

2008 - 2009

SYLLABUS

Department - 36**Literature 127 - CONTEMPORARY BRITISH LITERATURE****Credit Hours:** Three**Contact Hours:** Three**Course Length:** One Semester**Prerequisite:** Completion of or qualification for English 101 or consent of the department chair.**Catalog Description:** “Major British, Irish and Scottish writers of fiction, poetry, drama and essays from the mid-Twentieth Century to the present.”**Course Description:**

Twentieth-century Great Britain has provided the world with more than just spectacular weddings in the royal family. Through the fiction, poetry, and drama of the major contemporary British writers, students will explore both the cataclysmic events and the underlying philosophies and concerns that shaped Great Britain during this period. (H3 913)

Course Objectives:

- To expose students to a diverse range of contemporary British literature and its former English-speaking colonies from 1945 until the present day.
- To introduce students to major schools and themes of British literature from 1945 until the present day and to provide critical frameworks to understand and analyze the distinctions between Post-Modernism, The Angry Young Men movement, Confessional poetry, avant garde Language poetry, Post-Colonial literatures, as well as other movements.
- To help students understand the relationship between specific works of contemporary British literature and the cultural and historical contexts in which they were written, including post-WWII poverty, social adjustment and economic recovery, the Cold War, the counter-culture movements, anti-war protest, the woman's movement, Catholic/Protestant animosity, Irish nationalism and Scottish autonomy, Thatcherism and the resurgence of conservatism, the return of the Labour party, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

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- Students will recognize and understand the importance of a life-long enthusiasm for literature, respect the artistic use of language, and appreciation and enjoyment of the special characteristics of literature that can enhance one's life experience.

Student Learning Outcomes/Competency: During and by the end of this course:

1. Students will write analytical take-home papers and in-class exams which demonstrate an understanding of important themes and topics of contemporary British literature and some of its former English-speaking colonies.
2. Students will participate in class, including formal and informal class presentations, small group work, and full-class discussions.
3. In discussion, quizzes, examinations, oral presentations, and compositions, students will recognize and understand the major differences between the written language of the literature and other forms of communication, including differences in grammar, vocabulary, and idiom.
4. Students will recall a body of knowledge about the plots, characters, and themes of contemporary British literature sufficient for discussion and mid-term and final examinations. Students will articulate verbally and on paper the perennial relevance of themes raised in texts of contemporary British literature.
5. In discussion, quizzes, examinations, oral presentations, and compositions, students will recognize and understand poetic forms and literary techniques common to contemporary British literature, including diction, style, imagery, protagonist, and other terms used in literary study.
6. Students will recognize and understand the historical, political, social, cultural, philosophical, and religious backgrounds of contemporary British literature, as needed to interpret the texts, including history as background to studying the works, with emphasis upon social, literary, dramatic, and theatrical conventions.
7. Students will recognize and understand the major influences of contemporary British literature, including previous and subsequent periods or genres of literature, as well as place specific works within their approximate time periods and intellectual currents.

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Course Outline:

- Week 1: Introduction to the Contemporary British Literature
- Week 2: The End of WWII and Post-Modernism
- Week 3: Post-War Poverty, Social Adjustment, and Economic Recovery
- Week 4: The Cold War
- Week 5: The Angry Young Man Movement
- Week 6: Anti-Colonialism
- Week 7: The Counter-Culture Movement
- Week 8: Confessional and Avant Garde Language Poetry
- Week 9: The Anti-War and Women's Movements
- Week 10: Catholic/Protestant Animosity and Irish and Scottish Nationalism
- Week 11: Contemporary British Literature of Asia
- Week 12: Contemporary British Literature of the Caribbean
- Week 13: Contemporary British Literature of Other Former Colonies.
- Week 14: Thatcherism and the Resurgence of Conservatism
- Week 15: The Rise of the Labour Party, 9/11, and the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
- Week 16: Final Papers Due and Final Exams

Clientele for the**Course:**

Literature 127 provides humanities elective credit in transfer programs leading to the associate in arts and associate in science degrees. Students not in transfer programs may select the course for enrichment.

Writing**Requirement:**

Students will write approximately 3,000 words. Major papers must be word-processed or typed.

Methods of**Evaluation:**

Midterm and final examinations:	40-60%
Three critical papers (requiring revisions) (750-1000 words each):	30-50%
Quizzes, class participation, etc.:	20-30%

Types of Instruction**Used:**

Lectures for background information
 Discussion
 Records and films: poetry and background on authors.
 Reading of poetry, short stories, novel, plays, and selections from critical writings.

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Textbooks:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Latest ed., Norton,
(Section on the Twentieth Century only)
Waugh, Evelyn. A Handful of Dust. Little Brown.