

## Introduction to English 4300: Violence in Film and Literature

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## Course Requirements

- DO NOT GO TO WEBCT. I do not use it.
- Syllabus, handouts, lectures are located on-line at the following URL:
  - <http://www.valdosta.edu/~tthompson>
- Check daily because, if there are any changes, the syllabus will be updated.
- Dates of exams DO NOT CHANGE.
- Requirements and assignments also REMAIN THE SAME.

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## Violence

- Etymology: same root as "violate"
  - To violate: profane, desecrate; break, disregard; rape; interrupt, disturb.
  - To violate implies crossing a boundary or border: moral, physical, emotional, social, etc.
  - A violation is the breaking of a rule or law.
- Layers of meaning:
  - Use of physical force in order to abuse or injure.
  - To distort, infringe, or profane so as to create an injury or appear to injure.
  - An intense, furious, turbulent--often destructive--action.
  - Vehement feeling or expression.
  - Discordance.
  - Undue change of wording or meaning.

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## Nosferatu (1922)

- ***Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Grauens*** (translated as ***Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror***, also as ***Nosferatu: A Symphony of Terror***)
- Film Runtime: 1h 10m
- Director: F. W. Murnau
- Introduction: David Carradine
- Music: Bloody Kisses by Type O Negative
  - Music and Carradine intro. Were added to the DVD in 2006

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## Elements of Gothic Genres

- Mystery and suspense.
- Omens, portents, dream visions.
- High emotion, sentimentalism, but also pronounced anger, surprise, and especially terror.
- Supernatural events (e.g. a giant, a sighing portrait, ghosts or their apparent presence, a skeleton).
- The metonymy (part for the whole) of gloom and horror (wind, rain, doors grating on rusty hinges, howls in the distance, distant sighs, footsteps approaching, lights in abandoned rooms, gusts of wind blowing out lights or blowing suddenly, characters trapped in rooms or imprisoned).
- The vocabulary of the gothic (use of words indicating fear, mystery, etc.: apparition, devil, ghost, haunted, terror, fright).
- Sex and Death: Fainting, frightened, screaming, near-naked women. Women threatened by powerful, impetuous male.
  - La Femme / l'homme fatale: deadly woman / man
- Ancient prophecy, especially mysterious, obscure, or hard to understand.
- Ancient / exotic spaces and places: castles, etc.

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