Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Dr. Emily Johansen
Course: ENGL 378
Title: The English Novel, 1870-Present

Description: In *Culture and Imperialism*, the postcolonial critic Edward Said suggests that culture, more generally, and novels, in particular, create "the structures of attitude and reference" that allow imperial ideologies to spread and become increasingly naturalized. In this course, which surveys the development of the British novel over, roughly, the last 150 years, we will consider how this argument works at both the height of empire, and during its decline and official dissolution (though one thing we'll consider is the way colonialism does not just disappear with the formal independence of Britain's former colonies). Exploring this larger question of empire and the novel, we will read in a variety of genres, such as horror, science fiction, the historical novel, the thriller and others. Paying attention to the various literary and social changes over this time period, we will also consider the ways the novel has changed to respond to its times.

Proposed Readings: