

Mitsutoshi Somura

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British Culture and Literature Seminar
Dr. Mitsutoshi Somura

Subject

Study of texts and practices after 1980s will provide a proper understanding of, and a more profound insight into, changing ideas and fragmented identities in British society, which may afford a clue for responding effectively to diversity all around us. Students will compare the society and culture of Britain with those of Japan in order to gain a broader perspective on the nation-states in the post-modern age.

In the seminar

1. Reading and understanding a literary work

Students will read a literary work during a semester. Literature is the fuzziest subject with no right answer and no central skill, but it draws upon various disciplines. It is open to discussions and arguments. The English way of life, morals, taste and their way of doing things will be closely examined from the Japanese point of view. We have read *The Remains of the Day* (Kazuo Ishiguro), *Angela's Ashes* (Frank McCourt), and *Pygmalion* (George Bernard Shaw).

2. Writing a term paper

Students will read an academic textbook or articles during a semester, conduct research on a topic they choose from them and write a term paper under the guidance of the instructor. Students are expected to give a presentation and develop it through questions, comments and discussions in the seminar.

3. Seminar activities may include a summer seminar or an off-campus seminar.

Number of students: Class size is limited to six or seven 3rd year students and a few 4th year students.

This is a two-year seminar.

Seminar visit, time and place: 18th, October, in the fourth or fifth period at S603.

Interview date: Please contact me beforehand.