



MEGAN HOLMSTEDT

*B.A. English,
emphasis in Literature*

*Minors: French,
University Honors*

*Mentor: Justine Van Meter,
Ph.D.*

Beckman 206

**The Blood Suckers: Capitalism and the
Changing Figure of the Vampire**

The adaptability of the vampiric figure is central to its endurance throughout history. From their significant literary birth in 1813 through Lord Byron's Venetian hero in *The Giaour* to Stephenie Meyer's perfectly coiffed Edward Cullen in the *Twilight* series, the vampires of Western literary tradition are highly pliable, evolving to absorb and reflect changes in the socioeconomic trends of each generation. The figure's evolutions beg to be examined, particularly in relation to the evolution of Western capitalism and its societal effects. Through this analysis, we may come to a better understanding of the emotional effects and psychological disturbances enflamed by socioeconomic changes and how the popularity of the vampire novel reflects, explores, and critiques changes in each generation.