

Thatcherism: Britain's Change in Literature and Film

Target Group and Field: BA (1.2), MAIAS elective, cultural studies, Magister

Time: Tuesdays, 8.30 a.m. - 10 a.m. (s. t.*); **Room:** S 124; **Building:** GWI

Seminar Description: In her time as PM, Margaret Thatcher entirely reshaped the face of Britain. The system of political thought, which she and her government represented, is called Thatcherism. It involves less state intervention and more market economy, the privatisation of state-owned industries, lower direct taxes together with higher indirect taxes that put poorer families at a disadvantage. Generally one can understand Thatcherism as the turn away from the Welfare State, which was created with the end of the Second World War. In this seminar, we will discuss some of the changes in policy between 1979 and 1990, and the reverberation of the Thatcher governments. We are tracing the history of Thatcherism in fact and fiction, both literary as well as cinematic.

Literature to be obtained: Alan Hollinghurst, *The Line of Beauty*; Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*.

Literature in the Semesterapparat (202): Andrew Gamble, *The Free Economy and the Strong State*, ch. 4 (in folder).

Website: In the course of the semester, you will find all kinds of info on my website. Not all texts to be read are set, yet. Keep your eyes peeled for coming updates.

How to obtain credit points?: presentation (10-15 mins: 2 cps), written exam (2 cps), essay (2000 wds: 2cps); possible combinations: 3/4cps: px, pe, (xe); 5/6 cps: pxe. Presentations must be discussed one week in advance in my office hours. Deadline for essays: 23rd December 2008. Essays according to guidelines given on my homepage <http://heikozimmermann.de/>. You may miss two sessions w/o excuse. Attending unprepared is a miss.

Contact: Queries, ideally, not by email but discussed in the office hours. Thank you. My office hours: Tuesdays directly after the seminar. My office: Building: GW1, Room: 1.12 (1st floor). My email address: public@heikozimmermann.de. I do also have Flickr, Youtube, StudiVZ, Facebook, ICQ, MSN, AIM, Skype, and a number of other accounts, but these are for private communication only.

⊗ Compulsory registration for this seminar: <http://heikozimmermann.de/>. ⊗

⊗ Enrolment for presentations starts on 17 October at 7 p. m.: [ibid.](#) ⊗

Thatcherisms: Seminar Schedule

#	Date	Check	Topics	Preparation / Films Literature available on [W] website or in [SaF] the folder in the Semesterapparatur	Presentations Further Notes
1	14 Oct.	✓	<i>Introduction</i>		
2	19 Oct.		Before Thatcher: The Welfare State	☰ Clement Attlee, “The New Social Services and the Citizen 4 July 1948 BBC Radio”, audio file [W]	🗨 Foundations of the British Welfare State
3	28 Oct.		Before Thatcher: Crisis	☰ Stuart Hall, “The Great Moving Right Show” [W] ☰ Margaret Thatcher, Speech House of Commons, 28 th Feb. 1980, audio [W] ☰ Spencer Warren, “The Lady’s Not for Turning” [W]	🗨 Margaret Thatcher: The Woman
4	4 Nov.		Thatcher’s reforms	☰ Andrew Gamble, <i>The Free Economy and the Strong State</i> , ch. 4 [SaF]	🗨 ...
5	11 Nov.		Miners strikes and after-effects Unions	▶ <i>Brassed Off</i> , dir. Mark Herman, 1996	🕒 107 mins → 8.00 a.m.
6	18 Nov.		Miners strikes and after-effects Unions	...	🗨 Trade Unions before and after Thatcher
7	25 Nov.		Traditions and changes	☰ Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>The Remains of the Day</i>	🗨 Historiographic metafiction
8	2 Dec.		Traditions and changes	☰ Kazuo Ishiguro, <i>The Remains of the Day</i> ...	🗨 ...
9	9 Dec.		Immigrants cultural identity	▶ <i>My Beautiful Laundrette</i> , dir: Stephen Frears, 1985	🕒 97 mins → 8.15 a.m.
10	16 Dec.		Immigrants cultural identity	☰ Asha Sen, “Rewriting History: Hanif Kureishi and the Politics of Black Britain” [W]	🗨 ...
11	23 Dec.		Thatcher as religion	☰ Alan Hollinghurst, <i>The Line of Beauty</i>	🗨 HIV/AIDS 🗨 the NHS
12	13 Jan.		Thatcher as religion	☰ Alan Hollinghurst, <i>The Line of Beauty</i> ...	🗨 ...
13	20 Jan.		Scotland subcultures gone welfare	▶ <i>Trainspotting</i> , dir. Danny Boyle, 1996	🕒 97 mins → 8.15 a.m.
14	27 Jan.		Summing up evaluation	...	🗨 ...
15	3 Feb.		<i>Written Examination</i>		

📍 Please check your attendance here to keep track of it and to avoid hassle at the end of the semester.