

Veranstalter	Sophia Komor
Thema	„I don't want realism. I want magic!“ American Drama from the South in Context [AA-A3, ENG-7, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar Ib
Seminarnummer:	53-562
Zeit	2st., Dienstag, 16-18
Raum	Phil 564
Beginn	19. Oktober 2010

Beschreibung:

“Anything that comes out of the South is going to be called grotesque by the northern reader, unless it is grotesque, in which case it is going to be called realistic.” This is a quote by Flannery O’Connor, one of those authors whose style is commonly subsumed under the header “Southern gothic.” She seems to point to a certain tension between distinctly Southern and generally non-Southern literature. Indeed, the existence of such terms as “Southern gothic,” “Southern belle,” and “old South” seems to suggest a quality or a characteristic that is specific to this region of the United States and that only works when regarded in a dialectical relation with that to which it is opposed, the rest of the United States. Tennessee Williams, one of the USA’s most famous dramatists, attempted a description of this quality when he spoke of “an intuition of an underlying dreadfulness in modern experience.” In this seminar we will look at the content, the aesthetics, and the contexts of a number of dramas from the South, and we will investigate not only how the South is being portrayed but also how the plays make use of the South to drive home their social, political, and/or cultural observations or criticisms. The aim is to achieve an approximation of the quality/qualities that make/s the dramas under investigation *Southern* dramas. (Should time allow it, we could also take a look at the film adaptations of the dramas.)

The dramatic texts will be made available as readers in **the first seminar session.**

All participants must read the following excerpt for preparation of the first class:

Zapf, Hubert. “Die verspätete Gattung: das amerikanische Drama der Moderne.” *Amerikanische Literaturgeschichte*. Ed. Hubert Zapf. Stuttgart: Metzler, 1996. 281-303. Institutional Library: Handbuch AA K III. SUB: H Angl 615/19.

Credit Requirements:

Regular attendance, active participation, in-class presentation, response papers, term paper (12-15 pages).

Dramatic texts:

Hellman, Lillian. *The Little Foxes*. 1939.
Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire*. 1947.
---. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. 1955.
Norman, Marsha. *‘night, Mother*. 1983.

Background reading:

Pfister, Manfred. *Das Drama*. München: UTB, 2001.
Zapf, Hubert. “Die verspätete Gattung: das amerikanische Drama der Moderne.” *Amerikanische Literaturgeschichte*. Ed. Hubert Zapf. Stuttgart: Metzler, 1996. 281-303.
Hornung, Alfred. “Die Fiktionalisierung, Mediatisierung und Theatralisierung der Welt.” *Amerikanische Literaturgeschichte*. Ed. Hubert Zapf. Stuttgart: Metzler, 1996. 338-347.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	siehe Aushang
Sprechstunde während der Semesterferien:	siehe Aushang

