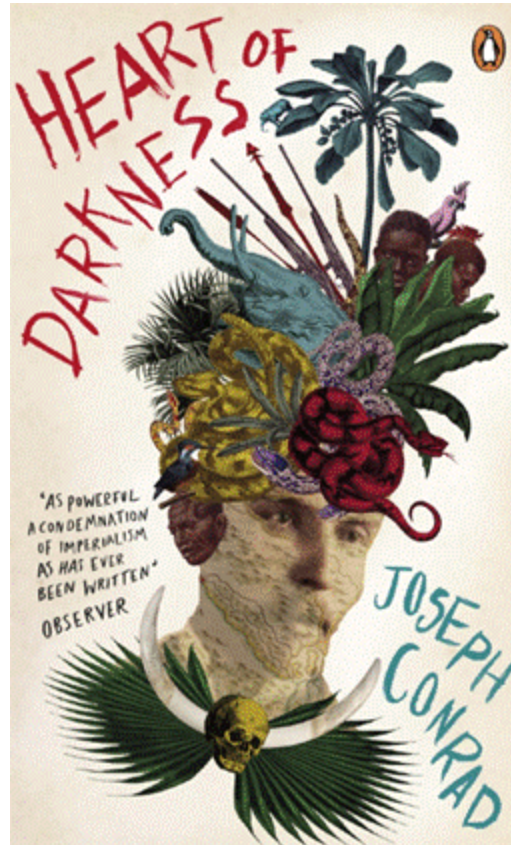


# HL2021: Literature of Empire

In this module, we will be focusing on literature produced in response to the historical experience of empire. We will look at the way in which literary narratives have been used to legitimize the imperial project – justifying its ‘civilizing mission,’ reinforcing certain racial stereotypes and hierarchies, and contributing to an archive of knowledge on colonial subjects and territories. However, this complicity between literature and empire is only part of the story. We will also be exploring the ambivalence that so often haunts the peripheries of imperial narratives, and examining



the way in which literature has served to critique colonial ideologies and practices. Our discussion will be wide-ranging and eclectic, covering three different centuries and five different empires. Although literature will be our primary focus, the course will include analyses of Hergé’s early Tintin comics and Michael Haneke’s critically acclaimed film *Caché*.

## Primary Sources

### FICTION

- J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians* (Penguin 1980)  
 Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (Oxford World’s Classics 2003)  
 E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India* (Penguin Classics 2005)  
 Graham Greene, *The Quiet American* (Penguin 2004)  
 Hergé, *Selected Stories* (Available in the Library Outpost)

### FILM

*Caché* (dir. Michael Haneke; 2005)

## Secondary Sources

Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*

Edward Said, *Orientalism*

David Spurr, *The Rhetoric of Empire: Colonial Discourse in Journalism, Travel Writing, and Imperial Administration*

## Assessment

Class participation	10%
Coursework essay	40%
Examination	50%

## Lecturer

Dr. Bede Scott

HSS-03-60

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Week	Topics	Readings
<b>1</b> 14 Aug	<b>Introduction to Empire</b>	
<b>2</b> 21 Aug	<b>Empire and Race I</b>	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
<b>3</b> 28 Aug	<b>Empire and Race II</b>	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
<b>4</b> 4 Sept	<b>Colonial Adventures</b>	Hergé, <i>Tintin in the Congo</i> , <i>The Blue Lotus</i> , <i>The Seven Crystal Balls</i> , <i>Prisoners of the Sun</i>
<b>5</b> 11 Sept	<b>Imperial Irony I</b>	E.M. Forster, <i>A Passage to India</i>
<b>6</b> 18 Sept	<b>Imperial Irony II</b>	E.M. Forster, <i>A Passage to India</i>
<b>7</b> 25 Sept	<b>Imperial Rivalries I</b>	Graham Greene, <i>The Quiet American</i>
<b>8</b>	<b>Recess</b>	

<b>9</b> 9 Oct	<b>Imperial Rivalries II</b>	Graham Greene, <i>The Quiet American</i>
<b>10</b> 16 Oct	<b>The Colonial Uncanny</b>	FILM: <i>Caché</i>
<b>11</b> 23 Oct	<b>Imperial Allegory I</b>	J.M. Coetzee, <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i>
<b>12</b> 30 Oct	<b>Imperial Allegory II</b>	J.M. Coetzee, <i>Waiting for the Barbarians</i>
<b>13</b> 6 Nov	<b>Conclusion/Revision</b>	