

*Title and Code of Course:* Main Tendencies in 20th-century British poetry and drama (ERBP-MAD3281)

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Credit Point Value: <b>6</b>	Number of Lessons per Week: <b>2</b>	Type of Course: <b>Seminar</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Lecture</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Method of Evaluation: <b>Oral Examination</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>In-Class Presentation</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**Course Description:**

The purpose of this seminar course is to introduce students to some aspects and features of 20th-century and contemporary British poetry and drama. The course will explore topics such as the fin-de-siècle, colonial imaginaries, modernism and mythology, the poetry of World War I, modernism, kitchen sink drama, the theatre of the absurd, the poetry of "the Movement," and contemporary British multicultural poetry and art.

## **Topics and readings:**

### **The fin-de-siècle**

Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895)

### **Colonial Imaginaries**

Rudyard Kipling, "Mandalay", "Christmas in India", "The White Man's Burden"

### **The Poetry of World War I**

Robert Graves, „1915“, „Two Fusiliers“; Wilfred Owen, „Dulce Et Decorum Est“, „Futility“, „Strange Meeting“; Siegfried Sassoon, „Wipers“

### **Modernism and the Individual**

T. S. Eliot, "The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock"; "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (essay); *Murder in the Cathedral*

### **Modernism and Mythology 1**

G.B. Shaw, *Pygmalion* (1913) and *My Fair Lady*, dir. George Cukor (1964)

### **Modernism and Mythology 2**

W. B. Yeats, "The Second Coming"; "Easter 1916"; *Purgatory*

### **The 1950s: Kitchen Sink Drama and the Angry Young Men**

Shelagh Delaney, *A Taste of Honey* (1958)

### **The Movement and post-1945 British poetry**

Philip Larkin, "Mr Bleaney", "MCMXIV"; Thom Gunn, "On the Move", John Betjeman, "Monody on the Death of Aldersgate Street Station"

### **The Theatre of the Absurd**

Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (1966)

### **British Multicultural Poetry and Art**

Linton Kwesi Johnson, "Sonny's Lettah", Benjamin Zephaniah, "City River Blues"; Yousif M. Qasmiyeh, "The Jungle"

## **Recommended readings:**

Alex Davis and Lee M. Jenkins, *The Cambridge Companion to Modernist Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007.

David Perkins, *A History of Modern Poetry*. Boston: Harvard UP, 1979.

Esslin, Martin. *The Theatre of the Absurd*. London: Vintage, 2004.

Mary Luckhurst (ed.), *A Companion to Modern British and Irish Drama 1880-2005*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2006.

Raby Peter, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Oscar Wilde*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

