

The University of Houston / Department of English

English 8360: Nineteenth-Century Fiction: Imperial Gothic

Fall semester 2011 / Thursday 5:30 / Lynn Voskuil, 235A Roy Cullen
Office Hours: 1:00-2:30 Tu/Th and by appt / lvoskuil@uh.edu / 713.743.2972

Course Description

This course has two central goals: to explore the formal and cultural features of late-Victorian Gothic fiction in Britain, and to analyze and practice the conventions of advanced critical writing. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, Gothic fiction had become a popular genre in Britain—so popular, in fact, that its features became diffused more widely in later Victorian culture and literature. By the end of the century, Gothic fiction and imperial culture were closely intertwined in a subgenre now known as “Imperial Gothic,” our focus in this course. We will also analyze a number of critical articles on Imperial Gothic fiction, with an eye toward demystifying the conventions of academic and critical writing and practicing it ourselves.

Required Texts

Primary Readings

📖 Indicates that text is available in Blackboard folder entitled “Primary Readings”

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. Second Edition. Ed. D.C.R.A. Goonetilleke. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 1999.

Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Sign of Four*. 📖

_____. “The Adventure of the Speckled Band.” 📖

Haggard, Rider. *King Solomon’s Mines*. Ed. Gerald Monsman. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2002.

Kipling, Rudyard. “The Man Who Would be King.” 📖

_____. “The Mark of the Beast.” 📖

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Second Edition. Ed. Martin A. Danahay. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2005.

Stoker, Bram. *The Jewel of Seven Stars*. Ed. Kate Hebblethwaite. London and New York: Penguin, 2008.

Wells, H.G. “The Flowering of the Strange Orchid.” 📖

_____. *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. Ed. Mason Harris. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2009.

Critical Readings

All critical articles are available in the Blackboard folder entitled “Critical Readings”

Arata, Stephen D. “The Sedulous Ape: Atavism, Professionalism, and Stevenson’s *Jekyll and Hyde*.” *Criticism* 37:2 (Spring 1995): 233-59.

Brantlinger, Patrick. “Imperial Gothic: Atavism and the Occult in the British Adventure Novel, 1880-1914.” *Rule of Darkness: British Literature and Imperialism, 1830-1914*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1988. 227-253.

Briefel, Aviva. “Hands of Beauty, Hands of Horror: Fear and Egyptian Art at the *Fin de Siècle*.” *Victorian Studies* 50:2 (Winter 2008): 263-71.

Chrisman, Laura. “The Imperial Unconscious? Representations of Imperial Discourse.” *Critical Quarterly* 32:3 (Autumn 1990): 38-58.

Cole, Sarah. “Conradian Alienation and Imperial Intimacy.” *Modern Fiction Studies* 44:2 (1998): 251-81.

Deane, Bradley. “Imperial Barbarians: Primitive Masculinity in Lost World Fiction.” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 36 (2008): 205-25.

Glendening, John. “‘Green Confusion’: Evolution and Entanglement in H.G. Wells’ ‘The Island of Doctor Moreau.’” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 30:2 (2002): 571-97.

McBratney, John. "Racial and Criminal Types: Indian Ethnography and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 'The Sign of Four.'" *Victorian Literature and Culture* 33:1 (2005): 149-67.

Nagai, Kaori. "God and His Doubles: Kipling and Conrad's 'The Man Who Would be King.'" *Critical Survey* 21:1 (2009): 88-102.

Additional Reading

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Second Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Film

Queen Victoria's Empire. Dir. Paul Bryers. PBS, 2006. Available on Reserve or from Netflix.

Course Schedule

📖 Indicates that text is available in Blackboard folder entitled "Primary Readings." All critical articles are available in Blackboard folder entitled "Critical Readings."

August 25	Introduction to Course Doyle, "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" 📖 Wells, "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid" 📖
September 1	Stevenson, <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> , Beginning—"Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon" (31-57) Brantlinger, "Imperial Gothic" (Voskuil) <i>Craft of Research</i> : "Thinking in Print" (9-16) and "Connecting with Your Reader" (17-31)
September 8	Stevenson, <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> , "Incident at the Window"—Conclusion (38-93) Arata, "The Sedulous Ape" (Stigall, Winston) <i>Craft of Research</i> : "From Topics to Questions" (40-52) and "From Questions to Problems" (56-71) Due Date: You must have viewed the entire <i>Queen Victoria's Empire</i> by today
September 15	Haggard, <i>King Solomon's Mines</i> , chapters 1-10 Deane, "Imperial Barbarians" (Manning) <i>Craft of Research</i> : "Making Good Arguments: An Overview" (114-123) and "Claims" (127-137)
September 22	Haggard, <i>King Solomon's Mines</i> , chapters 11-20 Chrisman, "The Imperial Unconscious?" (Rubio) <i>Craft of Research</i> : "Reasons and Evidence" (138-48)
September 29	Doyle, <i>The Sign of Four</i> 📖 McBratney, "Racial and Criminal Types" (Cuellar, Rossum) <i>Craft of Research</i> : "Acknowledgements and Responses" (151-164)
October 6	Kipling, "The Mark of the Beast" and "The Man Who Would Be King" 📖 Nagai, "God and His Doubles" (Morgan) Due Date: Articles analyses of Arata, Deane, Chrisman, and McBratney Submit via Turnitin Link on Blackboard / No hard copy
October 13	Wells, <i>The Island of Doctor Moreau</i> Glendening, "Green Confusion" (Alfred)
October 20	Stoker, <i>The Jewel of Seven Stars</i> Briefel, "Hands of Beauty, Hands of Horror" (Klahr, Casteel)

October 27	Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> Cole, "Conradian Alienation and Imperial Intimacy" (Calder) Due Date: Everyone must have consulted with me about their seminar paper by today
November 3	No Class, but please read the selections below and turn in your paper, if this is your due date <i>Craft of Research</i> : "Planning and Drafting" (189-207), "Revising Your Organization and Argument" (208-221), and "Introductions and Conclusions" (222-240) Due Date: Articles analyses of Nagai, Glendening, Briefel, and Cole Submit via Turnitin Link on Blackboard by 11:59 pm / No hard copy
November 10	Paper Workshop: Stigall, Winston, Manning, Rubio
November 17	Paper Workshop: Cuellar, Rossum, Morgan, Alfred
November 24	No class: Thanksgiving
December 1	Paper Workshop: Klahr, Casteel, Calder
December 9	Due Date: All Final Paper Drafts Submit via Turnitin Link on Blackboard by 11:59 pm / No hard copy

Course Requirements

Argument Analysis of a critical article / 1500-1800 words. Each person will be responsible for mastering one of the critical articles on our syllabus; the articles will be distributed randomly on the first day of class. "Mastery" includes blogging about the article before we discuss it in class; serving as the most informed reader of the article during our class discussion; and analyzing its argument in the short paper due at staggered points during the semester. The readings from *Craft of Research* will give you some useful analytical language for this assignment; we will also draw on this language when we discuss the articles in class. *30 percent of semester grade.*

Course Participation. Class participation entails coming to class with the reading completed, ready to participate in discussion. In addition, beginning September 8, participation involves preparing some comments on your assigned critical article that will help promote class discussion; those comments (300-500 words) should be posted on the class blog no later than Tuesday each week by 5:00 pm. Please do not simply summarize the argument; everyone else will have read it so there will be no need to provide this sort of information. Instead, critique it, pose questions that the article raises in your mind, or use it to raise questions or points about the primary text. During the week you post comments on your article, I will also look to you to take a particularly audible and active role in class discussion. The remaining people should post briefer response comments (200-300 words) each week by 10:00 am Thursday; those people may respond to the Tuesday blog comments, or raise their own questions about the article or primary text. If you want to propose specific passages to discuss that are related to your questions or points, please indicate those in your post. We will add everyone to the blog and randomly assign the articles during our first class session. *The Craft of Research*, one of our assigned texts, will give us language and concepts that we can use to discuss the articles in class and that you can use to analyze the articles in your papers. *20 percent of semester grade.*

Seminar Paper / 4500-6000 words. The most important assignment for this course is the final seminar paper; its length is approximately equivalent to an article you might publish in a literary journal. The text and topic are for you to determine. Our readings from *The Craft of Research* should help you not only figure out your topic but also construct your argument. Everyone is required to consult with me about their text and topic by October 27. We will discuss drafts of your papers during the final several weeks of the semester; everyone will receive a thorough workshop discussion, which should help you with your final draft. *50 percent of semester grade.*