

## Contemporary Critical Issues

# Zombies and Fill in the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Room:** VAF 366

**Tuesdays:** 9:30am – 12:20pm.

**Professor:** Ricardo Dominguez

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**Office Hours:** Wed. 10am to 11am (CAL IT2/Atkinson Hall 2nd fl – 2501)

“Everything good dies here. Even the stars.”

- *I Walked With A Zombie*

*Mistah Kurtz—he dead.*

*A penny for the Old Guy*

**I**

We are the hollow men

We are the stuffed men

Leaning together Headpiece filled with straw.

Alas! Our dried voices, when

We whisper together

Are quiet and meaningless

As wind in dry grass

Or rats' feet over broken glass

In our dry cellar

Shape without form,

shade without colour,

Paralysed force, gesture without motion;

Those who have crossed

With direct eyes, to death's other

Kingdom Remember us—if at all—not as lost

Violent souls, but only

As the hollow men

The stuffed men.

- T.S. Eliot, “The Hollow Men”

Death is a very serious matter, Mrs. Fiske. People who go through it are never the same.

-Laurell K. Hamilton, "Those Who Seek Forgiveness"

"They're coming for you Barbara... They're gonna get you...."

-Jack Russo, "Night of the Living Dead: The Anubis"

**The term zombie may have drifted into the world from the word "nzambi" that came from the lower Congo River area of Africa, a sign that calls forth an "invisible being from the terrible earth", with the potential to take possession of a body that then becomes a "nzambi" drone. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century zombies have become the sign of all things post-human: from undead media to zombie capitalism(s); from Fox News' zombies to Obama zombies; as a perfect dead-form for immaterial labor, to the material formations of rebellions against command and control society; from a nzambi style virus, to preying nanites, to an un/godly zone too full to be contained. We are now living in global zombie zone where the dead are switched on and life is turned off. Everywhere inhuman rage becomes the contagion of speeding viroids or the (un)human shambling swarms of inertia returning as the living dead seeking brains to kill the pain or just plain "bare life" burning in plies off in the distance. Zombies are more us than we are: they are our evolutionary horizon, our devolutionary past, and our present aesthetics of involution. So let's make some "nzambi" gestures and consider our post-contemporary state(s) of dis/possession arising from the terrible earth(s) right beneath our feet.**

### **Schedule of Classes, Readings and Films:**

**Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Introduction

Mary Margaret McBride show interview with Zora Neale Hurston discussing Zombies.  
1943: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmKPjh5RX6c>

*White Zombie* - 1932

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbWUKNzcT0s>

*Revolt of the Zombies* - 1936

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-487745057365439493>

*I Walked With A Zombie* - Jacques Tourneur – (Boat sequence), 1943

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8PUsose3kE>

*The Last Man On Earth - Trailer* - 1964

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4mYireNvcg>

**Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>** – *Night of the Living Dead*

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/100136053/David-McNally-Monsters-of-the-Market-Zombies-Vampires-and-Global-Capitalism> (Chapter One).

**Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>** – *Dawn of the Dead*

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/100136053/David-McNally-Monsters-of-the-Market-Zombies-Vampires-and-Global-Capitalism> (Chapter Two).

**Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>** – *Land of the Dead*

“A Zombie Manifesto: The Nonhuman Condition in the Era of Advanced Capitalism”  
– Sarah Juliet Lauro and Karen Embry (PDF)

“The PetroZombie” – Tom Trevatt (PDF)

**Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>** - *28 Days After* – **NO CLASS**

[Zombie 2.0 Subjectivity.pdf](#) (Yari Lanci) - Academia.edu

<http://www.e-flux.com/journal/zombies-of-immaterial-labor-the-modern-monster-and-the-death-of-death/>

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>** – *Juan of the Dead*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/11/world/americas/zombies-in-juan-of-the-dead-chomp-on-cubas-sacred-cows.html>

*Slackers Bites Back: Shaun of the Dead Finds New Life for Deadbeats* – Lynn Pifer (PDF)

**Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>** – *The Stepford Wives*

The Corpse Bride: Thinking with Nigredo – Reza Negarestani (PDF)

Imitations of Life: Zombies and the Suburban Gothic – Bernice Murphy (PDF)

**Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>** – *Gamer* (**NO CLASS**)

Gamer

<http://www.shaviro.com/Blog/?p=830>

Playing Dead: Zombies Invade Performance Art...and Your Neighborhood – Sarah Juliet Lauro

<http://io9.com/5875897/did-zombie-flash-mobs-help-pave-the-way-for-occupy-wall-street>

It Seems As If...I Am Dead: Zombie Capitalism and Theatrical Labor – Rebecca Schneider (PDF)

**Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** – Presentations

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> - Finals Week – Presentations (if needed)

**Grading Policies and Evaluation:**

50% Attendance and Participation

25% 2 Projects/Gestures

25% Paper (One 10 page MLA style).

You will be expected to attend every class. If you have more than 2 unexcused absences, your final grade will drop a letter grade and 1/2 a letter for every additional unexcused absence that comes after. Two unexcused lateness will be considered an absence.

THE ENDLESS ZOMBIE FLIM HORDE LIST (only partial of course):

<http://www.zombiezonenews.com/zombie-movies-list/top-best-zombie-movies-ever/>

ENDLESS ZOMBIE GAMES:

<http://www.zombiegames.net/>

ZOMBIEWALKS:

<http://www.zombiewalk.com/forum/index.php>

MORE READINGS:

*Pride, Prejudice and Zombies* – Jane Austen & Seth Grahme-Smith

*American Zombie Gothic* – Kyle Bishop

*World War Z* – Max Brooks

*Day by Day Armageddon* – J. L. Bourne

*Better Off Dead: The Evolution of the Zombie as Post-Human* – (Edited) Deborah Christie and Sarah Juliet Lauro

*Prey* – Michael Crichton

*Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica* - Zora Neale Hurston

[http://books.google.com/books/about/Tell\\_my\\_horse.html?id=FzsLAQAIAAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/Tell_my_horse.html?id=FzsLAQAIAAJ)

*Cell* – Stephen King

*The Walking Dead (comics)* – Robert Kirkman

*Powers of Horror: An Essay on Abjection* – Julia Kristeva

*Rot and Ruin* – Jonathan Maberry

*After the Apocalypse* – Maureen F. McHugh

*Hegel, Haiti and Universal History* – Susan Buck-Morss

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/40208171/Buck-Morss-Hegel-Haiti-And-Universal-History>

“Zombies Media: Circuit Bending Media Achaeology into an Art Method” – Jussi Parikka

[http://soton.academia.edu/JussiParikka/Papers/1248598/Zombie\\_Media\\_Circuit\\_Bending\\_Media\\_Archaeology\\_into\\_an\\_Art\\_Method](http://soton.academia.edu/JussiParikka/Papers/1248598/Zombie_Media_Circuit_Bending_Media_Archaeology_into_an_Art_Method)

*Zombie Economics* – John Quiggin

*Frankenstein* – Mary Shelly

<http://www.literature.org/authors/shelley-mary/frankenstein/index.html>

*The Last Man* – Mary W. Shelley

<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/18247/pg18247.html>

*Monster Island* – David Wellington

<http://www.davidwellington.net/serials/monster-island/monster-island-part-1/chapter-one/>

Short Stories:

Herbert West: Re-animator - H. P. Lovecraft

[www.hplovecraft.com/writings/texts/fiction/hwr.asp](http://www.hplovecraft.com/writings/texts/fiction/hwr.asp)

The American Mediterranean (1912) - Stephen Bonsal

Lazarus - John Connolly

The Magic Island (1929) – W. B. Seabrook

Other:

*The Reapers are the Angels* – Alden Bell

*The Zombie Survival Guide* – Max Brooks

*The Serpent and the Rainbow* – Wade Davis

*A Passage Into Darkness: The Ethnobiology of the Haitian Zombie* – Wade Davis

“The Pharmacology of Zombies” by Wade Davis

<http://harpers.org/archive/1984/04/0025239>

*Cyclonopedia* – Rez Negarestani

*In the Dust of This Planet: Horror of Philosophy Vol. 1* – Eugene Thacker

ON-LINE MATERIALS:

[Preparedness 101: Zombie Apocalypse](#)

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2011/05/preparedness-101-zombie-apocalypse/>

*Zombies vs. Soldiers Warsaw 2008 Zombie Walk*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVRoXPAhpf&feature=related>

*June 22 2012 Night of the Living Debt - 4th NYC Casseroles March - Occupy Wall St*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26N6kQyOd4A>

Zombie Marches and the Limits of Apocalyptic Space

<http://nomosjournal.org/2012/08/zombie-marches-and-the-limits-of-apocalyptic-space/>

“The Zombie Aesthetics and the Post-Apocalyptic Franchise”

<http://www.kinema.uwaterloo.ca/article.php?id=32>

“Zombies Rising”

<http://new-savanna.blogspot.com/2011/10/zombies-rising.html>

Toward an International Relations Theory of Zombies.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/21/night\\_of\\_the\\_living\\_wonks](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/21/night_of_the_living_wonks)

History of Zombies: 2012 Documentary:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbVH\\_\\_mc998](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbVH__mc998)

