Course Information

Course Objectives: To gain an overview of contemporary British literature by looking at some of major trends of the period, including the initial post-war reaction against modernist experimentation, the dramatic renaissance of the 1960s, the development of metafiction, the changing views of “reality” and representation, the renewed interest in exploring non- or suprarational elements in the human psyche, as well as the major influence exerted by feminist and post-colonial writers. In an attempt to understand not only the unique nature of British postmodernism but also some of the contributing or controlling factors, the literature will be read in light of the changing social and political make-up of “Great Britain.”

Texts:

Harold Pinter, The Caretaker and The Dumb Waiter
John Fowles, The French Lieutenant’s Woman
Philip Larkin, Collected Poetry
Anita Desai, Clear Light of Day
Tom Stoppard, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*
Salman Rushdie, Midnight’s Children
Ted Hughes, Selected Poetry
(*Plus Shakespeare’s Hamlet, any edition)

Writing Requirements:

1 midterm, tentatively set for January 30 (25%)
1 essay on approved topic, 6 to 8 pages, due March 19, 1996 (25%). Essays are to follow MLA style. Late essays will be penalized unless you have received an extension from me.
1 final exam, time and date set by scheduling office, on material covered after the midterm (50%)

Office Information:

Office: HH 246       Phone: Ext. 2124
Hours: 11:30 to 12:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays
       Also, normally 2:30 on Thursdays (check with me in advance)
       Other hours by chance or by appointment