UCI Summer Session Course Offering
Comparative Literature 10: Dialogues in World Literature

TRAVELING GHOSTS & MAGICAL ENCOUNTERS

Fulfills GE IV and GE VII Requirements. Cross-listed with Humanities 10

SUMMER SESSION 2: T/TH 9:00-11:50 AM

Register now at SUMMER.UCI.edu  
Course Code: 22710

Description: This lower-division course in Comparative Literature will trace temporal and spatial hauntings through literary genres such as gothic horror, surrealism, and magical realism as they evoke historical traumas such as colonization, genocide of indigenous populations, slavery and the middle passage, dictatorships, wars, and revolutions. We will examine how ghosts and magic convey traumatic remainders of histories that persist into the present and future and how these powers can be channeled as tools of personal and political resistance. We will assess how ghosts of historical hauntings travel by reading novels, poems, and short stories that cross oceans to locate magic abroad and at home. Particular attention will be paid to how race, gender, and sexuality are constructed through associations with witchcraft, haunting, and magic. Through a variety of readings and examples from popular culture, we will encounter horrors including witches, voodoo, necromancy, and ghosts. We will consider how geography and advances in medicine and science coincide with these hauntings. The readings will take us from US destinations such as Salem and New Orleans to international locales including the Caribbean Islands, Latin America, Nigeria, and France. We will read novels such as Maryse Condé's I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem alongside TV shows like The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina and/or Charmed (2018) and films including Pan's Labyrinth. We will explore manifestations of magic in performance and popular culture through Beyoncé's Lemonade. Readings will also include academic perspectives, haunted travel writing and ethnography, and excerpts from theorists such as Sigmund Freud and CLR James.

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