

Veranstalter.....	Katrin Bednarek
Thema.....	Shakespeare's Roman Plays: <i>Coriolanus</i> and <i>Julius Caesar</i> [AA-A2, ENG-6/a, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-542
Zeit.....	2st. Mo 16-18
Raum.....	Phil 1219
Beginn.....	13.04.2014

### **Course description**

Shakespeare's Rome is a world of politics, rhetoric and heroic actions. The plays chosen for this seminar portray very different stages of this world: While *Coriolanus* shows the Roman Republic at the time of its beginning, the assassination of Julius Caesar, depicted in the play of the same name, marks its endpoint and ultimately paves the way for the rise of the Roman Empire. Nevertheless, both plays put a strong emphasis on questions regarding leadership, the personal sacrifices demanded of a ruler and the political role of the common people.

The first aim of this seminar is to explore two of Shakespeare's roman plays – *Julius Caesar* and *Coriolanus* – through close reading. The second aim is to provide students with a general introduction to the study of Shakespeare. Accordingly, this seminar will build on and, hopefully, expand the students' knowledge of the analysis of drama acquired in the introductory course (1a).

Following the order in which the plays were written, we will first focus our attention on *Julius Caesar*, a play where political performances and rhetorical skills are of utmost importance. The second half of the term will be dedicated to *Coriolanus*, which presents a very different view on these issues, especially regarding the political role of the plebeians.

Please purchase a copy of the editions mentioned below before the start of the term. Additional reading material will be provided on Agora and/or in a reader.

### **Course requirements:**

Regular and active participation, thorough knowledge of the plays (students are expected to have read *Julius Caesar* by the second session), a short presentation and a term paper (~10 pages).

### **Primary texts:**

*Coriolanus*. Edited by Philip Brockbank. Arden Edition, Second Series. London: Methuen Drama, 1976.

*Julius Caesar*. Edited by David Daniell. Arden Edition, Third Series. Walton-on-Thames: Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1998.

<b>Sprechstunde in der Vorlesungszeit:</b>	<b>Nach Vereinbarung</b>
<b>Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:</b>	<b>Nach Vereinbarung</b>