

Fall 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Shawna Ross

Course: ENGL 378

Title: The British Novel, 1870-present

Description: This course will survey the second half of the history of the British novel, using nontraditional assignments to plumb the ways in which digital technologies can help us analyze fiction. A beginning short unit on mapping will follow a longer unit on quantitative stylistic analysis. A longer unit on digital archives and resources ends on Thanksgiving break, and a short final unit on adaptation will finish the course.

Beginning with the late Victorian *Dracula*, we will examine the legacies of the Victorian era in modern geopolitics and use mapping software to reveal the peripatetic footprint of Stoker's novel. Next, we will move on to the avant-garde stylings of high modernism, represented by the classic of unreliable narration, Ford Madox Ford's *The Good Soldier*, and the stream-of-consciousness urban drama *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf. For these two novels, we will use software-based analysis to understand modernist style. Next, we will return to political themes by investigating two reinvestigations of World War II, *The Girls of Slender Means* by Muriel Spark and *The Remains of the Day* by Ian McEwan, using digital archives to understand how digital resources influence our understanding of literature. The two projects due in this second long unit will be group projects (unless you elect to perform these individually).

Proposed Readings: Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Ford Madox Ford, *The Good Soldier*

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Muriel Spark, *The Girls of Slender Means*

Ian McEwan, *The Remains of the Day*