

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

**Seminar 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature : Twentieth-Century Fiction (British and Postcolonial) (2AN1421)**

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	<b>5</b>

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

**Période d'enseignement:**

- Semestre Printemps

**Equipe enseignante:**

Prof. Patrick Vincent

**Objectifs:**

The aims of this course are the following:

- To develop students' close reading skills, learned in the first-year Introduction to Literature course.
- To pursue in more depth a specific genre, period, or theme in modern literary history
- To improve expository and critical writing skills, notably through class participation and through reader-response papers
- To improve research-paper writing skills, notably by preparing an oral presentation based on a critical article, and by learning how to integrate secondary criticism into a longer essay

**Contenu:**

Historians consider the previous century to have been one of the most violent in human history. The century's competing ideologies, including imperialism, totalitarianism, nationalism, capitalism and communism have all triggered both state and anti-state violence on a massive scale. But they can also be linked to non-state forms of violence such as criminality, domestic abuse, the mistreatment of animals and ecocide. Beginning with two classic essays on violence by Max Weber and Hannah Arendt, this seminar will explore how twentieth-century novelists in Britain and the former British colonies have addressed the topic of violence. How do they interpret its causes? What solutions, if any, do they offer? What links may be drawn between violence and identity? How has the modern aestheticization of violence complicated the ethics of writing and reading?

**Forme de l'évaluation:**

Ev. Interne : one in-class oral presentation (10%), two essays (4-6 double-spaced pages each) (90%).

**Documentation:**

George Orwell, Nineteen Eighty-Four  
Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart  
J.M. Coetzee, Waiting for the Barbarians  
Margaret Atwood, Surfacing

Other texts will either be available online or on Claroline.

**Pré-requis:**

First-year courses (PP1-PP3) are required; « Modern and Contemporary Literature » lecture is recommended.

**Forme de l'enseignement:**

Seminar (participation is required)