We will track the fascinating figure of the vampire this semester to find out what the fascination of figures (shapes, rhetorical tropes) in general and of this figure in particular could be. How is the vampire different from other monsters (cyborgs, zombies, werewolves, fairies, ghosts)? Why do we enjoy the vampire’s allure, composed of both beauty and death? What textual strategies can we use for understanding vampire representations? How can vampires help us grasp narrative—and how can or does narrative help us glimpse vampires? How do sexuality, gender, race, nationality, class and ability intersect in the figures of vampires?

We will read and watch key selected texts--novels and short stories (from Bram Stoker to Angela Carter to Octavia Butler) to film, anime, and long-form television series (from Nosferatu to What We Do in the Shadows). As we read, we will also develop and build our analytic skills—what strategies are useful in approaching themes and imagery, genres and forms?