***Heart of Darkness* Independent Reading**

**Book ID #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*“Here as elsewhere, the world is seen by Conrad as a place of unending contention between the forces of darkness and dissolution on the one hand and those of brotherhood, duty, and bravery on the other; this belief is sometimes referred to as Manichæism, an early Christian heresy. Conrad divides all mankind into two types--the visionaries (who are truly 'young' no matter what their chronological age) and the cynical realists. Conrad implies that a man is already dead if he has lost his ideals and visions. The sea is always present in Conrad's stories; for him, it symbolized the physical, emotional, and mental environment of the individual (as represented by the ship–see, for example, the stories "The Secret Sharer," "Typhoon," and "Youth"). Conrad shows how superficial are rational control and civilisation. Youth, full of romantic visions and idealism, encountering the sheer corruption of the Darwinian jungle, may be overwhelmed by the experience, as Tuan Jim is at the start of Lord Jim on board the Patna.”*

[www.heartofdarkness**webquest**.weebly.com](http://www.heartofdarknesswebquest.weebly.com)

Today you are receiving your first independent reading selection: *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad. For this novel, you will be expected to employ strategies you will study over the course of the year - including, but not limited to, knowledge of Jungian psychology and historical criticisms. This novel will be read entirely at home. **Instructions have been clearly outlined in class and are expected to be followed to the full extent. Students are expected to read and understand the project requirements, and no special considerations will be made for any student who does not meet a requirement or deadline.** Students will be expected to complete assigned reading, module work, and a possible pop quiz. Any problems must be brought to the teacher’s attention 24 hours in advance of the announced deadline; otherwise **no** special considerations will be allotted. Students are also expected to complete this work on their own budgeted schedule, taking into consider assignments for this class and others**. *I just completed 4 recommendations for college that specifically asked how to rate the students’ ability to handle demand and rigor without neglecting classwork and responsibility!***

**All students have been added to a new group called HEART OF DARKNESS on Edmodo. All Postings and assignments will be facilitated through this group.** Initial after reading: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Some of the more complex themes of the novel include:**

* Story is an intricate study of the individual and their choices or views on life
* Story involves contests of moral, ethical, and/or spiritual strength
* Story centers around an amoral or hostile world
* Story hints at Conrad's fatalistic view of life

**Module 1 (week 1 ends 2/5 @ 11:59pm):**

* Reading: Part 1
* Read opening lecture notes
* Complete literary criticism exploration:
  + First, determine which criticism you will choose. You do this by opening each document and exploring the different links (attached to assignment).
  + Once you have an understanding of the criticism you wish to work with, answer the corresponding questions either using WORD or GOOGLE DRIVE.
    - Use the sample essay to help guide your understanding of **applying** the theory.
    - To submit your ANSWERS to the questions, start a new document, type your responses, and click “turn in” on the EDMODO assignment and upload the doc.
* REFLECTION: Your blog post this week consists of a reflection related to the reading. It can be about *Anything*! Agree, disagree, contemplate, mull over… process... something- anything- from the reading (as a whole or a piece). **Title: HOD REFLECTION 1,** **TAG: HOD, CATEGORY: Heart of Darkness**

**Estimated Schedule:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TUES** | **WED** | **THURS** | **FRI** | **SAT** | **SUN** | **MON** | **TUES** | **WED** |
| Read/  Re-read assignment sheet | Read/  explore  website | Read/ Bring in any questions or confusions to class | Read lecture notes | Complete criticism exploration, choose a criticism, answer corresponding questions | Break | Finish criticism exploration, choose a criticism, answer corresponding questions | break | *Check that all work is turned in and complete reflection* |

**Module 2 (week 2 ends 2/12 @ 11:59pm):**

* Reading: Part 2
* Watch short videos on King Leopold II and Imperialism in the Congo and read notes on symbolism.
* Complete assignment for “**the docks**” and “**the outer station.”** 
  + To complete and submit, create a new word document, type up and label each response, click “turn in” on EDMODO and upload.
  + Be sure you are keeping the same theoretical approach (criticism) you chose in Module 1.
  + Module 1 was **teaching you the criticism and talking about how it may be applied… now you are applying it. APPLY YOUR THEORY TO THE PROVIDED SELECTION IN A BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE.**
  + There are samples on the website.
* REFLECTION: Your blog post this week consists of a reflection related to the reading. It can be about *Anything*! Agree, disagree, contemplate, mull over… process... something- anything- from the reading (as a whole or a piece). **Title: HOD REFLECTION 2,** **TAG: HOD, CATEGORY: Heart of Darkness**
* COMMENTS: Choose 2 reflections from either module and start a dialogue!

**Estimated Schedule:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WED** | **THURS** | **FRI** | **SAT** | **SUN** | **MON** | **TUES** | **WED** |
| Read | Read/ Bring in any questions or confusions to class | Read | Watch videos and read the symbolism notes | Complete THE DOCKS activity and response- turn in to EDMODO | Complete THE OUTER STATION activity and response- turn in to EDMODO | break | *Check that all work is turned in and complete reflection and comments* |

**Module 3 (week 3 ends 2/19 @ 11:59pm):**

* Reading: Part 3
* (**PICK ONE**) *White Lies and Whited Sepulchres in Conrads HOD, Marlow’s Descent into Hell,* or *Joseph Conrad’s HOD: A Journey in Quest of Self* (these are sample academic essays that will provide you will valuable insight to how to construct your final paper)
* Complete assignment for “central station,” “inner station,” and “sepulchral city.”
  + To complete and submit, create a new word document, type up and label each response, click “turn in” on EDMODO and upload.
  + Be sure you are keeping the same theoretical approach (criticism) you chose in Module 1.
  + Module 1 was **teaching you the criticism and talking about how it may be applied… now you are applying it. APPLY YOUR THEORY TO THE PROVIDED SELECTION IN A BRIEF CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE.**
  + There are samples on the website.
* REFLECTION: Your blog post this week consists of a reflection related to the reading. It can be about *Anything*! Agree, disagree, contemplate, mull over… process... something- anything- from the reading (as a whole or a piece). **Title: HOD REFLECTION 3,** **TAG: HOD, CATEGORY: Heart of Darkness**
* COMMENTS: Choose 2 reflections from either module and start a dialogue!

**Estimated Schedule:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WED** | **THURS** | **FRI** | **SAT** | **SUN** | **MON** | **TUES** | **WED** |
| Read | Read/ Bring in any questions or confusions to class | Read | Read essay | Complete Central and Inner station activity and response- turn in to EDMODO | Complete Sepulchral City activity and response- turn in to EDMODO | break | *Check that all work is turned in and complete reflection and comments* |

**The Essay:**

* Working thesis on 2/24
* In Class Lab day 2/25
* Peer Editing Day 2/26 (a complete draft is due)
* Final Submission due 2/28by 11:59pm via Edmodo (assignment will be posted to group)

*\*In the event of weather related closings the due dates will not change. Lab time may be lost, but students are still expected to adhere to final deadline and peer editing day unless emergency.*

**Assignment:**

*Novel review: a Historical or Psychological Approach*

**Requirements**: 2-4 pages, typed, double-spaced, MLA, works cited. Ample/sufficient support that is directly quoted, summarized, and paraphrased.

**Primary Source**: *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad

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**Choose Which Question you will answer…**

1. Analyze the text from the Psychoanalytical approach. Consider the hero’s journey and quest of self in your analysis. Include discussion on the hero’s journey, archetypes, and/or the shadow. You may also include anima/animus or any other psychoanalytical perspective. Students who wish to branch off into Freudian psychology may wish to explore the Id, the Ego, and the Superego and the symbolic role within the text.
2. Analyze the text from a Historical approach. Examine HOD as a reflection of the historical time period. Discuss Conrad’s use of the text as a reflection upon, warning against, an/or criticism of certain aspects of history (namely imperialism). Be specific.

**Some Thoughts of Heart of Darkness….**

This novel exposes the myth behind colonization whilst exploring the three levels of darkness that the protagonist, Marlow, encounters--the darkness of the Congo wilderness, the darkness of the European's cruel treatment of the natives, and the unfathomable darkness within every human being for committing heinous acts of evil. Conrad himself was exposed to the brutality of European attitudes in the Congo when he worked as a captain of a steamboat on the Congo river. Conrad, as shown through this novella, was disgusted by the cruelty, futility, and lust for ivory. This is a profound, thought provoking novel that challenges the reader to question their own morals and values to 'The Horror' the novel exposes them to.

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A post-colonialist, post-modern text dealing with the psychological and physical transformation of the Europeans and the quest of an individual for self-knowledge in the heart of Africa, the dark continent - the Congo - where Belgium has set up a colony. Marlow goes there as captain and finds Kurtz, a prosperous ivory agent with deteriorating health. Marlow's journey to meet Kurtz and bring him home to Europe is symbolic of his journey to the heart of darkness, the subconscious mind.

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In every society we have intellectuals who wish to curb bad elements. How can ordinary citizens do that? Answer : Through Art and Literature! Charles Dickens, Washington Irving, George Orwell, John Steinbeck, and Joseph Conrad are all great examples of such genius, with a common denominator : they were making not only humanistic statements, but also political statements. The character of Kurtz is as openly a metaphorical figure, as Shylock. He represents a 'type' of personality : one that is intelligent, ambitious and capable. But at the sight of money, he turns into an evil genius. But all human beings also have a quality of 'empathy' as well, with all living things. So, after a while, he goes insane. Joseph Conrad was a messiah, giving a bold and truthful message to his countrymen. The injustice of ambitious white people knew no bounds in Africa during the 18th and 19th centuries. Thousands of elephants were killed mercilessly for their ivory. Conrad asks a basic question : is this why God created man as the highest living being? Another title for this great novel might have been : The Enlightened Animal. That's us!

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Even as the title itself suggests the intent of the writer in describing the darkness of more than one kind, Joseph Conrad's novella goes beyond portraying the harsh rainforests of Congo or the morbid depths of human psyche or even the tyranny of imperialistic rule. What was most impressive about the book was how Conrad explores and describes situations and experiences in the Heart of Darkness that is Africa. His contemplation on the cannibals' restraint in a certain episode or his narration of the sighting of the wild primeval men and his appreciation of their raw humanity like yours and mine or his facetious comments on high-handed Imperialism or describing Kurtz's 'Intended''s mourning a year later - an entire gamut of human expression is traversed. One of the most striking features of this book is how the author describes the life-like quality of the wilderness and the almost phantasmagorical description of his crew's trip down the Congo river into the true Heart of Darkness. Apart from a plot narration that swings to and fro in a pleasing manner, the author is able to address the reader's qualms about certain of his assertions through characters who interrupt his narration that happens in the surreal setting of the Thames that Conrad so beautifully describes.

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Heart of Darkness is a journey to the dark soul of mankind. In creating this fiction Conrad uses the technique of the Iliad. He also uses the technique which we find in The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner where the narrator has to keep repeating his story in an effort to cleanse the memory. Christian symbolism is rampant as Conrad shows us the pilgrims, the spear through the side of his helmsman, the episode with his shoes redolent of Jesus telling his disciples to shake off the dust from their sandals. The novella overall has a Nietzschian quality as the colonists strive to achieve their goals through a will to power over the indigent people of Africa. The women in the novella are reminiscent of the Madonna/ Whore complex. By the end of the narrative we are almost ready to start again hoping for a different outcome.