

October 21: Discuss LVI – end of the novel. Begin drafting a formal essay as a response to the following prompts:

1. Elizabeth’s character is influenced by her relationships with other characters in the novel. Write an essay to show how she changes either in a positive or negative manner due to another’s influence.
2. Letter writing is a lost art in the twenty first century. Today, we pick up the phone, email or update our Facebook status. Letters were usually written in the first person, and they communicated style, intelligence (or lack of it), and insights into character. Explain how Austen used letters to reveal the innermost thoughts of her characters and to express their personalities.

Assignments:

- Complete first draft with in-text citations.

October 23: Writing workshop day. Peer review and prepare to upload essays.

Assignments:

- Finalize essay

October 25: ESSAY DUE by 9pm. Introduction to the course, discussion of literature covered et al. Discuss the Victorian Era and Gothic tradition.

Assignments:

- Read Chapters 1 – 4(51) in Dracula

Journal Questions: Dracula was written in 1897, so the values and beliefs of the characters reflect this era. Cite incidents from the story illustrating the view of 1897 society on each of the following topics: women, scientific advances, and superstitions. Physiognomy is the practice of trying to judge character and mental qualities by observing a person’s facial features and body, including a person’s hands. How does Jonathan describe the Count’s facial features and his hands? What can the reader infer about the Count’s character traits based on these descriptions?

October 29: Introduction to the course, discussion of literature covered et al. Discuss the Victorian Era and Gothic tradition.

Assignments:

- Read Chapters 5-8 (99)
- Journal Questions: Jonathan records a portion of the Count’s tale about Transylvania’s history in his journal. As the Count speaks, Jonathan studies him. What is revealed about the Count’s character while he talks? Jonathan discovers more about the Count, his powers and weaknesses. List three powers and two weaknesses the Count possesses. What is the nature of Renfield’s madness? In what sense does Renfield’s madness parallel Count Dracula’s behavior?

October 31: Discuss 5-8. Trace the link between Dracula, Renfield and Lucy. Do we have evidence that Jonathan has been bitten.

Assignments:

- Read Chapters 9-12 (156)

Journal Questions: Dr. Seward uses his powers of observation to try and diagnose Renfield. What conclusion does he draw about the effect of the sun on Renfield? In what sense is this conclusion an example of dramatic irony? Dracula was written in 1897, so the values and beliefs of the characters reflect this era. Cite incidents from the story illustrating the view of 1897 society on each of the following topics: women, scientific advances, and superstitions.

November 4: Discuss Ch. 9-12. Focus on the “damsel in distress” paradigm in Gothic literature. Stoker clearly believes that men are the saviors of women. What evidence do we have that this is true? How dumb is Mrs. Westerna?

Assignment:

- Read Chapters 13-15 (199).
- Journal Questions: Van Helsing and Dr. Seward have a conversation about the puncture wounds on the necks of the lost children. Dr. Seward concludes that the children are being attacked by the same

attacker as Lucy, but Professor Helsing tries to get Dr. Seward to see another possibility. What flaw in modern science does Professor Helsing point out to Dr. Seward in this conversation? On page 184, find a quote that shows Helsing's point. Identify the literary term used in the quotation. What thesis is the professor trying to get Dr. Seward to believe in?

November 6: No class, but continue reading and journaling.

Journal Question:

Assignment:

- Read Chapters 16-19 (249)
- Journal Questions: A good novel must be believable both in terms of the novel's plot and in the actions of the characters. The reader understands that Dracula is infecting Mina. Jonathan notes that Mina "looks paler than usual" and like someone "who has been waked out of a bad dream" (244). These observations, coupled with Renfield's strange behavior, lead the reader to understand that Mina is coming under Dracula's power; yet, Mina herself is unaware of this influence. Discuss whether or not you find her ignorance of Dracula's presence in her life to be believable.

November 8: Discuss 13-19 and watch "Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror"

Journal Question:

Assignment:

- Read Chapters 20-23 (302)
- Journal Questions: What information does Jonathan learn concerning the whereabouts of the boxes missing from Carfax? Why does he come to believe that it is important that all of the boxes be destroyed quickly

November 12: In-class writing over thematic elements in *Dracula*. Discuss Chapters 20-23.

Journal Question:

Assignment:

- Read Chapters 24-end
- Gothic fiction is characterized by the following:
 - • a picturesque setting
 - • a story dealing with the supernatural
 - • conflict between good and evil
 - • innocent, non-aristocratic females being corrupted by aristocratic males
 - Cite one incident from the story to illustrate each of the above points.

November 14: Begin formal essay on elements in *Dracula*

November 18: Work on *Dracula* essay, and allow time for peer review.

November 20: Dracula Essay due