

Veranstalter.....	<b>Jessika Köhler</b>
Thema.....	<b><i>Opened Ground: Seamus Heaney - Poet, Translator, Critic</i></b>
Art der Veranstaltung.....	<b>Seminar 1b</b>
Veranstaltungsnummer....	<b>53-543</b>
Zeit .....	<b>2st. Do. 10-12</b>
Raum .....	<b>Phil 1263</b>
Beginn.....	<b>02. April 2015</b>

**Course Description:** The Northern Irish poet Seamus Heaney was born in rural County Derry in 1939 and died in Dublin in 2013. His poetry received much critical acclaim and he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995. This course will take an in-depth look at the central themes and achievements of his poetry, including his engagement with the Northern Ireland situation, his practice of myth-making, his re-invention of the pastoral, his parabolic mode, his use of Anglo-Irish speech and the poetic revisions of his own work. In doing so we will contextualise his writing by using different critical approaches, i.e. post-colonialism, gender studies and postmodernism. In addition, we will look at the role of the poet as translator by reading Heaney's *Sweeney Astray*, a translation of the medieval Irish text *Buile Suibhne*, and the Old English Epic poem *Beowulf*. Heaney's critical writings on the role of poetry, the poet's place in language and the place of writing and place in writing mark the third cornerstone of this course. Apart from discussing Heaney's own body of work, the course will also examine the poets that influenced his writing (e.g. W.B. Yeats, Patrick Kavanagh and Ted Hughes) and the way the poetry of his contemporaries and a younger generation of Irish poets was shaped by Heaney's writing.

**Credit Requirements:** Students will be required to attend regularly, participate actively, give a presentation and hand in a term paper of 10 to 12 pages.

**Texts:** Please make sure to acquire the following editions so that we can all work with the same texts. Seamus Heaney's *Beowulf* (London: Faber and Faber, 1999) and *Sweeney Astray* (London: Faber and Faber, 1983). A folder containing all further reading material for the seminar will be made available.

