

English 330

Special Topics in Literature: Black British Literature

Spring 2026

Instructor	Asha Sen	Phone	
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Office Location	Visiting Faculty Office	Email	
			Tuesday 10-12, Wednesday 11-12 and by appointment
Course Meeting Days and Time	Monday 2-31.5 Wednesday 2-3.15	Student Drop-In Office Hours	
	In-Person		
Course Mode			

Course Information

Catalog Description:

Focuses on particular writers or a particular literary movement, subject or period. Past topics have included Fitzgerald and Hemingway, Modern Irish Literature, and JRR Tolkien. Repeatable up to three times with different subjects. Prerequisite: Complete one ENGL course or permission of instructor.

Course Description:

This class introduces students to black British literary production from the 1970's to today. The class will focus on how "black" immigrant authors from former British colonies engage with "traditional" ideas of England and being English in the aftermath of the fall of the British empire.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Standard lecture: "This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit." (Def 1)

General Education Requirements

Required Materials:

Caryl Phillips. *Foreigners*. Vintage, 2007.

Andrea Levy. *Small Island*. Headline Review, 2004.

Hanif Kureishi. *The Buddha of Suburbia*. Faber & Faber, 1990.

Salman Rushdie. *East, West*. Knopf, 1995.

Andrea Levy. *Small Island*. Picador, 2010.

Kamila Shamsie. *Home Fire*. Bloomsbury, 2017.

(I encourage students to purchase second hand or online versions of these texts. It is not mandatory for them to purchase the same editions as those listed above.)

Other materials for the class will be made available in PDF form.

Methods of Instructions:

This course will be largely discussion-based. Students can expect to read texts in advance of each class. We will write about and discuss reading assignments regularly. Students will be active and engaged participants in our class as we all develop and grow our ideas, analysis skills, and appreciation for literature.

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Important Dates:	January 14 th	Classes Start
	January 21 st	Add/Drop Ends
	February 27 th -6 th March	Mid Term Break
	April 23 rd	Classes End

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendations supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty.

This class meets twice a week. Students are allowed two unexcused absences without incurring a penalty. For the third and each subsequent absence, there will be a third-letter grade deduction applied to the final grade at the end of the semester. In other words, five total unexcused absences will result in a deduction of one full letter grade.

Policy Governing Excused Absences:

Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel

Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips

Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic field trips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable

Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.

Dates, locations, and times (as applicable).

Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.

Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.

The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.

It is the student's responsibility – to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and -to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.

Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Grading Criteria:

I will use these percentages to calculate final grades. I round up to the nearest whole number (i.e., 92.5 rounds up to 93% and 92.2 remains 92%). A = 93% or higher, A- = 90-92%, B+ = 86-89%, B = 83-85%, B- = 80-82%, C+ = 76-79%, C = 73-75%, C- = 70-72%, D+ = 66-69%, D = 63-65%, D- = 60-62%

Types of Assignments:

Attendance and Discussion (25% of course grade) will be counted for speaking, asking questions, and listening to your classmates.

Paper Assignments: Three short papers (4 pages each) (15 % each) **(45% of grade)**. One longer research paper **(30% of grade)**.

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

Unauthorized aid, in this class, includes copying work from already-existing writing online; AI-generated text; having another human write your work for you.

Course AI Policy:

In this course, submission of any work that is not entirely your own is considered academic dishonesty. The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are prohibited and constitute a violation of academic integrity as examples of unauthorized aid.

Course Schedule:

Week One: **What is Black British Literature?**
On Humanity. TED talk by Chris Abani

Week Two: **Coming Home to England**
Foreigners

Week Three: **Coming Home to England**
Foreigners
Paper I given to class

Week Four: **Coming Home to England**
Small Island
Paper I due

Week Five: **Coming Home to England**
Small Island
Paper II given to class

Week Six: **Hybridity and Fusion**
East, West
Paper II due

Week Seven: **Gender & Sexuality**
Anita & Me

Week Eight: **Gender & Sexuality**
Anita & Me
Paper III given to class

Week Nine: **Gender & Sexuality**
The Buddha of Suburbia
Paper III due

Week Ten: **Gender & Sexuality**
The Buddha of Suburbia

Week Eleven: **Black British Poetry**
Benjamin Zephaniah (PDF)
Linton Kwesi Johnson (PDF)
Beryl Gilroy (PDF)
Jackie Kay (PDF)
Paper IV given to class

Week Twelve: **Islam and Black Britain**
"My Son the Fanatic" (PDF)
Home Fire

Week Thirteen: *Home Fire*

Week Fourteen: Presentations

Week Fifteen: **Black Britain Today**
Paper IV due

University Policy Statements

Disability Policy:

The University of Evansville is committed to providing an accessible and supportive environment for students with disabilities. It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services at 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

Institutional Equity and Title IX

UE is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and creating an inclusive campus for all members of the University community regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, ability, or veteran status. All Faculty members are considered Responsible Employees and required to report instances of discrimination, harassment, or sexual violence to the Office of Institutional Equity

You may also choose to speak to a Confidential Resource about your experience. Confidential Resources at the University include:

Counseling Services: 812-488-2663, counselingservices@evansville.edu

Crayton E. and Ellen Mann Health Center: 812-488-2033, healthcenter@evansville.edu

Spiritual Formation Coordinator: 812- 488-5265, spiritualformation@evansville.edu

If you or someone you know has been harassed, assaulted, or discriminated against you can find the appropriate resources by contacting the Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: email titleix@evansville.edu ; phone (812) 488-5261. For more information visit <https://www.evansville.edu/offices/titleix/policy.cfm> .

Non-discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole. For more information contact the [Center for Inclusive Excellence](#).

Campus Safety

All members of the UE community are automatically enrolled in the Ace Alerts Emergency Alert System. When the system is activated, emergency notification information is sent in the following manner: calls to campus IP phones, text messages, emails, campus housing speaker system, active threat sirens (non-weather related), digital signage, and AlertUS desktop on campus-owned computers.

To contact the Office of Public Safety:

Emergencies: 812-488-6911

Non-emergencies: 812-488-2051

Complaints, Grievances, and Appeals

The University of Evansville seeks to resolve all student concerns in a timely and effective manner through policies and processes documented in the University [Course Catalog](#) and [Student Handbook](#).