***Heart of Darkness* In-Class Essay**

**50 Points – Essay Category**

Tomorrow, you will write an in-class essay on *Heart of Darkness*. Please choose one of the following topics and prepare an outline for your use in class tomorrow.

1. Some critics believe that in *Heart of Darkness* Conrad illustrates how “the darkness of the landscape can lead to the darkness of social corruption.” What does this statement mean? Do you feel this statement is an accurate assessment of the novel? Why or why not?

2. *Heart of Darkness* seems to blur the line between the so-called “advanced” society of Europe and the “primitive” society of Africa. Why is it difficult to distinguish between civilized/savage and Europe/ Africa in *Heart of Darkness*? Does Conrad ever take a strong position? What conclusions can you draw based on your answer to the previous question?

3. Kurtz's dying words are a cryptic whisper: "The horror, the horror." What "horror" could Kurtz have been talking about? Is there more than one possibility? Why does Marlow “lie” to Kurtz’s intended (his fiancé) about “the horror”?

4. The meaning of Marlow’s story is “on the outside, enveloping the tale which brought it out only as a glow brings out a haze.” How does Conrad’s style create meaning in the same way? And, of course, what meaning is there in *Heart of Darkness*?