Tales of Vampirism and the Uncanny
GRMN 75

Thomas W. Kniestche          Spring 2008
MWF 1:00-1:50           Wilson 204

Course Description:
This course pits the German inability to mourn against the American dream of the eternal return of adolescence and thus compares cultural manifestations of horror and haunting. The psychoanalytic foundations of vampirism are discussed to enable students to go beyond mere fandom and engage these texts on a more sophisticated level. In English.

Course Goals:
• To understand the multiple meanings of vampire stories and the different ways in which they can be interpreted
• To gain insight into the social, political, and historical background of vampire stories
• To obtain a theoretical framework for understanding problems of mourning and melancholia
• To compare certain inabilities of dealing with death in both American and German culture, respectively
• To put into a larger perspective cultural differences that manifest themselves in stories of horror and haunting

Texts (available at the Brown Bookstore):
Bran Stoker Dracula (BSD)
Alan Ryan (ed.) The Penguin Book of Vampire Stories (P)
Sigmund Freud The Uncanny (SFU)
E.T.A. Hoffmann Tales of Hoffmann (ToH)
available at JO-ART:
Course Reader (CR)

Course program:  Readings/Writing Assignments:

1/23  Introduction
1/25  The Trip to the East  Bram Stoker: Dracula (BSD) ch. 1-3
1/28  Presentation Dominique Coulombe
1/30  New Women  Dracula ch. 4-5, BSD 411-421
2/1  The Coming of the Count  Dracula ch. 6-8  First Paper Due

2/4  The Case of Lucy  Dracula ch. 9-11
2/6  A Bad Mother  Dracula ch. 12-14
2/8  Taking care of Lucy  Dracula ch. 15-17  Second Paper Due

2/11  The Question of Races and Gender  Dracula ch. 18-19, BSD 460-462
2/13  Gender Fluidity  Dracula ch. 21-22, BSD 444-459

2/15  Colonization in Reverse  Dracula ch. 23-24, BSD 462-470  long weekend

2/20  Psychoanalysis, Discourse Analysis, New Media  Dracula ch. 25-27, Kittler: “Dracula’s Legacy” (CR)
2/22  Unfinished Business: The Classical Vampire  Homer, “The Kingdom of the Dead” (The Odyssey, Book XI) (CR)

Third Paper Due

2/27  Taking trips  Lord Byron, “Fragment of a Novel” (P); Goethe, “The Bride of Corinth” (CR)
2/29  The Revenge of the old gods  John Polidori, “The Vampyre” (P)

3/3  Mourning Sickness  Freud, “Mourning and Melancholia” (CR)
3/5  Projecting the Dead  Freud, “The Taboo of the dead” (Totem and Taboo II, 3c) (CR)
3/7  The Psychology of Vampirism  Ernest Jones, “The Vampire” (from: On the Nightmare) (CR)

mid-semester  First Draft of Fourth Paper due to the Writing Fellow

3/10  The female vampire  Gauthier: “The Vampire” (“Clarimonda”) (CR)
3/12  cont. Gauthier

3/14  What does a woman want? Leiber: "The Girl with the hungry eyes" (P)

3/17  Vampire Love Le Fanu: Carmilla (P)
3/19  cont. Le Fanu cont. Le Fanu
3/21  cont. Le Fanu

**Final Draft of Fourth Paper due to Professor**

**springbreak**

3/31  The Uncanny ETA Hoffmann, “The Sandman” (ToH)
4/2  cont. Freud, "The Uncanny" (SFU)

4/7  Eternal Love ETA Hoffmann, The Mines at Falun" (ToH)
4/9  Gothic Generations ETA Hoffmann, “The Entail” (ToH)
4/11  cont.

4/14  About Phantasizing... Freud, "The Creative Writing and Daydreaming", "Family Romances" (SFU)
4/16  Bad Deeds... Tieck, "Fair Haired Eckbert" (CR)
4/18  Aberrations of Memory Freud, "Screen Memories" (SFU)

**First Draft of Fifth Paper due to the Writing Fellow**

4/21  Cold Venus Eichendorff, “The Marble Statue” (CR)
4/23  The Queen of the Mountain Tieck, “The Runenberg” (CR)

4/25  **reading period**

5/2  **Final Draft of Fifth Paper due to Professor**

**Grades:**

- attendance 10%
- participation 20%
- Papers 1-2 (2 pages each) 15%
- Paper 3 (5 pp.) 15%
- Paper 4 (10 pp.) 20%
- Paper 5 (10 pp.) 20%

**Office Hours and Contact:**

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