

Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Ute Berns
Modul:	Breath, Wind and Atmosphere: Topicality and Resonance of a Literary Trope [ENG-6, ENG-6a, ENG-12, AA7, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, IAA21, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA03, AA-MA04]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-547
Zeit:	2st. Mo 16-18
Raum:	
Beginn:	
<p>Course description:</p> <p>The past months have foregrounded one of the most unnoticed activities of living beings – breathing – in widely different contexts. As I write, everyone mildly tampers with their breath whenever they put on a mask. In a very different register, breathing has always been a closely observed symptom with those who have fallen ill, not least with COVID-19. And in an altogether different context an act of police brutality last year terminated George Floyd’s life. His last words “I can’t breathe” have been amplified as a political rallying cry by the Black Lives Matter movement.</p> <p>This seminar will probe some of the literary and cultural echoes of this contemporary discourse of breath. The act of breathing marks a point of contact between body and world, between the self and the atmosphere surrounding it. British literary representations of breath have explored this relationship, shaping its religious and social, political and ecological dimensions that continue to enrich each other. We will return to the notion of breath in such defining texts as the King James Bible as well as selected texts from the romantic period and the modernist tradition, culminating in Samuel Beckett’s minimalist play “Breath” (UK 1970). Furthermore, we will trace the rhetoric of breath and breathing in postcolonial and ecological theory and texts. This seminar will not follow a historical chronology, but attempt to open up a dialogue between texts from different periods. This notwithstanding the class will strengthen, not least, your sense of literary history.</p> <p>Introductory reading: A Rose (ed.) <i>Reading Breath in Literature</i>. 2019</p> <p><i>Course requirements:</i></p> <p>Regular attendance and excellent knowledge of the set texts; course assignments (e.g. reading responses, or participation in expert groups) during the semester and (to receive the maximum credit points) a term paper.</p> <p>Note: Students who are registered but who do not show up for the first session will automatically be set “inactive.”</p>	
Sprechstunden im Semester:	s. Sprechstundenliste
Sprechstunden in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste