

British Literature of the 20th century

CANG9117/CANG9217 (C1-Advanced level)



Teacher: Dr. Lola Serraf

Description

This course is an introduction to the study of 20th century British literature. It covers a range of texts from the main four genres of the period: short stories, poetry, novel and play. The 20th century was marked by two World Wars and growing doubts and anxieties about the legitimacy of the power and influence of the British Empire. The study of the texts chosen aims to explore how the political and social context of the period impacted the literature of the time, both in terms of form (e.g. the rise of Modernism and Kitchen realism) and content (feminism, class struggle, multiculturalism,..). This module will look at how these works reveal the emergence of a distinctly post-Empire sensibility in contemporary British culture.

This course is designed for advanced learners of English (C1 level).

Objectives

The main objective of this course is to get students to enjoy both reading and critically reflecting on texts of the period by:

- Developing a greater understanding of the politics and culture of 20th-century Britain through the study of the main literary movements of the period.
- Becoming acquainted with several of the most important writers of that period.
- Studying texts from the main four genres through reading, analysing, debating and interpreting short stories, plays, poems and novels.
- Noticing and understanding the complexities of literary texts, their structure and inter-relations.
- Entering the academic discussion of literary texts by reading and reflecting on journal articles and other theoretical works.
- Consolidating essay-writing skills to comment on literary works and their contexts.
- Understanding and successfully deploying a range of terms and concepts essential to literary studies.



Assessment

This course is assessed through coursework (50%) and a final exam (50%). The coursework consists of two analytical essays and one oral presentation. The final exam is a 2-hour paper on one of the texts studied in class.