

## English 354. Twentieth-Century British Literature

Fall 2011

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### Course Objectives

- To become familiar with the works of selected twentieth-century writers in the British Isles and Britain's former colonies
- To explore the stylistic experimentation and distinctive interest in mythology, psychology, and political and cultural history that characterized the modernist writers of the first half of the century
- To probe the class, feminist, and global re-visioning of the writers of the post-colonial second half of the century
- To practice careful reading and informed interpretation of the literature
- To develop skills in oral and written presentation and in research
- English 354 satisfies the English major requirement of a course dealing with a major British literary period or it may serve as an English elective in the major.

### Required Text

Dettmar, Kevin J. H., ed. *The Twentieth Century and Beyond*. New York: Longman, 2010. Vol. 2C of *The Longman Anthology of British Literature*. Ed. David Damrosch and Kevin J. H. Dettmar. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. 6 vols. 2010.

### Course Requirements

- Each student will sign up to serve as a co-instructor for a class meeting. Co-instructor responsibilities will include opening the meeting (10-15 minutes) by engaging the class (via, for example, lecture, discussion, small group activity, puppet show, etc.) in consideration of all or part of one the readings assigned on that day. A co-instructor might lead the class in a close reading of a poem, paragraph, or dramatic scene; analyze a character; trace the development of a theme or motif; or discuss the demonstrated influence of another artist on the author or the impact of the historical/cultural context on the piece. These are illustrative suggestions; other approaches may be imagined. A co-instructor will also be expected to aid the course instructor with the conduct of the remaining class time as requested. Co-instruction will count as 10% of the final grade.
- A mid-term examination on October 13 will be worth 25% of the final grade.

- A research paper analyzing an aspect of one of the course readings or comparing an element in two or more will be due on November 3. Possible topics might include but are not limited to a close reading of a poem, paragraph, or dramatic scene; analysis of a character; the development of a theme or motif; or the demonstrated influence of another artist on the author or the impact of the historical/cultural context on the piece. Each student will identify at least three critical, scholarly essays addressing the reading(s) and will integrate these essays into the paper in support of its thesis. The suggested length is 8-10 word-processed, double-spaced pages in length, including appropriate documentation in the MLA style. The paper will count as 25% of the final grade.
- During the final three weeks of the semester, over four class meetings, works by 18 poets will be briefly examined. Each student will sign up to help the class understand and appreciate (in 10-15 minutes) a poem by one of the poets (via, for example, lecture, discussion, small group activity, interpretive dance, etc.). This presentation will count as 10% of the final grade.
- A final examination on December 14 at 8:30 a.m. will be worth 30%.

### **Grading**

The final grade will, in general, be computed according to the percentages noted above. Late work will be penalized. An examination missed for a valid, documented reason may be re-scheduled at the discretion of the instructor. Since students are expected to attend class regularly, absences will be noted and will negatively affect a final grade. In addition to the specifically graded presentations or activities noted above, contributions to class discussions and participation in other class activities will also be considered in assigning the final grade. The instructor will apply both quantitative and qualitative judgments in determining grades for individual assignments and for the course.

Grading equivalents:

A+	98	B+	88	C+	78	D+	68
A	95	B	85	C	75	D	65
A-	92	B-	82	C-	72	D-	62
						F	55

### **Academic Honesty**

- Students in this course are expected to adhere to the accepted practices of academic honesty such as those outlined in the statement on academic honesty at Moravian College in its current *Student Handbook*, available online. (Search AMOS, keywords “honesty policy.”)
- Students must retain copies of all written work submitted to the instructor, as well as all notes, drafts, and materials used in preparing assignments. These are to be made available for inspection by the instructor at any time.
- Questions about appropriate collaboration, proper documentation, and other honesty issues can be confusing. If in doubt, ask the instructor.

**N.B.**

- This syllabus, including the schedule of readings, examinations, and written assignments that follows, is subject to change.
- Assigned readings should be completed prior to the class meeting noted on the following schedule.
- To be successful, students should expect to work at least six hours per week outside of class preparing for this course.
- In preparation for creating an English Major Portfolio in the senior capstone seminar, English majors are advised to save both digital and hard copies of work written for English 354, including drafts with peer and instructor comments.
- Students who wish to request accommodations in this course for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

### Schedule of Readings, Examinations, and Written Assignments

Aug.	30	Introduction to the course
Sept.	<u>01</u>	“Introduction,” 1919-1928; “Perspectives,” 2114-2130, 2134-2137
	06	“Perspectives,” 2130-2134, 2137-2141, 2157-2163
	<u>08</u>	West, 2141-2157; Forster, 2203-2214; Mansfield, 2478-2491; Lawrence, 2491-2493, 2501-2517
	13	Yeats, 2174-2194
	<u>15</u>	Yeats, 2194-2203
	20	“Introduction,” 1928-1932; Joyce, 2215-2256
	<u>22</u>	Joyce, 2256-2284
	27	“Introduction,” 1932-1933; Eliot, 2284-2317
	<u>29</u>	Eliot, 2318-2331
Oct.	04	“Introduction,” 1934-1938; Woolf, 2331-2334, 2337-2390
	<u>06</u>	Woolf, 2390-2442
	<u>13</u>	<b>Mid-term examination</b>
	18	“Introduction,” 1938-1946; “Perspectives,” 2527-2536, 2539-2549
	<u>20</u>	“Perspectives,” 2549-2571
	25	Beckett, 2577-2613
	<u>27</u>	Beckett
Nov.	01	Stoppard, 2684-2711
	<u>03</u>	Stoppard, 2711-2738; <b>research paper due</b>
	08	“Introduction,” 1946-1948; Gordimer, 2654-2660; Naipaul, 2671-2684
	<u>10</u>	Rushdie, 2748-2771
	15	Moore and Lloyd, 2812-2835; Kureishi, 2836-2847
	<u>17</u>	Hornby, 2847-2861; Smith, 2861-2871
	<u>22</u>	Hardy, 2096-2111; Lawrence, 2491-2501; Spender, 2536-2539; Thomas, 2572-2577; Auden, 2614-2630
	29	Larkin, Gunn, Hughes, Duffy: 2631-2654
Dec.	<u>01</u>	Walcott, 2661-2670; Heaney, 2739-2747; Thiong’o, Boland: 2772-2782
	<u>06</u>	Muldoon, Dhomhnaill, Lewis, Crawford, Herbert: 2783-2812
	<u>14</u>	<b>Final examination @ 8:30 a.m.</b>