

Literatures on the British Isles: Modernism to the Present

Lecture

Pilný et al.

Winter Semester

Wednesday 9:10-10:45, Room 104

OBJECTIVES

A survey course in 20th-century English literature. A basic outline of canonical writing is presented in chronological fashion, based on the consensus of traditional literary historiography. This map of English literature is supplemented by lectures on the most vibrant alternatives to the generally accepted styles and genres. Furthermore, the course provides an outline of related literatures in English – Irish, Scottish, diasporic, colonial and post-colonial – and charts their interactions with English literature on the one hand, and their mutual cross-fertilization on the other.

SCHEDULE

2 Oct	Introduction; Fiction I: Towards Modernism – From Conrad to Lawrence (Beran)
9 Oct	Fiction II: Modernism and its Legacy (Vichnar)
16 Oct	British Drama 1900-1945 (Wallace)
23 Oct	Poetry I: Poetry and Politics (Poncarová)
30 Oct	Irish Literature (Pilný)
6 Nov	Scottish Literature (Poncarová)
13 Nov	Poetry II: Poetry and Gender (Theinová)
20 Nov	no class (Týden humanitních věd)
27 Nov	Poetry III: Poetry and Place (Theinová)
4 Dec	Fiction III: 1950-1970 (Beran)
11 Dec	Fiction IV: 1970-present (Beran)
18 Dec	British Drama after 1945 (Wallace)
8 Jan	Diasporic Writing and “New Literatures in English” (Nováková)

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Stříbrný, Zdeněk. *Dějiny anglické literatury II*. Praha: Academia, 1987.
Stape, J.H, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
Messenger, Nigel. *How to Study an E.M. Forster Novel*. London: Macmillan, 1991.
Bowering, Peter. *Aldous Huxley: A Study of the Major Novels*, London: Athlone, 1968.

Fiction II

Bradbury, Malcolm and David Palmer, eds. *The Contemporary English Novel*. London: Edward Arnold, 1979.
Gasiorek, Andrzej. *Post-War British Fiction – Realism and After*. London: Edward Arnold, 1995.
Head, Dominic. *The Cambridge Introduction to Modern British Fiction, 1950-2000*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

British Drama 1900-1945

Eyre, Richard and Nicholas Wright. *Changing Stages: A View of British Theatre in the Twentieth Century*. London: Bloomsbury, 2000.
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Luckhurst, Mary ed. *A Companion to Modern British and Irish Drama 1880-2005*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.

Poetry I

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Das, Santanu, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Poetry of the First World War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.
David, Alex, and Margaret Lee Jenkins, eds. *A History of Modernist Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.
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Tearle, Oliver. *The Great War, The Waste Land and the Modernist Long Poem*. London: Bloomsbury, 2019.

Irish Literature

Kelleher, Margaret and Philip O’Leary, eds. *The Cambridge History of Irish Literature, Vol. 2, 1890-2000*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
Quinn, Justin. *The Cambridge Introduction to Modern Irish Poetry 1800-2000*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
Foster, John Wilson, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Irish Novel*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
Greene, Nicholas and Chris Morash, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish Theatre*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

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Scottish Literature

Craig, Cairns. *The History of Scottish Literature* (Volume 4: 20th century). Aberdeen: Aberdeen University Press, 1989.

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Crawford, Robert. *The Penguin History of Scottish Literature*. London: Penguin, 2007.

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Poetry II

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Day, Gary, and Brian Docherty, eds. *British Poetry from the 1950s to the 1990s: Politics and Art*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 1997.

Dowson, Jane. *Women, Modernism and British Poetry, 1910–1939: Resisting Femininity*. Florence: Taylor and Francis, 2016.

Dowson, Jane, and Alice Entwistle, eds. *A History of Twentieth-Century British Women's Poetry*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Dowson, Jane, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Twentieth-Century British and Irish Women's Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Stevens, Hugh, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Gay and Lesbian Writing*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Darcy, Ailbhe and David Wheatley, eds. *A History of Irish Women's Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

McMillan, Andrew, and Mary Jean Chan, eds. *100 Queer Poems*. London: Vintage Publishing, 2022.

Poetry III

Bate, Jonathan. *The Song of the Earth*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2020.

Corcoran, Neil, ed. *Cambridge Companion to Twentieth-Century British Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Day, Gary, and Brian Docherty, eds. *British Poetry from the 1950s to the 1990s: Politics and Art*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 1997.

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Fiction III

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British Drama after 1945

- Elsom, John. *Post-War British Theatre Criticism*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1981.
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- Wallace, Clare. *Suspect Cultures: Narrative, Identity, Citation in 1990s New Drama*. Praha: Litteraria Pragensia, 2006.

Diasporic Writing and "New Literatures in English"

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- Gopal, Priyamvada. *The Indian English Novel: Nation, History, and Narration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

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ASSESSMENT

Credit requirements include regular attendance at seminars, active in-class participation based on the required reading, an oral presentation, passing an in-class essay, and submitting a final essay on a given topic (minimum length 3000 words). The course is concluded by the comprehensive examination in the Literatures on the British Isles; in order to be admitted to the exam, students must first receive a credit (zápočet) from the subject.