ENGL 2316: The Global Spaces of Literature

Instructor: Mark Sursavage

This class will use literary analysis as a way to examine the different types of cultural spaces that literature inhabits, interrogates, extends and challenges. In investigating such real and metaphorical spaces, this class's interest will reach from the United States to the Caribbean, Great Britain, and Africa in an effort to examine the global implications of the works we'll be reading. In addition to introducing the basics of literary analysis, this class will look to extend that analysis to the places and cultures represented, to draw connections between the locations of such works, and to identify specific aspects that make such locations unique. Expect to read between fifty and two hundred pages per week and to participate in class discussion. The class will require weekly journal or blog posts, a short midterm research paper, and a longer final paper.

Readings will include:

Jose Carpentier – The Kingdom of This World
William Faulkner – from Absalom, Absalom
Joseph Conrad – Heart of Darkness
Mariama Ba – So Long a Letter
Tayeb Salih – A Season of Migration to the North
Edwidge Danticant – Breath, Eyes, Memory
Kamau Brathwaite – selections from The Arrivants
And a number of shorter readings to help contextualize the novels