



Instructor: Mark Cimmins

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Course Number: ENG329H5F

Course Title: Contemporary British Fiction

Course description: In this course we will examine a wide array of fiction by contemporary British authors. Our investigations will begin with Anthony Burgess's neo-Joycean dystopian masterpiece, Ian McEwan's portrait of two virgins on their wedding night, and Julian Barnes's mock history of the world. We will then continue by studying a wide range of the stories anthologized by Malcolm Bradbury, including fiction by Dylan Thomas, Ted Hughes, Doris Lessing, Angela Carter, Enda O'Brien, Kazuo Ishiguro, David Lodge, Beryl Bainbridge, Adam Mars-Jones, Clive Sinclair, Allan Sillitoe, John Fowles, Rose Tremain, J. G. Ballard, Muriel Spark, and Martin Amis. Through our studies we will look at the ways Contemporary British Fiction has changed over the decades since World War Two, how it has reflected the changing face and developing dilemmas of postwar life in the United Kingdom, how it has been deployed as a way to examine the impact of feminism on women's writing and the representation of female experience, and how it continues to develop and redefine itself with relation to contemporary realities and issues.

Continued...

Required Reading: *The Penguin Book of Modern British Short Stories* (Edited by Malcolm Bradbury); Anthony Burgess: *A Clockwork Orange*; Ian McEwan: *On Chesil Beach*; Julian Barnes: *A History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters*.

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied: Burgess, Sillitoe, O'Brien.

Method of Instruction: Lecture/Discussion

Method of Evaluation: Two short papers: 20% each; Midterm Test: 15%; Final Exam: 35%; Participation: 10%.