

Contemporary British and American Literature (SBA)

Course description 2022

Teacher: Mgr. Renáta Lengyel-Marosi

Office hours: Tuesdays, 10.30-11.15, Wednesdays, 11.20-12.05 (R 207)

Course objectives

The course aims to familiarize students with the literary works of contemporary English and American novelists. The course makes a glimpse of the literary world of various genres: fairy tale adaptations, fantasy, science fiction, crime, - and philosophical novels. It offers the students opportunity to read novels and issues of a certain comic book. At the end of the course, a successful learner will be able to interpret literary texts in different genres and from various perspectives (e.g. through feminist, psychoanalytic, and postcolonial literary criticism).



Tentative syllabus:

1. **Introduction to the course (rules and requirements)**
2. Neil Gaiman: Coraline
3. Alan Moore: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, Vol.1. (Issues 1-6)
4. Nalo Hopkinson: Message in a Bottle
5. Peter S. Beagle: The Last Unicorn
6. Kazuo Ishiguro: The Buried Giant
7. Alice Walker: Possessing the Secret of Joy
9. Margaret Atwood: The Handmaid's Tale
10. Yann Martel: Life of Pi
11. David Mitchell: Cloud Atlas
12. Ted Chiang: Story of Your Life
13. **Missed micro-tests**

Assessment based on:

- regular class attendance: you can miss no more than 2 classes
- active participation during the lessons: you are expected to join the discussions on literary texts

- Micro-tests at the beginning of the lessons (50 points). Each micro-test will include questions on the compulsory reading assignments for each lesson. You can collect five points for each micro-test.
- oral exam (50 points)
 - Are you familiar with the author and his/her oeuvre? – 10 points
 - Can you concisely summarize the plot, the moral and describe the characters? – 30 points
 - Can you interpret the literary text applying certain literary criticism? – 10 points

Evaluation and final mark:

You can collect 100 points during the term: 50 points from the micro-tests and 50 points from the oral exam. If you fail to obtain 50 points, you have two more opportunities to take an oral exam and improve your mark.

During online education we use Zoom. Students registered for the course will get access details through e-mail and the Academic Information System. Students are required to use a camera (switched on) during online classes.

Recommended literature:

Collier, Peter, and Helga Geyer-Ryan (ed.): *Literary Theory Today*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007.
Eco, U.: *Interpretation and Overinterpretation*. Cambridge: CUP, 1992.
Lauter, Paul. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature: Contemporary period 1945 to the present*. Volume E. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006.
Marcus, Greil, and Werner Sollors. *A New Literary History of America*. Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2009.

Enjoy the course! ☺