

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: [Resisting the] “Rule [of] Britannia”

Course Number and Section:

ENGLISH

4371F 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Amanda Di Ponio

Instructor Email(s): adiponi@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

We will consider the significance of the postmodern shift, which includes the dismantling of imperialism, diversification of British society, and the sociopolitical 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, Chris Morris, Martin McDonagh, and Monica Ali among others will be examined.

Learning Outcomes:

- Read/ Analyze/ View British literature from a global, sociocultural perspective, with an emphasis on theory, to understand the political, sociocultural, moral, and philosophical substructures of the texts on the course
- Read/ Analyze/ Assess the sociocultural, political, and historical contexts of post-war to post-millennial Britain
- Identify postmodern strategies of resistance, including parody, pastiche, and comedic reversal
- Develop theoretical perspectives on the ways that British literature of the twentieth and twenty-first century uniquely informs and is informed by discourses on race, class, gender, identity, and authority
- Analyse how literary, visual, and sound media have challenged established narratives of the British identity
- Communicate ideas effectively through readings, discussion, presentations, and persuasive writing
- Deliver a seminar, in class, of a designated length
- Deliver a short presentation on a non-literary component related to course material and concerns

- Research and engage with scholarly/critical texts
- Write logically and persuasively in fluent, standard English using the appropriate conventions for scholarly-critical writing
- Design strong thesis statements and structured arguments in persuasive essays which incorporate evidence, from both primary, secondary, and theory focused texts in essay writing to support arguments that logically and persuasively present complex and debatable arguments
- Apply principles of quotation integration using MLA documentation
- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, including those obtained via the worldwide web
- Integrate outside research materials (not generated by AI) and references to the original text through use of summary, quotation, and paraphrase using correct MLA documentation

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Zadie Smith, On Beauty. Penguin. \$22
 Monica Ali, Brick Lane: A Novel. Scribner. \$25
 Doris Lessing, The Grass is Singing. Harper. \$17.50
 Bernardine Evaristo, Girl, Woman, Other. Grove. \$25.50

Second-hand or older editions are permitted.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Research Essay (3,500-4,000 words) + Proposal	12/08/2025	30
Seminar Presentation (45 minutes) + Outline (due Friday before seminar delivery)	various throughout the term	20
Reflection Journal	weekly	20
Short Presentation on Sociocultural Phenomenon	11/27/2025	10
Participation		20

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, August 18, 2025