

Module title: Haunted: Literature of Ghosts, Spectres, Apparitions

Module code: COM5216

Credit value: 15

Level: 5

Pre-requisite modules: N/A

Content Description

This module reads stories of hauntings, both literal and figurative. We will explore the complex meanings of literary ghosts, spectres, and apparitions in a range of short stories and novels. Through our readings of ghostly figures, we will study literary experiments with lingering traces of the past, unseen truths in the present, and looming fears about the future. Topics under consideration may include: conceptions of time; modernity and its fragments; repressed, violent, and forgotten histories; strangeness and unbelonging. You will gain familiarity with key works of non-Western fiction; literary techniques of modernism and surrealism; and theories of the uncanny, the alienated, and the marginal.

Module Aims

1. introduce students to haunting as a literary technique and representational strategy in a range of culturally and linguistically diverse texts;
2. introduce students to key novels and short stories from non-Western (and particularly Asian) literary traditions, and practice cross-cultural literary comparison;
3. develop active reading skills, including close reading and other methods such as reading for structures, for silences, for contradictions, for history, social difference, culture and language;
4. explore and develop a critical position on various theoretical approaches (including psychoanalysis, temporality, fragmentation, postcolonialism, alienation, modernism, surrealism);
5. develop students' critical self-reflexivity about their own ideas and socio-political positions while reflecting on and analyzing texts that may be from a context different from their own.

Learning Outcomes

Academic Content:

A1 Knowledge of key works of non-Western literature, especially East, South, and Southeast Asian novels and short stories

A2 Knowledge of the theoretical and literary lens of haunting

A3 Familiarity with theories of temporality, psychoanalysis, postcolonialism, modernism

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B1 Understand texts within their historical, political and cultural contexts

B2 Undertake close reading and analysis of primary texts

B3 Undertake theoretically engaged comparison between texts from different contexts

Attributes:

C1 To gain global perspectives on literatures and theories of haunting

C2 Develop curiosity concerning non-European literatures

C3 Engage critically with cultural complexity and cross-cultural interactions

Activity Hours

Activity Type	Time spent (hours)
Lecture	11
Seminar	11
Guided independent study	128
Total	150

Indicative Reading List

Primary texts:

- Shi Zhecun, "Devil's Road" (1931)
- Xu Xu, "Ghost Love" (1939)
- Tarasankar Bandopadhyay, "Daini" (1940)
- Intizar Hussain, *City of Sorrow* (1977)
- Catherine Lim, *They Do Return... But Gently Lead Them Back* (1983)
- Michael Ondaatje, *Anil's Ghost* (2000) • Chang Yu-ko, *Whisper* (2018)

Secondary texts:

- Avery Gordon, *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1997)
- Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Minority Histories, Subaltern Pasts," *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000)
- Haiyan Lee, *The Stranger and the Chinese Moral Imagination* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2014)
- Jacques Derrida, *Specters of Marx* (1993; excerpts)
- Judith Zeitlin, "Ghosts and Historical Time," *The Phantom Heroine: Ghosts and Gender in Seventeenth-Century Chinese Literature* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007)
- Katarzyna Ancuta, "Strange Ghosts: Asian Reconfigurations of the Chinese Ghost Story," *The Routledge Handbook to the Ghost Story* (New York and Oxon: Routledge, 2018)
- Liao Ping-hui and David Der-wei Wang, eds. *Taiwan Under Japanese Colonial Rule 1895-1945: History, Culture, Memory* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006)
- Matt Foley, *Haunting Modernisms: Ghostly Aesthetics, Mourning, and Spectral Resistance Fantasies in Literary Modernism* (Cham: Springer, 2017)
- Sigmund Freud, "The Uncanny" (1919; excerpts)
- Tabish Khair and Johan Höglun, eds. *Transnational and Postcolonial Vampires: Dark Blood* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)
- Tabish Khair, "Indian Ghosts: A Love Affair," *The Routledge Handbook to the Ghost Story* (New York and Oxon: Routledge, 2018)
- Walter Benjamin, "On the Concept of History" (1940, excerpts)