

21st Century LITERATURE in ENGLISH

(Anglicky psaná literatura 21. století)

jednoletý seminář, pro 3. ročník

Instructor: Tereza Hornová

Do you like spending your time in a company of books and people who like them as much as you do? Do you want to improve your English and reading with comprehension skills?

The seminar targets students who like reading and would like to become familiar with **contemporary trends in quality literature written in English**. The seminar will provide a company of like-minded people and a safe space where they can share their ideas, impressions and feelings.

Contents:

We will be analyzing **various extracts by contemporary authors** writing in English dealing with diverse themes and employing language techniques representative of the time - flashbacks, stream of consciousness etc. Students can expect **themes of sexual and racial/ethnic minorities, feminism, mental health, social exclusion, alienation and other ethical and societal issues of the world today**.

The authors discussed will be, for example: **Alison Bechdel, Gillian Flynn, Mark Haddon, Kazuo Ishiguro, Alice Munro, Philip Pullman, Ali Smith, Jeannette Winterson** and others.

Both books and literary excerpts will be discussed in detail. Apart from the **analysis of characters, narration and language, students will also focus on messages of the works, their potential social impact and backgrounds and possible motives of the authors**.

Students will adopt skills to analyze and discuss literary works with expertise. They will improve in the ability to **present their thoughts, feelings, and opinions, but also to listen to others and consider their viewpoints**.

While in the cultural/cultured mode, I will be **organizing outings to movie theaters and/or theaters** to explore what Prague theatrical scene has to offer in English. We might visit NT live theater performances, broadcasts of English theater facilitated by art movie theaters and even Cimrman in English.

Requirements:

Expected entry language level is **B2**. Students will read **3 complete books** - about a book in 3 months. Students will read the books individually outside the seminar. There will be assigned chapters/pages for each seminar.

Students **will obtain the assigned books by themselves**.

Active approach and participation in guided discussions in classes is a must.

Students will write a **500-word essay** on a topic unknown to them beforehand in class every semester. There will be a **choice of three topics** - each of them dealing with the aspects of works having been analyzed in seminars.