



**ENL 4273**

**Studies in Modern British Literature  
“Post-Modernism/Postcolonialism”**

**Coming Spring 2021!**

**Professor Michael Patrick Gillespie**

**Course fulfills: Late Literature and Elective  
Requirements, and Exile Studies Certificate**

While popular contemporary English writers—like Julian Barnes, Martin Amis, or Ian McEwan—offer laments for a changing world, their middle class ethos in a still hierarchical Britain insulates them from the most serious examination of a changing society. This circumscribed vision leaves their characters with little to do beyond whinging about the purpose of life now that they no longer feel social pressure to attend religious services. On the other hand, writers from its former colonies remain deeply aware of the vulnerabilities they face from a range of British social, cultural, and political institutions openly hostile and unconstrained by even a modicum of concern for human values. English 4370 offers a selective study of Post-Modern authors who come from the margins of the former empire and whose characters exhibit a piercing sense of the bleak alternatives of post-modern society. It emphasizes the particular artistic and aesthetic concerns of the era, and it examines a variety of critical approaches that one may use to interpret individual works.