

Title and Code of Course: ERPB-BAN 3333 Modern British Literature

Instructor's Name: Ágnes Györke

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

This course explores 20th century British literature. We will discuss novels, short stories, poems, dramas, and films as well in their cultural and historical contexts. Apart from focusing on classical 20th century writers and dramatists, such as Virginia Woolf, William Golding, John Osborne, Kazuo Ishiguro and Bruce Chatwin, the course also intends to introduce lesser-known authors, such as Patrick Hamilton, and contemporary poets (Linton Kwesi Johnson, Benjamin Zephaniah, Lemn Sissay). The discussions will address the following themes: literary modernism; gender and toxic masculinity; dystopia and the post-war generation; class and the angry young generation; film and adaptation; Britishness in contemporary literature; Eastern Europe in contemporary literature.

Bibliography:

Modernism and Modernity

- **Compulsory reading:** Virginia Woolf, "Mr Bennet and Mrs Brown" (essay)

The Poetry of World War I

- **Compulsory readings:** Robert Graves, „1915“, „Two Fusiliers“; Wilfred Owen, „Dulce Et Decorum Est“, „Futility“, „Strange Meeting“
- **Recommended reading:** Paul Norgate, „Soldier’s Dreams: Popular Rhetoric and the War Poetry of Wilfred Owen.“ *Critical Survey* 2.2 (1990): 208-215.

The 1930s: Gender and Toxic Masculinity

- **Compulsory reading:** Patrick Hamilton, *Gaslight*
- **Recommended reading:** McKenna, Brian M., „The Policing of Female Vengeance.“ *Gender Representation, Sexuality and Politics in the Writings of Patrick Hamilton*. Wadham College, Oxford, 1991. 55-82.

Post-war Literature: Dystopia and Allegory

- **Compulsory reading:** William Golding, *The Lord of the Flies*
- **Recommended reading:** S. J. Boyd, "The Nature of the Beast: *Lord of the Flies*". *Blooms Modern Critical Interpretations: William Golding’s Lord of the Flies*. 2008. 27-44.

The Angry Young Men: Drama

- **Compulsory reading:** John Osborne, *Look back in Anger*
- **Recommended reading:** Bhatia, Nandi. "Anger, Nostalgia and the End of Empire: John Osborne’s *Look Back in Anger*". *Modern Drama* 42 (1999): 391-401.

The Movement

- **Compulsory reading:** Philip Larkin, "Church Going," "Mr Bleaney," "High Windows"
- **Recommended reading:** István D. Rácz, "Agnosticism, Masks and Monologues in Philip Larkin". *HJEAS* (1995): 93-120.

"Britishness" and Contemporary Literature

- **Compulsory reading:** *The Remains of the Day* (film + excerpts)
- **Recommended reading:** Adam Parker, *Kazuo Ishiguro’s The Remains of the Day: A Reader’s Guide*. Bloomsbury, 2001.

Eastern Europe in Contemporary British Literature

- **Compulsory reading:** Bruce Chatwin, *Utz*
- **Recommended reading:** Nicholas Shakespeare, "The Harlequin," *Bruce Chatwin* 473-485

Contemporary Multicultural Poetry

- **Compulsory reading:** Linton Kwesi Johnson, "Sonny’s Lettah"; Benjamin Zephaniah, "City River Blues"; Lemn Sissay, "Let There Be Peace"
- **Recommended reading:** Benjamin Zephaniah, *The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah: The Autobiography* (excerpts: "Early Days in Old Birmingham"; "Wake Up and Smell the Racism").