

Contemporary English Literature

Code: 100238
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OT	3	0
2500245 English Studies	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Other comments on languages

A reduced version of this programme is available here in English; it contains Requirements, objectives and content

Prerequisites

The outline of requirements offered here is intended for exchange students considering taking this subject. Contemporary British Literature is a demanding course that reads a number of highly contemporary British novels in a close and intensive manner. Students wishing to join the class should have a solid level of spoken and written English (post Cambridge FCE, preferably at pass grades A or B, is advisable), some experience of studying modern and contemporary literature and the ability to write critically about the subject, including effective access of secondary sources where required.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This subject provides an approximation to certain fundamental topics in contemporary British culture, from WW2 to the present day. The basic objective of the course is to come to a fuller understanding of particular aspects of post-modern Britain through the study of four recent novels, thereby attempting to comprehend those concerns and leitmotifs that may be generally applicable in these novels to the culture as a whole, with the aim of attaining a closer conception of the cultural parameters currently at work in contemporary British society.

Skills

English Studies

- Critically assessing the scientific, literary and cultural production in the English language.
- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.

- Distinguish and contrast the various theoretical and methodological models applied to the study of the English language, its literature and its culture.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Learning outcomes

1. Analysing and interpreting in an advanced level secondary texts about the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
2. Applying appropriate secondary academic sources to text comments and argumentative essays about contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
3. Carrying out oral presentations using secondary academic sources in relation to the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
4. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
5. Comparing and relating in an advanced level various topics and texts of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
6. Comparing in an advanced level the methodologies of literary criticism applied to contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
7. Demonstrate a master of the specific methods of individual academic work that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
8. Describing in detail and in an academic way the nature and main traits of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
9. Distinguishing the main ideas from the secondary ones and summarising the contents of primary and secondary texts about contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
10. Drawing up academic essays of medium length, using secondary academic sources in relation to the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
11. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
12. Explaining in detail and in an academic way the diachronic and synchronic evolution of the topics and texts of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
13. Localising secondary academic sources in the library or on the Internet related to the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
14. Mastering the advanced knowledge and scientific methodologies related to linguistics, literature, history and culture that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
15. Students must be capable of comprehending advanced academic or professional texts in their own language or the another acquired in the degree.
16. Students must be capable of precisely arguing ideas and opinions in their own language or another acquired in the degree.
17. Students must reflect on and give their opinion about primary texts of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
18. Summarising the content of academic primary and secondary sources about contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).

Content

Unit 1. Introduction. From WWII to Thatcherism - Collection of short stories (provided by the teacher)

Unit 2. The Remnants of Empire (I). White Britain? - Caryl Phillips: *In the Falling Snow*. (2010)

Unit 3. The Remnants of Empire (II). Immigration, Refugees and the Mother Country. - Abdulrazak Gurnah: *By the Sea*. (2001)

Unit 4. Victorian England Revisited. Gender and the Historical Novel. - Sarah Waters: *Tipping the Velvet*. (1998)

Unit 5. U/Dystopian England. Gender and Power. - Sarah Hall: *The Carhullan Army*. (2007)

Methodology

Classes are seminar-oriented, therefore students' active participation in class discussions is expected. Students MUST have read accurately ALL the texts before class.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Class Discussions	15	0.6	
Lectures	30	1.2	
Type: Supervised			
Bibliographical Search	8	0.32	
Essay writing	14.3	0.57	
Type: Autonomous			
Personal work	24.7	0.99	15
Reading	55	2.2	

Evaluation

Assessment for this subject is based on the following items:

* Two exams (2 x 40%) = 80% - Dates: Exam 1 (week 1-5 April); Exam 2 (week 27-31 May)

*Class Participation = 20%

Definitive dates for each of the above exercises will be published in the Weekly Programme before the course starts.

All exercises are COMPULSORY

The submission of at least one of the exams invalidates the student to get a final mark of "No Avaluable". The student's command of English will be taken into account when marking all exercises and for the final mark. It will count as 25% of this mark for all the exercises.

*In order to pass the subject, it is required to pass at least ONE of the two exams. If the final average mark of the two exams (without the class participation mark) is inferior to 3,5, students are automatically granted a Fail.

*On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

* Re-assessment conditions: Students whose final average mark of the two exams is between 3,5 and 4,9 (without the class participation mark) may take re-assessment. This consists of a two-hour written exam on matters related to the subject. The exam is awarded a Pass/Fail mark and the maximum possible final mark is a 5. In case students cannot do the exercises (exams) on the date set up by the teacher for justified medical reasons, they may do the exercise(s) on a different date agreed by the teacher.

VERY IMPORTANT : Partial or total plagiarising will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the plagiarised exercise (first-year students) or the WHOLE subject (second-, third- and fourth-year students). PLAGIARISING consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text - with the intention of passing it off as the student's own production. It includes cutting and pasting from internet sources, presented unmodified in the student's own text. Plagiarising is a SERIOUS OFFENCE. Students must respect authors' intellectual property, always identifying the sources they may use; they must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of their own texts.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Class Participation	0	0	0	1, 16, 5, 9, 3, 4, 17
Exam 1 (week 1-5 April)	0,06	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 16, 6, 5, 15, 14, 7, 8, 9, 12, 11, 4, 13, 10, 17, 18
Exam 2 (week 27 - 31 May)	0,06	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 16, 6, 5, 15, 14, 7, 8, 9, 12, 11, 4, 13, 10, 17, 18

Bibliography

- Ashley, Bob (ed), *Reading Popular Narrative. A Source Book*, Leicester University Press, 1997.
- Boxall, Peter, ed. *Twenty-First-Century Fiction: A Critical Introduction*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
- Caserio, Robert L., ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Twentieth-Century English Novel*. Cambridge Companions to Topics. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- English, James F., ed. *A Concise Companion to Contemporary British Fiction*. Blackwell Concise Companions to Literature and Culture. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006.
- Gąsiorek, Andrzej. *Post-war British Fiction: Realism and After*. London: Edward Arnold, 1995.
- Gelder, Ken, *Popular Fiction. The Logics and Practices of a Literary Field*, Routledge, 2004.
- Head, Dominic, *Modern British Fiction, 1950-2000*, Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Head, Dominic. *The State of the Novel: Britain and Beyond*. Blackwell Manifestos. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.
- Lane, Richard J., Rod Mengham, and Philip Tew, eds. *Contemporary British Fiction*. Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2003.
- Leader, Zachary, ed. *On Modern British Fiction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Morrison, Jago. *Contemporary Fiction*. London: Routledge, 2003.
- Stevenson, Randall. *The Oxford English Literary History*. Vol. 12, *1960-2000: The Last of England?* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Tew, Philip, *The Contemporary British Novel*, Continuum, 2004.

Students will be required to read academic papers throughout the course. These will be provided by the teacher and will be available on CV.