Week 2

Dracula (aka Horror of Dracula)

Viewing: The Fearless Vampire Killers

1. Before Fischer’s Dracula

Nosferatu (1921, Germany).
Dir. F. W. Murnau

Max Schreck; physical appearance of the Count; German expressionist movement; ‘making of’ in E. Elias Merhige’s 2000 film Shadow of the Vampire (John Malkovich; Willem Dafoe)
Dracula (1930, US). Dir. Tod Browning

Stage play; Bela Lugosi; eyes and behavior toward men and women; “I am Dracula”

❖ Born in London in 1922, died in 2015
❖ 6’5
❖ He appeared in over 200 films and made-for-TV productions throughout his career
❖ He played the Creature in the 1957 film The Curse of Frankenstein, the first very successful Hammer film (cf. Ingostdalt)
❖ He became famous for playing the role of Dracula in Terrence Fisher’s 1958 Dracula (aka The Horror of Dracula)
❖ He went on to play Dracula in six of the eight Dracula films that Hammer produced between 1960 and 1974
❖ He became associated with two other household names in the history of cinema: The Lord of the Ring (Saruman) and Star Wars (Count Dooku)
❖ (Peter Cushing also played a part in Star Wars)

Taste the Blood of Dracula (1970 Hammer)

2. Christopher Lee

❖ The Curse of Frankenstein (1957)
❖ Dracula (aka The Horror of Dracula) (1958)
❖ The Brides of Dracula (1960)
❖ Dracula, Prince of Darkness (1966)
❖ Dracula has risen from the Grave (1968)
❖ Taste the Blood of Dracula (1970)
❖ Scars of Dracula (1971)
❖ Dracula A.D. 1972 (1972)
❖ The Satanic Rites of Dracula / Count Dracula and his Vampire Brides (1973)
❖ The Legend of the Seven Golden Vampires / The Seven Brothers meet Dracula (1974)

3. The Hammer Films Legend
4. Fischer’s Dracula

♦ Opening shot of the crypt and drop of blood on Dracula’s coffin

♦ Visually striking use of the redness of blood
❖ Music
❖ Implied horror

❖ Cf also Dracula closing the vault’s door
Van Helsing looking at his friend with a stake in his hand
Dracula’s cape blocking the view as he is about to bite Lucy

Mock-serious tone (cf. Van Helsing listening to his own instructions)

Van Helsing’s scientific knowledge -- Arthur: “I thought they could turn into bats or wolves.”; Van Helsing: “That’s a common fantasy.”
Cf also Van Helsing’s authoritative tone when he gives an order to Mina -- “If you don’t, she will die!”.
Sexual innuendos (vampire woman; Lucy; and Mina, especially the final scene in her house with Dracula), and the references to addiction

Chase scene

Sunlight (earlier instruction: “Sunlight fatal, repeat fatal. Would destroy them.”)
On Stoker

❖ Narrative voices
❖ Social Class
❖ Orientalism / Reverse colonization
❖ Science and Technology
❖ Sex and Psychoanalysis
❖ Masculinity / Oscar Wilde
❖ "New Woman"

Mock film questions

❖ What are two striking features of this film?
❖ Why is Count Dracula mostly silent during the film?

Next week

❖ Viewing: Buffy the Vampire Slayer (‘Buffy vs Dracula’) @ 4pm
❖ Discussion of Stoker Dracula, The Fearless Vampire Killers, and the TV episode @ 5pm