professor Van Helsing) in his original notes and also in the novel. We'll also consider how *Dracula* highlights the fears and anxieties of the culture that produced it and discover how this vampire story is just as much about themes of difference and otherness, race and ethnicity, sexuality and gender, issues still relevant for contemporary readers.

This course features an in person presentation at the Rosenbach of our *Dracula*-related holdings, including Bram Stoker's Notes for *Dracula* and first editions of the novel. There will also be an online presentation for those who are unable to attend the in-person session. The remaining three sessions will all be held on Zoom. Zoom links will be sent a week before course begins.

The Rosenbach is the home of Bram Stoker's Notes for *Dracula*, over 100 pages of outlines, early plot ideas, and research notes, compiled by the author over the seven years he developed and wrote the novel. Also in our holdings are first editions of the novel, including the first paperback publication of *Dracula*. You can find more about our [Dracula and vampire related materials here](#) and about our specifically [Bram Stoker holdings here](#).

Readings

- 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)
- For the final meeting, please read Bram Stoker's short story, "Dracula's Guest." I will provide a pdf of this story. It is freely available online.



First meeting: Welcome to my house

in person at the Rosenbach on Jan 31 or online on Zoom on Feb 7

Participants need to attend only one session. Content will be the same.

6:30-8:30 pm ET

Stoker's Notes and the book publications of *Dracula*

Creating the vampire 30 min presentation

Publishing the vampire 20 min presentation

Harker's Adventure in the Castle, the first four chapters, Discussion 50 mins

Second meeting on Zoom: The Bloofer Lady

Feb 21, 7:30-9:00 pm ET

Stoker's Notes: plot outlines and shaping the plot 30 min presentation

Structure of the novel, Lucy's story Discussion 50 mins

Third meeting on Zoom: Dracula's Friends and Foes

Mar 6, 7:30-9:00 pm ET

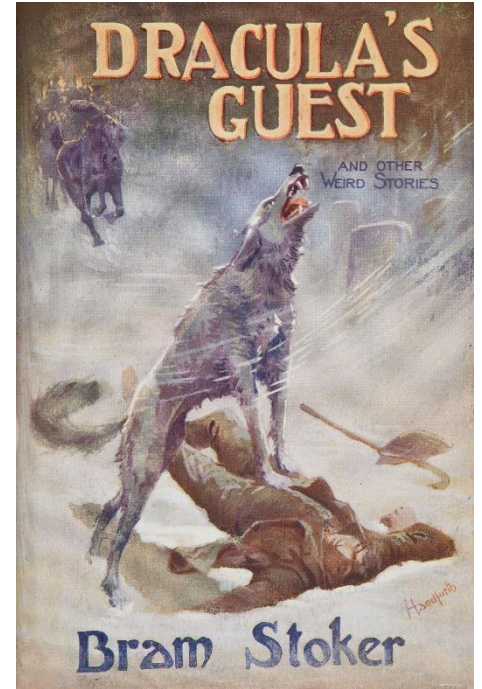
Discussion: Mina, Renfield, Van Helsing 80 mins

Fourth meeting on Zoom: Dracula's Guest

Mar 20, 7:30-9:00 pm ET

Discussion: Stoker's short story, "Dracula's Guest" 30 mins

Open discussion: 50 mins



About the Instructor

Edward G. Pettit is the Sunstein Senior Manager of Public Programs at the Rosenbach. In 2020, he hosted [Sundays with Dracula](#), a live 28 week series exploring Stoker's novel chapter-by-chapter. This series was followed by Sundays with *Frankenstein*, Sundays with *Jane Eyre* and Austen Mondays. Pettit was Master of Ceremonies for the Rosenbach's Dracuthon, a marathon reading of Stoker's novel in 2022. He continues his vampiric interest in his personal life as a consulting editor for the *Dracula Beyond Stoker* magazine. On Mondays, he can be found hosting the Rosenbach's [Sherlock Mondays Biblioventures program](#).