Speculative Asias

Comparative Analysis (25 points total)
Length: 5-7 pages
DUE: Thursday, 12/01 uploaded to Moodle by 5PM

This paper asks you to conduct a literary close reading that brings in a key concept, definition, and/or argument advanced by one of the scholars in our secondary readings. Think about how bringing an author and scholar into conversation with one another transforms and enriches each text. How does your close reading extend or challenge the scholar's argument, and how does the scholar's argument extend or challenge your close reading? Key to this comparative work is coming to insights that couldn't be gleaned if you analyzed either the author or scholar on their own.

Note: please make sure to write on a different literary text from what you focused on in your first short paper.

Paper format:

- Double-spaced
- 12-point font
- 1-inch margins
- MLA parenthetical text citations:
  https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_quotations.html

Resources:

Should you need additional help composing your essay, you are encouraged to make appointments with Bryn Mawr's Writing Center: https://brynmawr.mywconline.com/

Guidelines to keep in mind:

THESIS

- ☐ Advances an original argument (one that doesn't just repeat class conversations):
  - Is debatable: no clear yes or no, right or wrong answer
  - Avoids generalizations and defines its terms (e.g. "In this novel, nature is cruel")
  - Has stakes for how we interpret the text as a whole
  - Considers potential counterarguments **and when doing comparative work, avoids false dichotomies**

EVIDENCE

- ☐ The paper provides an appropriate distribution of direct quotations from the text(s) that are supported by original commentary

ORGANIZATION

- ☐ The paper is structured logically (introduction, body paragraphs, concluding thoughts)
- ☐ The paper has clear topic sentences
- ☐ The paper avoids repeating itself

STYLE

- ☐ The paper has an absence of grammatical and mechanical errors
- ☐ The paper follows all formatting instructions