

Women Writers in Modern British Literature (A005370)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0

Study time 168 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

crdts

offering

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

women writers, 20th-century British literature, feminism, contemporary literature, literary theory

Position of the course

This course is offered within the inter university master in gender and diversity and is taught at UAntwerpen. This also presupposes a (free) guest registration at UAntwerp. See www.mastergenderendiversiteit.be for more practical information. If you wish to select this course as an elective course within a different study program than the Master's program in Gender and Diversity, please contact the responsible lecturer. If you wish, however, to follow this course within a credit contract, you have register directly at UA.

Contents

In this course, we study the works of influential British women authors, like Virginia Woolf, Doris Lessing, Malorie Blackman, Jean Rhys, Angela Carter, Caryl Churchill, Carol Anne Duffy, and Andrea Levy. The authors we study have not only been praised for their innovative literary works and experimental styles, but several of them have also reflected - either in their fiction, or in essays and interviews - on the position of women, and women writers in particular, in history and contemporary society. We alternate a critical analyses of their literary production with a discussion of these non-fictional works. The reading list includes novels, short stories, plays and poetry from a wide range of genres, including experimental fiction, historical fiction, phantasy and realism. We will mainly draw on theories of gender studies, queer studies, literary sociology, life writing and age studies.

Initial competences

At the start of this course the student should have acquired the following competences:

- an active knowledge of English
- a passive knowledge of English
- general knowledge of the use of a PC and the Internet
- general notion of the basic concepts of gender studies and history of literature in English

Final competences

- 1 Knowledge of the development of gender studies in the 20th and 21st centuries
- 2 Familiarity with the most important British women writers in the 20th and 21st centuries

- 3 Ability to reflect critically on a literary text by a female writer
- 4 Ability to reflect critically on an academic article
- 5 Ability to make a coherent and academically sound analysis of a selected work by a female author

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides from the classes and the student presentations
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : English
 Available on Ufora : No
 Online Available : Yes
 Available in the Library : No
 Available through Student Association : No
 Additional information: Will be made available via the course site on the UA Blackboard platform

Type: Reader

Name: Secondary sources
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Available on Ufora : No
 Online Available : Yes
 Additional information: These can be found on Blackboard

Type: Other

Name: Books by British authors
 Indicative price: € 75
 Optional: no
 Author : several authors, final reading list will be announced later
 Available on Ufora : No
 Online Available : No
 Available in the Library : Yes
 Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive
 Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
 Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally
 Additional information: for sale at De Groene Waterman, older editions or library books are also allowed.

Type: Other

Name: Poems and short stories by British authors
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Author : several
 Available on Ufora : No
 Online Available : Yes
 Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive
 Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
 Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally
 Additional information: These will be made available at the course site of the UA Blackboard platform

References

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Participation, Presentation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

- Oral examination: presentation
- Participation: continuous assessment
- Presentation: in-class group presentation about a secondary source

Calculation of the examination mark

- Oral examination: presentation, 12/20 points
- Participation: continuous assessment, 4/20 points
- Presentation: in-class group presentation, 4/20 points

Second examination period:

- Retake oral examination
- If it is in the student's advantage, the grade for the oral examination will replace all the grades from the first exam period and will count for 20/20.

Facilities for Working Students

- Class attendance is (partly) mandatory and will be included in the calculation of the final score
- It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period
- Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment