This course consists of an examination of the vampire – a supernatural figure whose origins are located firmly in the Slavic and Eastern European folkloric tradition. Using novels, films, legends, and chronicles, we will observe the varying representations of vampires as they range from pre-historic times to the present and from Eastern Europe to the West. Their temporal, geographical, and cultural migrations have permitted them to act as a means by which to examine the nexus of folklore and religious faith (dvojeverie) and evolving cultural norms with respect to women, violence, and other ethnicities. From ancient folk tales which use the revenant as a demarcator of the realms of the living and the dead, to Stoker’s romantic Dracula, to Gogol’s female vampire in Viy, we will assess possible reasons for our simultaneous attraction to and fear of these creatures and how their portrayals may reflect our attitudes towards cultural diversity, gender roles, religious thought, and adolescent maturation. The course will emphasize critical analysis and the enhancement of expository writing skills such that the works can be placed and contextualized in the eras and societies that produced them and that credible interpretations of the course materials can be produced. Please note that this course contains occasional adult material including violence, sexuality, and other controversial topics.

**Humanities General Education Requirements**
This course partially satisfies the Humanities component of the UWM General Education Requirements. It approaches the study of Slavic folklore through humanistic means of inquiry (e.g., critical use of sources and evaluation of evidence, exercise of judgment and expression of ideas, organization, logical analysis, and creative use of knowledge). It introduces students to substantial and coherent bodies of historical, cultural, literary, and philosophical knowledge as a means of increasing your understanding of the complexities and varieties of human events. You will gain a fundamental knowledge of Slavic folklore over the last millennium: themes, influences, religion, literature, film, superstitions, beliefs, rituals, and daily life. You also will analyze and critique the information presented with the goal of identifying elements of all these topics that speak to a uniquely Slavic character. You will acquire a refined understanding of the historical readings, literary texts, films, etc. covered in the course, and will be asked to demonstrate thoughtful, original, and creative approaches to the course material in your presentations and exams.

**Class requirements and expectations**
This class will consist of readings and slides posted on d2l. You must take the reading quiz for each day before you can access the slides for that given day. You must read the assignments, take the quizzes, and post on the discussion board before you can access the test and essay assignments. Responsibility for good class discussion is everyone’s – therefore I expect you to:

- actively participate in classroom discussions
- keep up with the reading
• complete the reading comprehension quizzes / posts on d2l before class
• complete the writing assignments and tests in a timely fashion

Credit hour policy
A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally-established equivalency and reasonably approximates not less than:

(1) one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or
(2) ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or
(3) the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.

Because this is a three credit hour class, this means that over the course of the semester you should spend 144 hours on this course. For each week this should roughly break down as follows:
(1) 4 hours for class readings and preparation for classroom activities
(2) 3.1 hours for preparations for quizzes and tests.
(3) 2.6 hours for classroom attendance

Required texts for the course
• The Vampire: A Casebook, by Alan Dundes (University of Wisconsin Press, 1998)
• Night Watch, by Sergei Lukyanenko

Selected readings from the following (posted on d2l):
• Vampires of the Slavs, by Jan L. Perkowski
• Morphology of the Folktale, by Vladimir Propp
• Russian Fairy Tales, by Alexander Afanas’ev
• Other vampire folktales and legends

Schedule of Readings
All readings available in PDF on d2l are noted with an †.

Distribution of Grades
• Reading quizzes and discussion posts 20%
• Two exams – 10% each 20%
• 2 short essays on readings / viewing assignments (2-3 pp.) 20%
• Attendance and classroom discussion 20%
• Original folk tale with discussion of folkloric elements (6-8 pp.) 20%

Reading quizzes and discussion posting (20%). There will be 26 quizzes over the course of the semester, one for each reading assignment. These quizzes test whether
you read the assigned text. They will be posted 24 hours before class and must be completed before class begins. I will drop your two lowest quiz scores.

Several times throughout the semester, I will post discussion questions in lieu of a quiz. In this instance, every student must post one answer of at least 200 words. This answer must be original and have at least 2 specific references to the text. Both quizzes and postings count for up to 5 points in accordance with the following scale:

- 5 points: complete and specific answer
- 4 points: complete answer with missing reference to the text
- 3 points: answer that is incomplete or too short
- 2 points: answer without any specific reference to the text and is too short
- 1 point: incomprehensible answer which shows no understanding of the text

About reading: These are complex texts, and they require extremely careful reading. This reading cannot be rushed, and you will miss out on much of what makes them great works if you try to plow through them in a hurry. So, make sure you give yourself plenty of time to complete assigned readings – figure at least two minutes per page as a minimum. To prepare for class discussions, quizzes and exams, make copious notes while reading, study the footnotes, note anything that does not make sense so you can ask about it, and continually question and analyze your and others’ responses to the text.

Exams (20%) These exams are designed to gauge your conversance with the critical concepts and aspects of historical and cultural contexts discussed in class and presented during lectures and student presentations. They are open-book (but not open-note) take-home tests. You will be given one week to complete the exam and must submit it before class on the exam date. They consist of two parts:
1. Identifications (people, concepts, characters, historical events, etc.) drawn from lectures and class discussion.
2. Short essay exams (readings and films), which will ask you to interpret the works we have read and viewed based on class discussion.

Attendance and participation (20%) Because classroom discussion is such a vital part of this course, I will track your attendance and participation in the activities during class time.

Short essays (20%) These short essays will be based on the readings and discussion and will offer you the opportunity to assimilate the knowledge you have gained. You will be given a choice of 2 topics and must write a 2-3 page essay on this topic. *All references to the work in question must be cited.*

Original folk tale (20%) In lieu of a final exam, each student will write a vampire folktale incorporating the folklore characteristics we have discussed in class. In addition to the folktale, you must submit a brief (1-2 pages) discussion/explanation of the folk elements you used and explain why you chose these elements.
Schedule of Tests and Essays (tentative):

Exam One          Sept. 26
Exam Two          Dec. 12
Essay One          Oct. 22
Essay Two         Nov. 12
Final folk tale    Dec. 17

Course policies

Deadlines: I cannot accept late or make-up assignments.

Auditing: Auditors are admitted to this course only on the condition that they agree to be active participants, not passive observers. As such, auditors are expected to complete all the assignments and participate in all class activities. Auditors who do not complete assignments or participate appropriately hinder the learning of other students and will be asked to drop the course.

Disabilities: If you have any kind of disability that might affect your performance in this class, please notify me immediately so that we can accommodate your needs. If you wait until the semester is already half-over, I may not be able to accommodate you.

Harassment: No harassment of any kind will be tolerated. If you feel you are being harassed or if you think one of your classmates is being harassed in any way, please inform either me or our Russian section coordinator, Professor Joe Peschio (peschio@uwm.edu), immediately so that we can resolve the problem.

Plagiarism: Any cases of suspected plagiarism will be referred immediately to the Dean of Students for investigation and disciplinary action (which can include expulsion from the university). Generally speaking, plagiarism is the act of presenting other people’s ideas or language as your own (e.g. quoting a website without citation). If at any point you are at all unsure as to whether you might be committing plagiarism, please just ask! The consequences of plagiarism are very unpleasant for everyone, so let’s avoid it at all costs.

For policies on academic misconduct, complaint procedures, and grade appeal procedures, see http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Week One:  
Sept. 5    What is Slavic folklore?
Week Two:
Sept 10  The Life and Beliefs of the Slavic Peasant
  ➢ The Pagan Gods from Russian Myths
  ➢ Demons and Spirits of Place from Russian Myths

Sept 12  Slavic Mythology
  ➢ Slavic Mythology
  ➢ Chapter I: On the History of the Problem from The Morphology of the
    Folktale by V. Propp

Week Three:
Sept 17  The Slavic Folktale
  ➢ “The Vampire” from Russian Fairy Tales by Afanas’ev
  ➢ Chapter 2: The Method and Material from The Morphology of the
    Folktale by V. Propp
  ➢ Chapter 3: The Function of Dramatic Personae from The Morphology of
    the Folktale by V. Propp

Sept 19  Death and Funeral Rituals of the Slavic People
  ➢ The Dead and the Other World from Russian Myths
  ➢ Chapter 4 Assimilation: Causes of the Double Morphological Meaning
    of a Single Function from The Morphology of the Folktale by V. Propp

Week Four:
Sept 24  Vampire: An Introduction To Vampires and Upyri
  ➢ “The History of the Word Vampire” in Dundes, pp. 3-11
  ➢ “The Vampire: A Study in Slavic Bi-culturalism” by Jan Perkowski
  ➢ “The Darkling: A Treatise on Slavic Vampirism” by Jan Perkowski
    (Chapter 1)

Sept 26  Origins of Vampire Beliefs in the Slavic World — Test One Due
  ➢ “Slavic Folk Culture” by Kazimierz Moszynski
  ➢ “The Darkling: A Treatise on Slavic Vampirism” by Jan Perkowski
    (Chapters 2-4)

Week Five:
Oct 1   The Historical Dracula
  ➢ “The Story of Dracula”
  Dracula: Chapters 1-7

Oct 3   Stoker’s Dracula
  Dracula: Chapter 8-14

Week Six:
Oct. 8  Stoker’s Dracula
  Dracula: Chapter 15-22
Oct. 10  Stoker's Dracula
Dracula Chapter 23- 27

Week Seven:
Oct 15  The Eastern European Folkloric Vampire
➤ “Peter Plogojowitz”
➤ “The Shoemaker of Silesia”

Oct 17  The Slavic Folktale and Eyewitness Accounts of the Vampire
“East European Vampires” in Dundes, pp. 47-56
➤ “Tale of a Russian Vampire” by Blavatsky

Week Eight:
Oct 22  Are Vampires Shape Shifters in Slavic Folklore? Essay One Due
➤ Folk Narratives about the Supernatural from Russian Folk Belief

Oct 24  The Literary Vampire
➤ “A Fragment,” by Byron and “The Vampyre,” by John Polidori from Vampire and Other Works: Selected Writings of John Polidori

Week Nine:
Oct 29  The Western Vampire
➤ “Carmilla,” by J. Sheridan Le Fanu

Oct 31  The Vampire in Russian Literature
➤ “The Family of the Vurdalak,” by A. Tolstoi
➤ “The Vampire” by A. Tolstoi

Week Ten:
Nov. 5  The Vampire in Russian Literature (Continued)
➤ “Phantoms: A Fantasy,” by I. Turgenev
➤ “The Island of Bornbolm” by N. Karamzin

Nov. 7  The Balkan Vampire
“South Slavic Countermeasures against Vampires” in Dundes, pp. 67-71
“The Greek Vampire: A Study of Cyclic Symbolism in Marriage and Death” in Dundes pp. 85- 109
“The Vampire in Romania” in Dundes pp. 12-34

Week Eleven
Nov. 12  The Psychology of the Vampire – Essay Two Due
“Clinical Vampirism: Blending Myth and Reality” in Dundes, pp. 143-158
“The Vampire as Bloodthirsty Revenant: A Psychoanalytic Post Mortem” by Dundes pp. 159-178

Nov. 14 The Female Vampire
➤ “Viy” by N. Golol’

Week Twelve:
Nov. 19 Measures Against Vampires
“In Defense of Vampires” in Dundes, pp. 57-66
“The Killing of a Vampire” in Dundes, pp. 72-84

Week Thirteen:
Nov. 26 Modern Technology and the Vampire Myth
“Forensic Pathology and the European Vampire” in Dundes, pp. 109-142
Night Watch (Story Chapter 1-2 up to page 45)

Nov. 28 The Modern Vampire
Night Watch (Story 1 Chapter 3-6 pages 46-123)

Week Fourteen
Dec. 3 The Modern Vampire
Night Watch (Story 1 Chapter 7-8, Story 2 Chapter 1 pages 124-207)

Dec. 5 Russian Vampires for the New Century (Night Watch)
Night Watch (story 2 pages 208-278)

Week Fifteen:
Dec 10 Russian Rock, Goths, and Vamps
Night Watch (Story 2 and 3 pages 279-357)

Dec 12 The Modern Russian Vampire - Test Two Due
Night Watch (Story 3 pages 358-455)

FINAL FOLK TALE DUE BY DECEMBER 17