

Veranstalter:	Dr. Jens Elze
Modul:	Black British Literature [AA-MA6]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar IV
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-549
Zeit:	2st., Mi 12-14
Raum:	Ü35 - 01016
Beginn:	19.10.2020

Course description:

Over the last half-century, works by British authors of Caribbean, African, and Asian heritage have infused novel, drama, poetry, and theory with significant formal and thematic innovations. Their works have contributed significantly to public debates that have indubitably redefined the culture and self-image of Great Britain. Starting with Samuel Selvon's iconic 1956 novel *The Lonely Londoners*, we will read texts – primarily novels – from and about various decades of Black British history, by authors such as Buchi Emecheta, Alex Wheatle, Zadie Smith, or Bernadine Evaristo. Our reading of these texts will be guided by theoretical perspectives from postcolonial and transnational studies, gender theory, urban sociology, and Marxism. Aside from reading those texts as refractions of social and cultural debates, conflicts, and transformations, a strong emphasis will be put on the formal, narratological, and stylistic strategies that those texts employ. It is in this realm that the impact of Black British writing has also been considerable: from the use of musical strategies in the novel over experiments with literary language to the radical deployment of multi-perspectivity and the reinvention of the verse novel. Aside from literary fiction, we will also look at the mutual influence between British Cultural Studies and Black British experience and discuss pop-cultural and audiovisual representations of Black British culture, such as Steve McQueen's recent anthology series *Small Axe* (2020).

Please obtain the following texts in the noted editions:

Samuel Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners* (Penguin Modern Classics)
 Buchi Emecheta, *Second Class Citizen* (Penguin Modern Classics)
 Zadie Smith, *NW* (Penguin)

Further readings will be announced in class.

Course requirements:

Regular and active participation in the seminar (no more than two missed classes), excellent knowledge of the texts assigned, oral presentation or preparation of discussion questions, term paper (if required by your course module)

Sprechstunden im Semester:	s. Sprechstundenliste
Sprechstunden in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste