

Key Concepts: British Literature and Culture in the 20th/21st Century

Course description:

This lecture series will focus on key terms of British literature and culture in the twentieth and twenty-first century. This will offer students vivid insights into the historical, social and postcolonial contexts of that era and into the literature, theatre and film these contexts gave rise to. The individual lectures will concentrate on events or developments of outstanding cultural relevance (e.g. modernism and modernity, World War I and II, changing British identities after 1945 and multiculturalism, climate change, Brexit), tracing how these events are negotiated in literary and other cultural media and exploring how these texts and media, in their turn, shape their cultural environments. The perspective will move back and forth between broad surveys, systematic presentations and the exemplary analysis of individual texts. Canonical works will be discussed side by side with less well-known authors or with examples from popular culture.

Course requirements:

Students will be asked to hand in one-page notes / written responses, distributed across different sections of the lecture course (BA total 4; MA total 6). Details will be specified at the beginning of the lecture course.