



**FRAN 325: The Representation of Voodoo in Popular Culture  
and Fiction (1.5 units)  
Spring 2025 – University of Victoria**



### Schedule

Mondays & Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 2:20 pm

### Room

Clearihue C214

### Description

In the past 100 years, zombies have steadily become part of mainstream popular culture, as the terrifying flesh-eating creatures have emerged from the undead and taken the worlds of books and films by storm. Hollywood has capitalized on this phenomenon by linking the image of zombies to voodoo, black magic and dark night rituals, and by associating voodoo with evil creatures such as sorcerers, sea witches, and of course, the infamous fetish dolls. The history of voodoo dates to the arrival of the first slave ships from West Africa to the New World, during the Atlantic Slave Trade. Largely fetichized nowadays, the religion of voodoo contains several facets that are as complex as fascinating. This course's objective is to identify the forms and subtleties of voodoo, by exploring fictional books, documentaries, films, podcasts, and interviews. At the end of the semester, students will have a better understanding of the history and of the evolution of voodoo, while being able to differentiate fact from fiction, with respect to this vastly misunderstood religion.

### Textbooks

- Lilas Desquiron, *Reflections of Loko Miwa*, Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia, 1998
- Jewell Parker Rhodes, *Voodoo Dreams*, Hampshire, Picador, 1995

### Instructor

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Office hours: Mondays & Thursdays from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm

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