

ENG4371F: [Resisting the] “Rule [of] Britannia”



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COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will consider the significance of the postmodern shift, which includes the dismantling of imperialism, diversification of British society, and the socio-political change from conservatism to neoliberalism in examining how British writers have responded to cultural and ideological changes from the mid-twentieth century, to the new wave of the eighties and nineties, and finally to post-millennial Britain. We will analyze works of literature, music, and film which challenge established power structures—often subverting them through comedic reversal—thus rejecting all absolutes relating to truth, value, reality, and identity. Works by *Zadie Smith*, *Martin Amis*, *Kazuo Ishiguro*, *Martin McDonagh*, and *Monica Ali* among others will be examined.

