

TWENTIETH CENTURY BRITISH NOVEL  
NCSA

Fall 2009

DR. SUSIE THOMAS

Tuesday: 10.00-12.00

Thursday: 3.30-5.30

Email: thomassusie@hotmail.com

**Set Texts**

E.M.Forster, *Howards Ends*

James Joyce, *Dubliners*

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges are Not the Only Fruit*

Bernard MacLaverty *Cal*

Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*

**Grading Policy**

Essay I	(1500 words on a topic of your choice.)	25%
Seminar	(Class presentation on an aspect of one novel.)	25%
Essay II	(1500 words on a topic of your choice.)	25%
Exam		25%

A: 94 - 100 points

A minus: 88 - 93 points

B plus: 81 - 87 points

B: 76 - 80 points

B minus: 70 - 75 points

C plus: 65 - 69 points

C: 60 - 64 points

C minus: 55--59 points

D: 50-54 points

F: 0 – 49 points

*The final grade will reflect class participation and attendance.*

This course explores the twentieth century novel in Britain in terms of historical context and literary technique. We begin with E.M. Forster's condition-of-England novel *Howards End*; we consider women writers and the literary canon (Woolf and Winterson); colonialism and contemporary Northern Ireland (Joyce, MacLaverty); and contemporary multicultural Britain (Hanif Kureishi).

The course explores literary movements and styles (realism, Modernism, postmodernism); narrative techniques and perspectives (1st & 3rd person, limited point-of-view, stream of consciousness); and the use of symbolism, imagery, and irony. As the course develops we shall consider the role of the author, the reader, and problems of

interpretation. By paying close attention to both text and context I hope we shall achieve a lively appreciation of individual works and see them as part of the cultural life of Britain.

Teaching is conducted mainly through seminar discussion and I hope everyone will participate fully. There will be short introductory lectures throughout the semester in order to provide the social, historical, literary and biographical background to each text.

### Course Outline

**Every class (whether on- or off-site) must be attended. Absence will only be accepted on grounds of sickness. Sickness must be notified in advance in person (by phone, note or email) either to Martin, Leah or me. Any absence not for sickness will affect your grade.**

17 Sep.	Critical vocabulary and concepts. VISIT BRITISH LIBRARY		
22 Sep.	Howards End		
24 Sep.	Howards End		
29 Sep.	Howards End		
1 Oct.	No class		
6 Oct.	Dubliners	BLACK ALBUM AT THE NATIONAL	
8 Oct.	Dubliners		
13 Oct.	Dubliners		
15 Oct.	Mrs Dalloway	DALLOWAY WALK	DUE: ESSAY I
BREAK			
27 Oct.	Mrs Dalloway		
29 Oct.	Mrs Dalloway		
3 Nov.	Oranges		
5 Nov.	Oranges		
10 Nov.	Cal		
12 Nov.	Cal		
17 Nov.	Buddha of Suburbia		
19 Nov.	Buddha of Suburbia		
24 Nov.	Revision		
26 Nov..	EXAM	DUE ESSAY II	

