

Fall, 2023 Semester – Syllabus

Instructor: Ted Wilks

Course: British Drama: “Outlander” (Season 6); The Crimson Petal & the White

Course No.:

Day, time: Wednesdays, 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Abstract: “Outlander” is a British-American television drama series based on Diana Gabaldon’s “Outlander” series of historical time-travel novels. Claire Randall, a married former World War II nurse, traveled back in time from 1946 to Scotland in 1743, where she met the dashing Highland warrior Jamie Fraser and became embroiled in the Jacobite risings. They then traveled to Jamaica and “The New World.” Season 6 involves their further adventures in colonial America. “The Crimson Petal” is a dramatization of Michel Faber’s gritty, dark, & unsettling novel about Victorian England.

Fall 2023, weeks 1-8

“Outlander,” Season 6

Week 1	Episode 1	<u>Echoes</u> : Jamie’s authority is tested when an old rival from Ardsmuir shows up to settle on the Ridge. Claire finds a new way to cope with the trauma of her assault by Lionel Brown.
Week 2	Episode 2	<u>Allegiance</u> : Jamie struggles with his first request as Indian Agent. Roger presides over an unusual funeral. Marsali gives birth, but the joy is short lived when a discovery is made.
Week 3	Episode 3	<u>Temperance</u> : Fergus worries about his new son’s quality of life when the baby is bullied by superstitious Protestants. Claire performs surgery on Tom’s hand.
Week 4	Episode 4	<u>Hour of the Wolf</u> : Ian visits the Cherokee and encounters a man from his past who dredges up painful memories of his time with the Mohawk people. Jamie meets an Indian Agent who challenges his convictions and causes him to re-evaluate.
Week 5	Episode 5	<u>Give Me Liberty</u> : Claire and Jamie experience rising tensions in the colonies first-hand when they attend a Loyalist event in Wilmington, NC in honor of the Scottish heroine Flora MacDonald.
Week 6	Episode 6	<u>The World Turned Upside Down</u> : A dysentery epidemic spreads on the Ridge, and Claire falls deathly ill. She has almost recovered when the Christies arrive and drop a bombshell. Tragedy strikes as nefarious rumors spread like wildfire on the Ridge.
Week 7	Episode 7	<u>Sticks and Stones</u> : Claire struggles with her demons as a nefarious rumor begins to spread on the Ridge. Tensions rise as the residents fear there is a dangerous person in their midst.
Week 8	Episode 8	<u>I Am Not Alone</u> : Richard Brown and his Committee of Safety arrive to arrest Claire for murder. Brown’s plan to find a judge for a trial does not go as expected owing to rising political tensions in the colonies.

Fall 2023, weeks 9-12

The Crimson Petal and the White

Week 9	Episode 1	This is a dramatization of Michel Faber's bestselling Victorian-set novel. Episode 1 follows William Rackham, a man tormented by debt and an unstable wife, who finds solace with renowned young prostitute Sugar. His life begins to be transformed as he falls under her spell, but will Sugar be able to withhold her secret desire for revenge on the men who have wronged her?
Week 10	Episode 2	William, seduced by her charms, moves Sugar out of Mrs. Castaway's brothel and into a flat of her own in Marylebone. Sugar, finally independent, becomes a fixture in William's life and secretly continues her role as guardian angel to his volatile wife Agnes. Their relationship intensifies, but will Sugar take things too far ?
Week 11	Episode 3	Sugar is thrilled at the prospect of moving in to William's house as governess to his neglected daughter Sophie. Sugar soon finds that Agnes' condition, worn down by Dr. Curlew's constant visits, has deteriorated; she vows to help her before it is too late.
Week 12	Episode 4	As Sugar's bond with Sophie grows stronger, her relationship with William becomes more troubled. Sugar is forced to make a life-changing decision for herself and for Sophie when her stay in the Rackham house becomes a risk; major consequences ensue for all involved.

More info at:

<https://oldaintdead.com/the-crimson-petal-and-the-white-shows-the-horrors-of-1870s-london/>

Fall 2023, week 13

t.b.a.