

THE BRITISH NOVEL SINCE 1900

English 65.401
Spring 2013

Tues and Thurs 3:00-4:30
Fisher Bennett Hall 231

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DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory survey of British fiction since 1900, covering some of the important novels and novelists of the past hundred years. There is no single theme unifying our readings; rather, we will be exploring a number of interrelated questions concerning the genre of the novel and the politics of literary form; the relationship between modernism and postmodernism; and the shifting dynamics of Englishness and Britishness during a century of supposed Americanization and globalization.

All books for the course are available from Penn Book Center, 34th and Sansom. If possible, please use the editions listed below:

Conrad, Joseph. *Lord Jim*. Penguin. 0141183543
Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Never Let Me Go*. Vintage. 140007877
Mitchell, David. *Cloud Atlas*. Random House. 0375507256
Rushdie, Salman. *Satanic Verses*. Random House. 0812976711
Rhys, Jean. *Voyage in the Dark*. Norton. 0393311465
Selvon, Sam. *The Lonely Londoners*. Longman. 0582642647
Smith, Zadie. *White Teeth*. Vintage. 0375703861
Waugh, Evelyn. *Vile Bodies*. Back Bay. 0316926116
Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs. Dalloway*. Harvest. 0156030357

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Class attendance is required; notify me in advance if you need to miss a class. The reading load is not excessive – roughly 200 pages a week – but you will need to complete the novels in timely fashion in order to perform well on our unannounced quizzes. There will be five of these, consisting of multiple-choice and short-answer questions; your lowest score will be dropped and the others will each count 10% of the final grade. Written work will consist of a short essay or creative composition of 3-5 pages, counting 20%, and a longer essay of 7-10 pages, counting 30%. The final 10% of your grade will be based on your attendance and participation.

SCHEDULE

Jan 10	Introduction
Jan 15 / Jan 17	<i>Lord Jim</i> (chapters 1-10 / 11-20)
Jan 22 / Jan 24	<i>Lord Jim</i> (chapters 21-36 / 37- end)
Jan 29 / Jan 31	<i>Mrs. Dalloway</i> (pp. 1-100 / 101-end)
Feb 5 / Feb 7	<i>Vile Bodies</i> (chapters 1-8 / 9-end)
Feb 12 / Feb 14	<i>Voyage in the Dark</i> (chapters 1-7 / 8-end)
Feb 19 / Feb 21	<i>Lonely Londoners</i> (pp 1-83 / 84- end)
Feb 26 / Feb 28	<i>The Satanic Verses</i> (Parts I, II / III, IV) FIRST ESSAY DUE 2/28
Mar 5 / Mar 7	[Spring Break]
Mar 12/ Mar 14	<i>The Satanic Verses</i> (Parts V, VI, VII / VIII, IX)
Mar 19 / Mar 21	<i>White Teeth</i> (“Archie” / “Samad”)
Mar 26 / Mar 28	<i>White Teeth</i> (“Irie,” “Magid” / “Millat,” “Marcus”)
Apr 2 / Apr 4	<i>Never Let Me Go</i> (chapters 1-14 / 15-end)
Apr 9 / Apr 11	<i>Cloud Atlas</i> (parts 1-4 / 5-6)
Apr 16 / Apr 18	<i>Cloud Atlas</i> (parts 7-9 / 10-11)
Apr 23	Conclusion FINAL ESSAYS DUE 4/27