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

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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, „Wirers”

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

The Movement and post-1945 British poetry

The Theatre of the Absurd
Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (1966)

British Multicultural Poetry and Art

Recommended readings:
