

Veranstalter.....	Prof. Dr. Ute Berns
Thema.....	Britain in the Long Nineteenth Century [AA-MA4]
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar III
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-550
Zeit.....	2st. Di 10-12
Raum.....	Phil 1250
Beginn.....	07.04.2015

### **Course description**

In this course we will take an in-depth look at the nineteenth century in British Literature and Culture. In Europe, this century begins in the wake of the French Revolution: British intellectuals adapt for their own use ideas about the rights of men, women and slaves that will drive the country's emancipation movements throughout the following decades. At the same time Britain witnesses a totally unprecedented Industrial Revolution that produces major social upheavals especially in the first half of the century. This is followed not only by a massive expansion of the Empire, but also by ground-breaking events like the publication of Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* (1859) that re-shapes the notion of progress and entails the reappraisal of religious axioms. We shall explore these defining developments and principal concepts through a variety of texts and media, including two canonical novels. Elisabeth Gaskell's *North and South* (1855) tackles the conflicts of the Industrial Revolution (first half of the seminar). And George Eliot's *Middlemarch* (a classic example of nineteenth-century realism) deals with new ideas of evolution and history with a special focus on women (second half of the seminar).

### **Course requirements:**

Regular attendance, active participation (based on thorough preparation), response papers, an oral presentation, and a term paper of ca. 15 pages at the end of the course.

### **Texts:**

Elisabeth Gaskell, *North and South* (Penguin Classics); George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (Penguin Classics).

<b>Sprechstunde in der Vorlesungszeit:</b>	<b>s. Sprechstundenliste</b>
<b>Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:</b>	<b>s. Sprechstundenliste</b>