

Prof. Berns: Seminar I

Introduction to British Literature and Culture

Course description:

In the course of this seminar students will be introduced to the analysis of literature as a scholarly practice. You will learn to apply theoretical concepts as well as practical methods and terms in your analysis of literary texts. You will engage in close readings of individual poems, prose texts and plays from British literature, and you will present and exchange arguments that account for different readings of a text.

The participants will acquire the skills of practical analysis as they study texts from the sixteenth century to the present, focusing both on literary and cultural aspects. In addition, you will learn how to find useful secondary material for your assignments, how to document your reading, and how to meet other formal requirements of a seminar paper. The course material will be provided via the internet platform *Agora*.

Course requirements include regular and active participation in the seminar (no more than two missed classes) and an obligatory tutorial taught by advanced students that goes with this class. Further requirements include small tasks (reading responses or a short essay) in class at the lecturer's discretion and a final exam at the end of the course.

Note: Students who are registered but who do not show up for the first session will automatically be set "inactive."