

# TRADUCTORADO

## CULTURA DE LA LENGUA INGLESA

### CULTURAL BACKGROUND TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

#### OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

General Introduction. Definitions of culture and English language.

#### 1 Literary and Historical Background : A brief overview.

English: Old, Middle and Modern. Texts: Beowulf, The Canterbury Tales, Shakespeare's Sonnets.

Early invaders of the British Isles. The Norman Conquest. Co-existence of 3 languages, Anglo-Saxon, Norman French and Latin. The consolidation of English.

Historical events: Constitutions of Clarendon .Thomas a Becket ( Canterbury Tales. Murder in the Cathedral) The Magna Carta. Simon de Montfort and Parliament. The Peasant's Revolt. Henry VIII and the establishment of the Anglican Church.( A Man for All Seasons The King James Authorized Version of the Bible). Protestantism. Puritanism. The Civil War. Oliver Cromwell. The Plague .The Fire.( Pepys. Defoe) Independence of the United States. The United Kingdom. Reform Bill. The Chartists. American Civil War. Education Acts . The Empire. Two World Wars. Commonwealth.

Development of English Drama. The Golden Age of Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama. Shakespeare. Restoration Comedy. Comedy of Manners. Victorian Drama. Wilde. Shaw. 1956: Angries and After. Drama in Britain Today.

Development of the Novel. Defoe. Richardson Fielding. The 19th century novel. Dickens. The novel in the US. Hawthorne. Melville. The 20th century. Modernism. Joyce .Lawrence. Contemporary novels in a multi-racial context. The Booker Prize.

Poetry. Shakespeare's Sonnets. Metaphysical Poetry. Donne. Romanticism. Shelley. Keats. Victorian poetry. American Poetry. Walt Whitman. 20th century poetry. TS Eliot. The Movement. Larkin Dylan Thomas. Seamus Heaney. Black British Poets.

2 The Multi-racial Society. The US and Britain as Multiracial societies. Multi-culturalism. Colonialism. Imperialism. Segregation. Human Rights. The situation in Ireland. This module will be based on literary texts and texts dealing with current affairs.

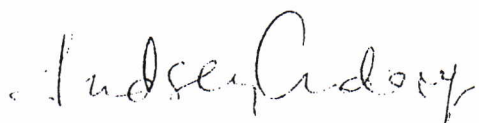
3 Women in the English speaking world. History of women's rights. Women's Lib. Feminine, Feminist and Female Literature. Black women writers . Lesbian fiction. Texts used will be literary and on current affairs.

4 Popular culture. Music . Groups. Festivals. Entertainment. Nursery Rhymes. Humour. Cooking. Off-air texts used. Students to contribute texts for class discussion.

5 Students' choice. E.g. Art, Institutions, Film , Journalism etc.

Assesment will be based on written production and class participation . Students will be expected to read one novel by a contemporary writer (written in English) per month and write a short report on the book. They will also write an essay connected with each module once it has been completed, dealing with any aspect they consider interesting, whether it has been discussed in class or not.

"Text" refers to written or visual material.



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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ashcroft, B, Griffiths, G., and Tiffin, H: *The empire Writes Back. Theory and Practice in post-Colonial Literatures.* Routledge, London 1989.

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Bhabha, Homi: *The Location of Culture.* Routledge. London and New York 2002.

-----: *Nation and Narration.* Routledge. London and New York 1990.

Boehmen, Elleke: *Colonial and Post-Colonial Literature.* Oxford University Press. 1995.

Brathwaite, Edward Kamau: "Nation Language", In: *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader.* Routledge. London and New York 2001.

Belsey, C. and Moore, J.(eds): *The Feminist Reader.* Blackwell. Cambridge, Mass. 1989

Burgess, Anthony: *An Outline of English Literature*

Dawes, Kwame (ed): *Wheel and Come Again. An Anthology of Reggae Poetry.* Goose Lane Editions, New Brunswick Canada. 1998.

Gates, Henry Louis (ed): "Race" *Writing and Difference.* Univ. of Chicago Press. Chicago 1986.

Gilbert, S. and Gubar, S: *The Madwoman in the Attic.*

Hobsbawn, Eric. *The Age of Empire*

-----: *The Age of Extremes*

-----: *The Short Twentieth Century.*

Joyce, James: *Dubliners.*

Morrison, Toni: *Beloved*

Rhys, Jean: *Wide Sargasso Sea.*

Said, Edward: *Culture and Imperialism.* Vintage. London 1993.



Showalter, Elaine: A Literature of Their Own. Women Novelists from Brontë to  
Lessing.

Woolf, Virginia: A Room of One's Own

-----: Collected Essays.

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