

<b>Course unit Descriptor</b>		 <b>UNIVERZITET U NOVOM SADU</b> <b>UNIVERSITY OF NOVI SAD</b>
	<b>Faculty of Philosophy</b>	

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Study program in which the course unit is offered	<b>English Studies</b>
Course unit title	Contemporary British Novel
Course unit code	o8EJ2EJ403
Type of course unit <sup>1</sup>	optional
Level of course unit <sup>2</sup>	Bachelor
Field of Study (please see ISCED <sup>3</sup> )	Literature and Linguistics
Semester when the course unit is offered	winter
Year of study (if applicable)	
Number of ECTS allocated	5
Name of lecturer/lecturers	Dr Nina Muždeka
Name of contact person	Dr Nina Muždeka
Mode of course unit delivery <sup>4</sup>	Face to face
Course unit pre-requisites (e.g. level of language required, etc)	

**PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW (max 5-10 sentences)**

The aim of the course is to provide an overview of major thematic, formal and stylistic tendencies in contemporary British novel, spanning the period of the final two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES (knowledge and skills)**

Theoretical aspects: Students are able to notice, explain and analyze common features of different authors' work falling under the umbrella term of Contemporary British Novel, focusing on the narrative technique, genre classification and

<sup>1</sup> Compulsory, optional

<sup>2</sup> First, second or third cycle (Bachelor, Master's, Doctoral)

<sup>3</sup> ISCED-F 2013 - <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-f-detailed-field-descriptions-en.pdf> (page 54)

<sup>4</sup> Face-to-face, distance learning, etc.

chosen thematic issues, while at the same time being aware of their unique traits.  
Practical aspects: Students are able to apply literary analysis skills to their reading of the chosen texts, finding their theoretical grounding in the relevant critical texts and poetics of postmodernism.

### **SYLLABUS (outline and summary of topics)**

#### *Lectures*

The notion of 'contemporary British novel' in relation to Postmodernism, (post)Feminism, contemporary culture, consumerist society, entertainment industry, and popular fiction. Martin Amis: contemporary novel and 20<sup>th</sup> century consumerist culture; stylistic uniqueness. Julian Barnes: postmodernist history of the world and the problem of genre. Angela Carter: magical realism, entertainment industry and gender issues. Graham Swift: collective and individual histories. Salman Rushdie: East and West, interculturalism, fantastic elements in contemporary novel. Nick Hornby: genre fiction, lad-lit, popular novel, the notion of 'bestseller'.

#### *Practical classes*

Discussion on topical issues (thematic, formal, stylistic) related to the individual novels.

### **LEARNING AND TEACHING (planned learning activities and teaching methods)**

Lectures, literary analysis, discussion, self-study

### **REQUIRED READING**

Joseph Brooker, *Literature of the 80s: After the Watershed*, Edinburgh University Press, 2012

Peter Childs, *Contemporary Novelists – British Fiction Since 1970*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005

Linda Hutcheon, *A Poetics of Postmodernism*, Routledge, 1989

Brian McHale, *Postmodernism*, Routledge, 1991

Brian Shaffer, *Reading the Novel in English: 1950-2000*, Blackwell Publishing, 2006

### **ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA**

Tests (20%), seminar paper (20%), written exam (30%), oral exam (30%)

### **LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION**

English