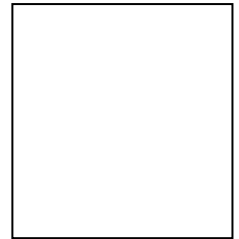






**UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND**


**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET**




<b>Student Name</b>	Zondi F.N
<b>Student Number</b>	201808363
<b>Module Title</b>	English 2 Part B: Language and Literature
<b>Module Code</b>	1ENG212
<b>Assignment Topic</b>	DRACULA
<b>Due Date</b>	27/03\2023
<b>Name of Lecturer</b>	MISS RINGWOOD
<b>Declaration</b>	<p><i>I know that plagiarizing other writers' words and ideas is wrong and is a serious academic offence. I declare that this essay is my own work, with the exception of those quotes and paraphrases which I have clearly indicated in the text.</i></p> <p><b>Signature:</b> <u>ZondiFN._____</u></p>

This essay aims to compare and contrast Dracula with a focus on the East vs. West cultural divide. Let start with two characters from the novel the Englishman Jonathan Harker and the Transylvanian Count Dracula. The story opens with a young lawyer, Jonathan Harker, travelling to Transylvania to help the mysterious Count Dracula purchase a home in London, Count Dracula is not only a bloodthirsty killer, but an existential threat to modernism and progress. 


Let's start with the character of Jonathan Harker. In the novel, Harker represents the ideals of rationality, punctuality, and science. He's a lawyer, so he's a man of reason and facts. He also values his time and is frustrated by the "unpunctuality"  Eastern Europeans, He complains on his trip to Transylvania after he had rushed to get to the station only to find that he had to wait for an hour. This shows that he sees time as something to be controlled and managed, whereas Dracula and other Eastern characters are more accepting of the flow of time.

So, Harker's way of thinking is very much a product of Western culture. It's also worth noting that Harker's views on gender are very traditional. He sees women as delicate creatures who need to be protected, which is reflected in his relationship with Mina. On the other hand, Dracula represents a different kind of masculinity, one that's more sensual and dangerous. 

It's also important to look at the setting of the novel, Transylvania, and how it's portrayed. Stoker portrays Transylvania as a wild and untamed place, full of superstition and mystery. In contrast, England is seen as civilized and modern. This difference highlights the tension between the East and West, with the East representing the irrational and the West representing the rational. 

Dracula's supernatural powers also highlight the fear of the unknown. The Count represents the hidden or repressed aspects of human nature, and he challenges the rational and scientific worldview of the West. While Christianity is seen as a source of protection against the forces of darkness, and it's associated with rationality and science. The crucifix, for example, is a powerful symbol that can ward off evil. In contrast, Dracula represents the pagan or pre-Christian past, which is seen as a source of danger and superstition.

Let's look at the character of Mina. She represents the idealized "angel of the house" in her selflessness and loyalty to her husband, Jonathan. However, she also embodies the qualities of the "New Woman" in her intelligence and independence. Mina's character highlights the tension between these two versions of womanhood and suggests that it is possible to be both traditional and modern at the same time.

The novel explores the different understandings of family and community. In *Dracula*, the characters of Lucy and Mina represent the "angel of the house," a Victorian ideal of femininity that is self-sacrificing and nurturing. This is contrasted with the idea of the "New Woman," represented by the character of Lucy's friend, Mina's cousin, and Dracula's other victim, Lucy. The "New Woman" is a woman who is more assertive and independent, and is seen as a threat to traditional gender roles. 

East is not entirely portrayed negative. The character of Dracula, for example, is also portrayed as seductive and attractive. This suggests that the East has a dangerous allure, which can draw people in and make them lose their way. Even Harker, the embodiment of Western rationality, is not immune to Dracula's charms.

This shows how Stoker is exploring the tension between the rational and the irrational, the East, and the West, and the old and the new. The novel seems to suggest that it's not possible to separate these different forces. In fact, they're often intertwined and dependent on each other. Consider the character of Van Helsing, who represents the "civilized" European, in contrast to Dracula's "uncivilized" Easterners. The character Van Helsing is motivated by rationality and scientific knowledge, while Dracula is driven by instinct and emotion.

One way to think about Dracula as a symbol of colonialism is to consider the setting of the novel. Dracula comes from Transylvania, which was at the time part of the Ottoman Empire, a former colonial power. Dracula's desire to dominate and control others is reflective of the imperial mindset of the Ottoman Empire. Another way to think about this is through the character of Renfield, who is a victim of Dracula's vampirism. Renfield can be seen as a metaphor for the colonized, who are exploited and abused by the colonizer.

