

**Kommentiertes
Vorlesungsverzeichnis des
SEMINARS FÜR ANGLISTIK
- Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft –
für das
Sommersemester 2021**

Stand: 1.4.2021

Bitte unbedingt beachten:

Die im folgenden abgedruckten Daten stammen vom 1.4.2021.

Für die Richtigkeit der Angaben nach diesem Termin kann keine Gewähr übernommen werden.

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Vorlesung	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
English Literature Survey II: From Romanticism to Modernism	Prof. Dr. Anja Müller		online
<p>This lecture surveys the development of English literary history from the second half of the eighteenth century into the twentieth century. Considering poetry, drama and prose alike, the course intends to offer students a broad knowledge of the major periods, literary developments and cultural contexts of English literature.</p>			

Vorlesung	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
American Literary History II	Prof. Dr. Daniel Stein		online
<p>This is the second part of a four-semester lecture that provides a survey of the key texts, genres, developments of North American literature. The survey offered in this part covers the time from the early republic until the Civil War, with a brief outlook to postbellum literature. The authors studied in this course include Royall Tyler, Hannah Webster Foster, Charles Brockden Brown, Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allen Poe, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Mark Twain.</p>			

Workshop	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
British 'Fictions of Class' since 1945 – Revitalising Class in the Twenty-First Century	Katrin Becker, M. A.		online

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Reading Contemporary Realism	Katrin Becker, M. A.		online
<p>A great many literary and cultural scholars have observed a renewed academic and artistic interest in realism that has gained particular momentum since the early years of the twenty-first century. Yet, what do we, as students and scholars of literature and culture, mean when we describe a work of art as realist, let alone realistic? In this seminar, we will first delve into literary and cultural theory that tackles the "challenging [...] wealth of definitions" of realism (Birke and Butter 2), and confront questions related to the following broad dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literary-historical concerns with the periodization of realism • literary-theoretical concerns with the relation between realist art and ideology/politics • cultural-theoretical concerns with realism as widespread 'structure of feeling' • philosophical concerns related to our possibilities and limitations of gaining truthful knowledge of reality, as well as to the potential of art to make truth claims about reality, and/or problematise its own constructions of reality • form-oriented or aesthetic concerns with how to represent reality • content-oriented concerns with what kind(s) of reality/realities to represent • ethico-political concerns with the relation between realist and utopian art 			

During the first half of the semester, I will provide excerpts from various ostensibly realist texts and genres, including narrative as well as poetic texts, to illustrate some of these rather abstract concerns with the help of literary examples. During the second half of the semester, we will properly test our theorization of realism with a joint reading of Zadie Smith's *NW* (2012), which has been praised for its particularly realist(ic) portrayal of social realities in contemporary Britain, and yet, has likewise been discussed as neo-modernist, metamodernist, postmodernist, etc. Finally, you will split into groups and choose another ostensibly realist (preferably narrative) text and, together, explore its negotiation of realism as a mode and claim of representation.

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Lyriktheorien/ Theorising the Lyric	Katrin Becker Jörg Döring Felix Sprang		online

In this seminar we will centre our discussion of lyric poetry on Jonathan Culler's *Theory of the Lyric*. The book is advertized thus:

What sort of thing is a lyric poem? An intense expression of subjective experience? The fictive speech of a specifiable persona? *Theory of the Lyric* reveals the limitations of these two conceptions of the lyric—the older Romantic model and the modern conception that has come to dominate the study of poetry—both of which neglect what is most striking and compelling in the lyric and falsify the long and rich tradition of the lyric in the West. Jonathan Culler explores alternative conceptions offered by this tradition, such as public discourse made authoritative by its rhythmical structures, and he constructs a more capacious model of the lyric that will help readers appreciate its range of possibilities.

We will explore these "alternative conceptions" and the "range of possibilities" paying close attention to issues of rhythm, sound and the form of poems.

With Culler's text as our theoretical focus, we will read, perform and discuss poems in our seminar, so everybody who is interested in lyric poetry is welcome.

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Contemporary Irish Novels	Dr. Alessandra Boller		online

At least since the early 20th century, Irish literature has proved to be highly innovative, with many writers pushing genre boundaries and experimenting with forms and themes. This innovative streak is at least as visible today as it has been more than 100 years ago – we encounter fresh (post-)modernist experiments and striking takes on 'ordinary' life, re-inventions of genres such as historical fiction, magical realism and many other, often (darkly) humorous, startling, playful and powerful narratives in the form of the novel. This course will introduce students to internationally celebrated and award-winning Irish novels published since the turn of the 21st century; formal experimentation and innovation will stand at the centre of attention in this seminar. We will explore forms and functions and their effects, while also taking into account thematic concerns, audiences, intertextuality and the standing of Irish literature in relation to European literature.

Our reading will include historical and theoretical background reading, which will help us explore some traditions of the Irish novel as well as forms that have been emerging since the Celtic Tiger, excerpts from popular novels published within the past few years and three novels that will be discussed in-depth. In that way, we are going to see how these novels build on very rich heritages but depart from them to engage in innovations and experiments and to explore changes in Irish life.

Besides, we are not going to be alone in our endeavour to explore these fascinating texts – thanks to "The German Irish Studies Itinerary: Great Irish Novels of the 21st Century", leading experts in the field of Irish

Literary Studies are going to join us for three lectures. They will talk about how selected novels "contribute to discussing traditional and to fashioning contemporary Irish identities at the intersection of class, gender, race, religion and sexuality, and intervene in (pre-and post-Brexit) political and cultural debates." These lectures will be followed by Q&A sessions during which will enable you to arrive at an even deeper understanding of the Irish heritage and contemporary debates in and about Ireland, Northern Ireland and the global Irish.

Besides, the author Mary Morrissy has kindly agreed to join us for a reading and Q&A – so you'll have the opportunity to discuss one of the novels you are supposed to read with the author herself!

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Taboo, Transgression and Transition in British Literature	Dr. Alessandra Boller		online
<p>This course introduces the concept of taboo, as well as the themes and topics considered taboo in different eras, and links it to specific literary genres, historical and cultural contexts and the effects and functions of transgression and/of taboo in literary texts.</p> <p>The seminar aims at facilitating an understanding of the concept of taboo (which is more than simply a forbidden topic or action) and of the forms and styles authors used to transgress boundary lines of social norms in veiled or open attempts to break taboos. Students will further learn how taboos were marked out and how boundary lines were increasingly transgressed in the productive time of the British Fin-de-Siècle and Modernism. In this regard, this course explores the socio-cultural and literary effects and functions of transgressions in British literature. It will introduce students to the idea that taboo and transgression are part of literary history: taboos do not only surface in thematic concerns (such as sexuality, death, the materiality of the body, religion, conceptions of childhood and motherhood, mental health etc.) but also belong to a range of genres and modes of writing, not only being part of literature but also engendering transition and innovation. Taboos and transgression are regarded as aspects which facilitate an understanding of the development and production of literature. This seminar will hence not only focus on topics but also on the aesthetics of taboo-breaking literature in terms of form and style.</p> <p>This course focuses on British literature from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century, and thus on texts which reflect and were written in periods of change and transition. These decades were characterized by a tension between continuing taboos and movements towards greater freedom (e.g. sexual freedom) and social progress. The course hence explores how and to what extent transition is linked to transgression and it aims at analysing transgression in well-known, often canonical texts with a view to their respective socio-cultural contexts. Hence, it employs a literary studies approach with partially includes cultural studies concepts. The fact that the authors of many of the literary texts which engaged in the breaking of taboos (e.g. Oscar Wilde and Radclyffe Hall) suffered from (the threat of) censorship and had to face trials also needs to be taken into account. Apparently, the transgressiveness of such texts did not hinder them from becoming important and even formative elements of literary history. Linked to this observation, this seminar explores what genres and modes of writing were used to deal with taboos in a 'safe' manner to circumvent censorship (e.g. fantastic literature, satire, comedy).</p>			

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Brown's The Escape (1858) in Context	Dr. Lukas Etter		online

In this seminar, we will read and contextualize the play *The Escape; or, a Leap for Freedom* (1858) by the eminent nineteenth-century writer, abolitionist, and public speaker William Wells Brown. Brown himself performed it as a one-man show on various occasions up to the Civil War. While the play does not figure among Brown's most widely distributed texts, it still remains a significant document of literary and social history. We will analyze *The Escape* in the context of the history of abolitionism and of early American drama — from Royal Tyler's *The Contrast* (1787) to Dion Boucicault's *The Octoroon* (1859). All prospective participants are kindly asked to purchase the anthology *Early American Drama* (ed. Richards) and read the introductory chapter (p. ix-xxxvii) as well as the last play (p. 444-494) before week 2 of the seminar. They should also enroll for the Moodle course at their earliest convenience, the password of which consists of the word Mowatt and the year in which this seminar takes place. (For instance, had the seminar taken place in 1990, the password would have been Mowatt1990.) Please note that there will be a substantial amount of reading in this class.

Richards, Jeffrey H., ed. *Early American Drama*. London: Penguin, 1997. (ISBN: 978-0140435887)

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Sappho's Reception in Early American Poetry	Dr. Lukas Etter		online
<p>This seminar explores Sappho's afterlife in early American poetry. More specifically, we will study several of the ways in which Sappho's poetry — as far as its fragments have survived — and her biography — as far as it has been speculated on throughout the centuries — were the subjects of poetical texts in the Americas prior to the mid-1860s, especially in Anglophone North America. In addition to central texts (e.g., the poetry by Martha Fowke Sansom), we will also glimpse into related genres (e.g., prose by Susanna Rowson) and eras (e.g., texts from the Augustan period and from the late nineteenth century).</p> <p>Prospective participants should be advised that this seminar involves substantial reading and is in good parts based on individual study. They are kindly asked to enroll for the Moodle course at their earliest convenience and read the primary text (the texts authored by Sappho, the texts potentially authored by Sappho, and ancient commentators on Sappho) provided in the folder "_reading_before_S02" before Session 02 of the seminar. The Moodle password is the word Hopkins followed by the year in which this seminar takes place. (For instance, had the seminar taken place in 1990, the password would have been Hopkins1990.)</p>			

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
The Young Turks and Fox News: The influence of anti-establishment, new media news organizations on U.S. society and culture	Christopher Hansen, M.A.		online
<p>In the last decade, U.S. culture and society appears to have progressively become more divided and entrenched into opposing camps. New Media organizations drove and grew from these divisions. Presenting themselves as alternative news sources to "traditional" media, the Youtube channel "The Young Turks" and the "Fox News" internet presence are representations of differing anti-establishment news. Through the analysis and evaluation of each channel's reporting style, personal representations, and engagement with their audience, this course approached the creation of different viewpoints based on the same events. Placing these different viewpoints into context with U.S. laws and system of government will reveal how the influence of media can form real world systems and dominate the course of an administration.</p>			

The course focuses on current reports, expects the students to participate in discussions, and fact check information.

Grundkurs	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies, Group I-III	Dr. Marcel Hartwig		online
<p>This introductory course is offered to students in the first semester in order to familiarize them with the basic concepts and techniques of literary/cultural studies. The realm of subjects will thus be a wide one, including fundamental knowledge of and analytical tools for the genres of poetry, drama, and fiction, or a survey of literary and cultural theory.</p> <p>The course will be accompanied by a tutorial that will familiarize students on a practical level with what has been discussed in the course. The course is obligatory; as are course quizzes and a final test in form of an 'In-Class'-exam at the end of the term, which will certify the obligatory participation.</p>			

Workshop	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Theatre Workshop	Dr. Marcel Hartwig		online
<p>Are you a natural born actor, yet have not been able to show your talent on a stage? Then We NEED YOU!</p> <p>Or do you like to fiddle with sound and lighting technology? Do you want to know what happens behind the scenes in a theatre? Or do you know how to set up websites and do PR work and find sponsors? If any of the above questions strike you as interesting and challenging, please register for this course.</p> <p>The main objective of this "Projektseminar" is to strengthen and foster the existence of an English student theatre group at the University of Siegen. It aims to continue and improve the great work already begun with the "Desperate Thespians" (also see our site on facebook) over the years.</p> <p>The theatre production of this workshop is scheduled to be performed on October 20-22, 2021 at Kulturhaus Lüz. The final rehearsal will be on October 18.</p> <p>Please remember: The course will rise or fall with your dedication and creative engagement, so please do not enroll simply for the credit points! No previous experience in the world of theatre is required!</p>			

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Narrating Hamlet	Prof. Dr. Anja Müller		online
<p>Hamlet, the play about the hesitant, thoughtful, melancholy Prince of Denmark, who has been set on a tragic track of revenge by his murdered father's ghost, is probably one of the best known tragedies by William Shakespeare. Accordingly, the play has not only seen uncountable realizations on the stage, it has also been adapted - not only for the stage, but in various genres and media, ranging from other plays to novels, films, paintings, graphic novels, even to boardgames and role playing games.</p> <p>Our seminar will explore some examples of those adaptations, focusing in particular on the impact of this media change on how the story of Hamlet is narrated. Participants of the course will be introduced to different transgeneric and transmedial approaches to narratology, which will form the basis for our in-depth analysis of several case studies - among them John Updike's novel Gertrude and Claudius, at least two movie version (to be specified later), a Hamlet manga and (depending on availability) some</p>			

games based on the play. One special session will be devoted to a zoom lecture by Prof Dr Evan Torner, from the University of Cincinnati, who will talk about the live role playing game "Inside Hamlet". Analysing those narrative offshoots of Hamlet, will not only provide us with a deeper insight into the many facets and layers of Shakespeare's play, it will also enhance your methodological skills in analysing narratives in various different media.

While discussing the various media representations of Hamlet, you will also learn how to write an academic term paper. The first steps towards this will be taken through various exercises throughout the course.

This course is an ideal complement to the course "Narrating in Different Media", which introduces and surveys the theories and methods we shall apply in this course here. Taken together, both courses will make an ideal combination to complete Module 2 in BA LKM as well as in BA Lehramt GY/BK within one term.

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Narrating in Different Media	Prof. Dr. Anja Müller		online

Narratives are not restricted to fiction, like novels or more or less short stories. They can occur in all literary genres, including poetry, drama or comics, yet they are not restricted to literary texts, either. Narratives can be found in various media, for instance in films, pictures, digital or analogous games. The question is: how do narratives work and how can we analyse narration and narratives in those different media? Can we simply apply the narratological toolkit we have acquired in literary studies, or are there any media-specific approaches?

This course intends to deepen your knowledge and understanding of the narratological basics you have acquired in the Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies course. We will first recapitulate those foundations - i. e. questions of perspective, setting, plot structure or character - with regard to literature. Most of the course will then be devoted to explore, how these essential elements of narrative feature and can be analysed in exemplary case studies from various media. The emphasis of the seminar will be on the methodological framework, with the goal to enable participants to apply narratological analysis to various genres and media.

With its survey character and theoretical orientation, this course is an ideal complement to the course "Narrating Hamlet", in which the theories and methods acquired in this course here will be applied to various media manifestations of Shakespeare's famous tragedy. Taken together, both courses will make an ideal combination to complete Module 2 in BA LKM as well as in BA Lehramt GY/BK within one term.

Kolloquium	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Forschungskolloquium	Prof. Dr. Anja Müller		online

This course is intended for students who are writing or preparing to write their final thesis (BA or MA) in English or American Literary or Cultural Studies during or immediately after the summer term. The course will offer support in the various steps of writing your final paper, be it in finding a topic, researching your secondary material, coming to terms with an adequate theoretical framework or (depending on the stage of your preparations) writing introductions and/or parts of your thesis. As you share your experience with your peers, make progress together and discuss samples of each other's work, you no longer have to write your thesis alone in your closet, but each participant can profit from the others' ideas and support. Accordingly, participants will be given assignments during the term that will make them proceed with their work. In the final weeks of the term, students will be expected to

present either a project proposal or a sample section of their written thesis and to discuss it with their peers.

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Graphic Novels in Context	Papaki, Ioanna, M. A.		online
<p>So, what are graphic novels...? Since its invention, the term has been controversial among scholars and artists. Politics, history, autobiography, religion, medicine, superheroes, horror and literary adaptations are only some of the topics graphic novels have addressed. Indeed, today graphic novels are considered by many to be the most flourishing form of contemporary comics and to epitomize the most popular type of visual culture. This course is intended to provide an overview of the graphic novel's evolution, exploring its various subgenres and diversity of styles (e.g. silent comics). We will study the specific circumstances that led to its development (e.g. underground comix, ideologies, and publishing arrangements) and examine a broad range of Anglophone graphic narratives (such as Maus, Persepolis, and Logicomix). The course's objectives are therefore manifold: you will familiarize yourself with the graphic novels' cultural and historical contexts, learn about various interpretative concepts, themes, and theories of graphic narration, and experience the most important historical moments of the twentieth and twenty-first century as they are depicted in words and images.</p>			

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Reading Animated Series: Plasmatic Seriality in Popular Culture	Shirley, Julia, M. A.		online

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde and Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida	Prof. Dr. Felix Sprang		online
<p>In this seminar we will centre our discussion of lyric poetry on Jonathan Culler's Theory of the Lyric. The book is advertized thus:</p> <p>What sort of thing is a lyric poem? An intense expression of subjective experience? The fictive speech of a specifiable persona? Theory of the Lyric reveals the limitations of these two conceptions of the lyric—the older Romantic model and the modern conception that has come to dominate the study of poetry—both of which neglect what is most striking and compelling in the lyric and falsify the long and rich tradition of the lyric in the West. Jonathan Culler explores alternative conceptions offered by this tradition, such as public discourse made authoritative by its rhythmical structures, and he constructs a more capacious model of the lyric that will help readers appreciate its range of possibilities.</p> <p>We will explore these "alternative conceptions" and the "range of possibilities" paying close attention to issues of rhythm, sound and the form of poems.</p> <p>With Culler's text as our theoretical focus, we will read, perform and discuss poems in our seminar, so everybody who is interested in lyric poetry is welcome.</p>			

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Nature Writing	Prof. Dr. Felix Sprang		online
<p>Nature writing as a genre has seen a revival during the corona pandemic. Within the scope of this seminar we will address a renewed interest in wildlife and the relationship between humans and their</p>			

natural environment. Discussing both fictional and non-fictional writing as well as prose and poetry, we will identify how literary texts conceptualize our interaction with the natural world. And we will discuss in how far contemporary nature writing can be seen as a new chapter in the long tradition of nature writing in the English-speaking world.

We will begin by reading Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris. *The Lost Spells*. London: Penguin, 2020. and Raynor Winn. *The Salt Path*. London: Michael Joseph, 2018.

In our seminar we will consult recent scholarship on the changing field of nature writing.

Armbruster, Karla and Kathleen R. Wallace. *Beyond Nature Writing: Expanding the Boundaries of Ecocriticism*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2001.

Barnhill, David Landis. "Surveying the Landscape: A New Approach to Nature Writing." *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 17, 2 (2010): 273-290.

Dementieva, Alexandra and Zandrine Chiri. "Homo Sapiens, Mnesitardigrada Class and Umwelt: A Dialogue on Interspecies Organic Data Flow." *Leonardo* 54, 1 (2021): 53-62.

Finch, Robert, and John Elder, eds. *Nature writing: the tradition in English*. New York: Norton, 2002.

Smith, Jos. *The New Nature Writing: Rethinking the Literature of Place*. London: Bloomsbury, 2017.

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Reflecting on "The Troubles" – Anna Burns and Bernie McGill	Prof. Dr. Felix Sprang		online

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
Archives	Prof. Dr. Daniel Stein		online
<p>The "archival turn" in the humanities arrived in the 1990s, when an earlier preoccupation with canons and canonicity transitioned into extended debates about the nature, forms, and consequences of archives for present and future understandings of history and society. For the most part, scholarship in and on archives developed in two different realms: that of actual archivists who tended to emphasize praxeological concerns in order to think about the collection, preservation, and presentation of archival content, and that cultural studies-oriented scholars more interested in theoretical constructions of the archive. In this course, we will study and analyze both approaches. We will do so by first reading and discussing major conceptions of archives and then investigating a selection of digital archives with a focus on Native American history and culture. Among these archives are the Gilcrease Museum at the University of Tulsa and digitized collections at Dartmouth College and the Library of Congress.</p>			

Seminar	Dozent/in	Zeit	Raum
The (Racialized) American Superhero	Nao Tomabechi, M.A.		online
<p>In popular culture, diversity has gained much attention in the past few years. This includes American superhero comics, where progressions in diversification can be seen through increasing numbers of characters (or rather: superheroes) that belong to the racial minority. With this, scholarly debates on not only the past but also presently persisting racist and oppressive depictions in superheroes have risen as well. However, the majority of superhero scholarship concerning race continues to focus on racial and ethnic minorities. As incredibly important as that is, despite repeated claims that superheroes tend</p>			

to be white (and heterosexual) men, one race seems to be overlooked in these critical analyses: the whites.

In this course, we will discuss what it means to be white in the U.S., and whiteness's role in the constructions of race, racism, and the oppression of racial minorities. Through superheroes, who are said to represent American ideals of heroism, we will explore how whiteness is shaped in the U.S. Readings will include not just superhero comics and superhero studies, but also texts of critical race and whiteness theories.