Imperial Horrors, Postcolonial Hauntings

Professor: Jason Richards  
Office and Mailbox: 403 Halliburton Tower  
Office Hours: M 1-3, F 1-2 (and by appointment)  
Office Phone: 843-3517  
Email: richardsj@rhodes.edu (see email policy)

Course Description

This course examines the Gothic horrors and hauntings that issue from the imperial and postcolonial experience. We'll begin with imperial writers who use the Gothic to explore the terrors of empire as well as the boundaries between civilization and savagery, reason and irrationality, self and other. Our imperial Gothic texts include *Heart of Darkness, The Island of Doctor Moreau, Dracula,* and "The Mark of the Beast." Then we'll turn to postcolonial texts, where the ghosts of colonization make their uncanny return. By reading Gothic fiction from Africa, the Caribbean, America, and Canada, we'll examine how postcolonial spaces, worldviews, and literatures are haunted by the trauma and darkness of colonization. Our postcolonial Gothic texts include *A Bend in the River, Beloved,* and *Brown Girl in the Ring,* among others. Throughout the semester, we'll consider issues of racial difference, national identity, and the re/writing of history in relation to the Gothic mode.

Required Texts

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Dover)  
H. G. Wells, *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (Dover)  
Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (Penguin)  
V. S. Naipaul, *A Bend in the River* (Vintage)  
Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (Vintage)  
Nalo Hopkinson, *Brown Girl in the Ring* (Aspect)  
Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin, *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts* (Routledge)

Grading

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paragraphs</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1 (3-4 pages)</td>
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<td>Paper 2 (3-4 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper (8-10 pages)</td>
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A = 100-94; A- = 93-90; B+ = 89-87; B = 86-84; B- = 83-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-74;  
C- = 73-70; D+ = 69-67; D = 66-64; D- = 63-60; F < 60
Participation: While I will often begin class with a lecture, this course relies heavily on discussion. You are expected to have all the readings done for the day they are assigned and come prepared to discuss them, and you must always bring the text(s) we are discussing to class. Participation will be evaluated in terms of quantity and quality. Part of your participation grade includes quizzes, which are unannounced and given at the beginning of class. **If you are late or absent on a quiz day, you cannot make up the quiz.** Quizzes must be done on paper with clean edges. I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

Paragraphs: During the semester, you will write several paragraphs (300 words maximum) designed to prepare you for the major essays. For these brief assignments, you will use a concept from *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts* to analyze some aspect of one of our texts. The paragraphs, like the major essays, must follow the mode-of-submission guidelines. **Note: You will lose points for exceeding the 300 word limit; you must include a word count for each paragraph.**

Short Papers: For these two papers, you will critically analyze one or more of our texts. You will receive a handout for each paper.

Research Paper: The final assignment asks you to compose an 8-10 page paper (consisting of an argument, original analysis, and research) on one or more of the texts we have read this semester. Remember, this is a research paper, which means you must assemble a variety of scholarly perspectives to help build an original, argumentative analysis.

Mode of Submission: Papers are due at the beginning of class. All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, with one-inch margins. Please use printer ink that produces a copy dark enough to be easily legible. Place your name, instructor's name, course number, and date in the upper left-hand corner of the first page. Your last name and page number should appear in the upper right-hand corner of all pages. Do not include a title page. Place your title above the text on page one and double space above and beneath it. Your title should not be underlined. Be sure to staple your paper. You may lose points for not following these guidelines. **Note: I do not accept papers by email.**

Late Work: All work must be turned in on time. If you will not be in class when a paper is due, it must be in my mailbox before the deadline. A late paper will lose one percentage point for each day it is late (e.g., 84% becomes 83%, and so on).

Submission of All Work: All major assignments are integral to the goals of the course. Failure to complete any major assignment will result in a grade of F for the course.

Intellectual Honesty: All work is assumed to be the student's own and produced exclusively for the course in which it is submitted. Papers written for one course, even if revised, are not to be submitted in another without the instructor's prior approval. Borrowing of ideas or language from other sources (including published material, other student papers, the internet or other electronic resources, etc.) must be carefully documented. Students are advised against posting their work on the internet since doing so may lead to suspicion of plagiarism. Students are advised to maintain drafts of their work to verify its originality. Cases of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the
Honor Council, and the student if convicted will receive a grade of F in the course in addition to sanctions assigned by the Council. Carelessness in documenting sources, even if not technically plagiarism, will be penalized as the instructor deems appropriate. If you are uncertain about how or whether to document sources, consult me.

**Attendance:** While I expect you to attend every class, you are allowed three absences during the semester. After three absences, every additional absence will lower your final grade by one percentage point (e.g., 80% becomes 79%, and so on). If you miss more than six classes, you will fail the course. **Note:** **If you miss class, please don't contact me to ask what you missed. Instead, you should exchange contact information with other classmates and ask them what we covered in class.**

**Tardiness:** Please do not come late to class. Tardiness disrupts the flow of class and distracts other students. If you have a scheduling conflict, you are advised to drop the class. Tardiness will lower your participation grade.

**Email Policy:** The best way to address questions about our class is by meeting in person. I am always happy to talk with you during my office hours, by appointment, and after class. That said, I am available by email for *simple* queries. I typically respond to email once a day between 9am-6pm Monday-Friday. Here are some rules to follow when emailing:

- Email correspondence should be treated as formal communication
- Email is not the place to negotiate any kind of special request
- Email is not the place to discuss grade concerns
- Email is not the place to seek feedback on your writing; that must be done in person
- Do not email at the last minute (e.g., the night before an assignment is due) asking for help
- Do not email with a question that can be answered by our syllabus or College website
- Do not email about your absences, unless you are missing two or more classes in a row

**Disability Issues:** Students with documented disabilities should meet with me at the beginning of the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations. Please contact the office of Student Disability Services for more information. In all cases, it is your responsibility to provide me with an official letter from SDS.

**Schedule (subject to change)**

**Week 1**
Jan 14: Introduction to Course; Lecture: Imperial Horrors

**Week 2**
Jan 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No Classes
Jan 21: *Heart of Darkness*, Chapter 2 (pages 27-50); "Colonialism"
Jan 23: *Heart of Darkness*, Chapter 3 (pages 50-72); "Going Native"; **Paragraph Due:** Apply a Concept to *Heart of Darkness*
Week 3
Jan 26: Wells, Doctor Moreau, Chapters 1-11 (pages 1-41); "Race" and "Savage/Civilized"
Jan 28: Doctor Moreau, Chapters 12-16 (pages 41-74); "Hybridity"
Jan 30: Doctor Moreau, Chapters 17-22 (pages 75-104); **Paragraph Due**: Apply a Concept to Doctor Moreau

Week 4
Feb 2: Stoker, Dracula, Chapters 1-3 (pages 1-47); "Exploration and Travel" and "Orientalism"
Feb 4: Dracula, Chapters 4-6 (pages 48-84); "Cannibal"
Feb 6: Dracula, Chapters 7-9 (pages 85-127)

Week 5
Feb 9: Dracula, Chapters 10-13 (pages 128-90); "Mimicry"
Feb 11: Dracula, Chapters 14-16 (pages 191-232)
Feb 13: Dracula, Chapters 17-18 (pages 233-63); **Paragraph Due**: Apply a Concept to Dracula

Week 6
Feb 16: Dracula, Chapters 19-22 (pages 264-320)
Feb 18: Dracula, Chapters 23-25 (pages 321-65)
Feb 20: Dracula, Chapters 26-27 (pages 366-402)

Week 7
Feb 23: Kipling, "Mark of the Beast" (handout); "Binarism"
Feb 25: Achebe, "Dead Men's Path" (handout); "Post-Colonialism/Postcolonialism"; Lecture: Postcolonial Hauntings; **Paper 1 Due**
Feb 27: Naipaul, Bend in the River, Chapters 1-2 (pages 1-34); "Exile"

Week 8
Mar 2: Bend in the River, Chapters 3-4 (pages 34-65); "Decolonization"
Mar 4: Bend in the River, Chapters 5-6 (pages 65-107)
Mar 6: Bend in the River, Chapters 7-8 (pages 107-40); "Ambivalence"

Week 9
Mar 9: Bend in the River, Chapters 9-12 (pages 140-96); "Surveillance"
Mar 11: Bend in the River, Chapters 13-15 (pages 196-245); "Centre/Margin"
Mar 13: Bend in the River, Chapters 16-17 (pages 247-78); **Paragraph Due**: Apply a Concept to Bend in the River

Week 10
Mar 16: Spring Recess
Mar 18: Spring Recess
Mar 20: Spring Recess

Week 11
Mar 23: Morrison, Beloved (pages 1-33); "African-American and Post-Colonial Studies"
Mar 25: Beloved (pages 34-67); "Deracinate" and "Diaspora"
Mar 27: Beloved (pages 68-100); "Slave/Slavery"

Week 12
Mar 30: Beloved (pages 101-46)
Apr 1: Beloved (pages 147-80); "Manicheanism"
Apr 3: Beloved (pages 181-213)

Week 13
Apr 6: Beloved (pages 213-77); "Essentialism"
Apr 8: Beloved (281-324); "Agency"; **Paragraph Due**: Apply a Concept to Beloved
Apr 10: Easter Recess

**Week 14**
Apr 13: TBA
Apr 15: **Paper 2 Due**; Workshop for Research Paper
Apr 17: Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" (handout); "Allegory" and "Frontier"

**Week 15**
Apr 20: Hopkinson, *Brown Girl* (pages 1-41)
Apr 22: *Brown Girl* (pages 42-100)
Apr 24: *Brown Girl* (pages 101-54)

**Week 16**
Apr 27: *Brown Girl* (pages 155-207)
Apr 29: *Brown Girl* (pages 208-50)
May 1: Conferences

**Week 17**
May 4: **Research Paper Due by 3:00pm (leave in my mailbox)**