

Introduction to British Literature and Culture

This survey course has two key objectives: 1) to familiarize students with literary genres, canonical works, and traditions within British culture more broadly; and 2) to equip students with the necessary tools for textual and cultural analysis, knowledge of research methods and ethics, and command of basic hermeneutics. We will be proceeding chronologically from medieval poetry and early modern drama to the present, discover the birth of the novel and the essay, discuss the pitfalls of retrospective periodization, and reflect on our reading from various standpoints in critical and intellectual history. You will find the following titles (usually short-ish extracts, unless otherwise indicated) on our reading list: anon., *Beowulf*; Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*; William Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (complete); John Milton, *Paradise Lost*; Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*; Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*; William Cowper, *The Task*; William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads*; William Hazlitt, *Table-Talk*; Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*; Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* (complete); Pat Barker, *Union Street*; Zadie Smith, *NW*; as well as further selected poetry by Charlotte Smith, Robert Burns, W.H. Auden, Vikram Seth, and Moniza Alvi. A course reader will be provided in PDF format, which you will then need to print off and bring to all of our seminars. ***Hamlet* and *A Room of One's Own* will not be included in the course reader, so you will need to buy a paper copy (any edition) of each. Strictly no e-readers allowed.**

Please note: if you don't attend our first seminar without prior notice and an acceptable excuse, you will be put 'inactive' on Stine so that another student may take up your place.

Recommended reading:

Paul Poplawski, *English Literature in Context* (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Requirements for successful completion:

Studienleistung: regular attendance, active in-class participation, and a short presentation

Prüfungsleistung: in addition to the above, a pass mark in the final written exam