

Reading *Dracula* with Edward G. Pettit

Online course on Zoom

Thursdays, 1/23, 2/6, 2/20, 3/6, 3/20, 7:30-9:00 pm 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. We'll 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, and sexuality and gender, issues still relevant for contemporary readers. Along the way we'll share copious images of Stoker's notes and early editions to see how he first conceived his work, then altered his vision of the vampire. Finally, we'll consider how the many adaptations of Count Dracula in film, television, and print have impacted the legacy of Stoker's novel.

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, I recommend the Norton Critical Edition of *Dracula*, edited by John Edgar Browning and David J. Skal (Norton, 2021, ISBN 0393679209)
- Not required for you to purchase, but if you are interested in Stoker's Notes, they are available in two published editions:
Bram Stoker's Notes for Dracula: A Facsimile Edition, Annotated and Transcribed by Robert Eighteen-Bisang and Elizabeth Miller (McFarland Reprint, 2013, ISBN 078647730X)
Drafts of Dracula, an updated edition by Eighteen-Bisang and Miller, which does not feature all of the images, but still contains all the transcriptions of the Notes. This edition also contains all the deletions from the typescript of novel. (Tellwell Talent, 2019, ISBN: 0228814294)

Our class schedule, all sessions are 7:30-9:00 pm ET

1/23

We'll examine Stoker's research notes in depth to see how he created a vampire and developed his novel.

2/6

Harker's adventure in the castle, the first four chapters of *Dracula*

2/20

Lucy and Renfield

3/6

Mina and the hunt for Dracula

3/20

We'll begin with the publishing history of *Dracula*, then turn our attention to how the the *Dracula* mythos has developed over the past 127 years.

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 Biblioventures with *Frankenstein*, *Jane Eyre*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Pickwick Papers*, and Sherlock Holmes. In Fall 2024, he is hosting a two part series, [Biblioventures: Monsters and Ghosts](#), featuring *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and *A Christmas Carol*. all Biblioventures series are available to watch on the [Rosenbach's YouTube channel](#). He continues his vampiric interest in his personal life as a consulting editor for the *Dracula Beyond Stoker* magazine.