

## **Survey British Literature and Culture: From the Second World War to the New Millennium**

Time: TUE 16-18 // Philosophie-Gebäude, H 4

**! Please read the following carefully before enrolling for this lecture course.**

Students are kindly asked to 'unenroll' from the course (and also from its WueCampus site) if they should realize that the programme is not suitable for them.

### **Course description**

Picking up from last semester's lecture on "Modernity and Modernism", this lecture will continue the series of surveys in literary and cultural history. It will offer an advanced introduction to the literature and culture of the British Isles and some of Britain's (former) colonies in the long period from the end of the 1930s to the second decade of the new millennium. Please see the detailed description on my institutional website.

The lecture is part of a series of survey lectures conducted by Prof. Karremann and myself. Here (in German) is the description of the series offered on the chair's website:

Unter dem Titel "Survey British Literature and Culture" wird im Laufe von 6 Semestern ein Zyklus von Vorlesungen angeboten, der die Epochen der Frühen Neuzeit, des 18. Jahrhunderts, der Romantik, des Viktorianismus, der Moderne sowie der Postmoderne durchläuft und Ihnen damit einen systematischen Überblick über die wichtigsten Epochen, Autoren und Werke der englischen Literatur sowie ihre kulturhistorischen Kontexte bietet. (See the SUV catalogue on the chair's website: [LINK.](#))

Dealing with a period that is sometimes labelled as 'postmodernity' or 'post-modernity', the present lecture course represents the last instalment (or 'season') of the survey series. Next semester, the cycle will restart with a lecture course on early modern culture and literature.

### **Required reading**

Part of the idea of the survey lectures is to offer students a basis for extensive self-directed reading of both literary texts and scholarly accounts (as, e.g., standard introductions to literary and cultural history). Detailed suggestions for such reading will be made on the course syllabus and in the individual lectures. However, all participants of the lecture will be expected to read at least the following three novels in the course of the semester:

- George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949) [which will be dealt with early-on in the semester]
- Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985)
- Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go* (2005)

As jumping boards for studying literary, cultural and political contexts, the following two titles are very strongly recommended. These books or readers (both designed for students) can serve as useful companions for this lecture as well as in many other contexts, so that students might consider buying them:

- James Vernon, *Modern Britain: 1750 to the Present* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2017) [c. €28,-].
  - See parts IV ("1931–1976: Society Triumphant") and V ("1976–: A New Liberalism?" for the present lecture.
- Paul Poplawski and Valerie Allen, eds., *English Literature in Context*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2017) [c. € 26,-, but a used copy of the 1st edition might do almost as well].
  - See chapters 7 ("The Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries, 1939-2015") and 8 ("Postcolonial Literature in English") for the present lecture.