

Veranstalterin	Dr. Julia Boll
Thema	All Senses Engaged: Nan Shepherd's Writing, Environmental Thought, and Becoming
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II [ENG-6, ENG-6a, ENG-12, AA7, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, IAA21, IAA23, IAA24, IAA25, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA04]
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-548
Zeit	Mi 12-14
Raum	Ü35-01016
Beginn	06 April 2022

This course explores the oeuvre of Scottish poet, novelist and essayist Anna "Nan" Shepherd (1893-1981). A philosopher, feminist, geologist and modernist, Shepherd was a rising star of the Scottish Renaissance, the literary and cultural movement of the first half of the 20th century that is widely recognized as Scotland's distinct version of European Modernism. She published four prose works and a volume of poetry during her lifetime. The characters in Shepherd's only recently rediscovered novels belong to close-knit, rural communities, yet they also find space for growth and change. Dryly humorous and joyfully life-affirming, the novels trace how the joining of one's intellectual and one's physical lives can lead to personal and social transformation once the self embraces the concept of becoming as opposed to the predominant focus upon being and identity.

Shepherd's writing imagines and revisions what a modern identity in Scotland might be, when one gets 'leave to live'. We will read her three novels *The Quarry Wood* (1928), *The Weatherhouse* (1930), and *A Pass in the Grampians* (1933) as well as selected poetry and shorter writing, following her exploration of notions of self and community, education, history, tradition and modernity, until we arrive at her celebrated poetic prose walking memoir *The Living Mountain* (1940s, publ. 1977), a modern classic of nature writing in which she chronicles her relationship to the Cairngorms mountain range in the eastern Highlands of Scotland and probes the human interconnection with and kinship to nature and the environment by decentering the human and cultivating a sensibility of 'deep time'.



Nan Shepherd, pictured on the Royal Bank of Scotland £5 note since 2016. (picture © Shutterstock)

Reading List:

Some primary and secondary reading will be made available via OpenOlat. Of the prose, only the memoir and the first two of Nan Shepherd's three novels are currently available as stand-alone editions, but all four longer texts – *The Quarry Wood*, *The Weatherhouse*, and *A Pass in the Grampians*, as well as the memoir *The Living Mountain* – are published together in the collection *The Grampian Quartet* (Canongate 1998), which is also available for e-readers. Whichever edition they prefer – students are asked to obtain the following:

- Shepherd, Nan. *The Quarry Wood*. 1928. Canongate (also available for e-readers).
- ---. *The Weatherhouse*. 1930. Canongate (also available for e-readers).
- ---. *A Pass in the Grampians*. 1933. (**NB:** currently not available as stand-alone edition, but included in the omnibus collection *The Grampian Quartet*, see above).
- ---. *The Living Mountain*. 1940s/1977. Canongate (also available for e-readers).
- ---. *Wild Geese. A Collection of Nan Shepherd's Writing*. 2019. Galileo Publishers (also available for e-readers).

Studienleistung: regular and active participation (also in teamwork), detailed knowledge of assigned texts/material, preparation of discussion questions and discussion leading, preparation of short audio clips.

Prüfungsleistung:

Studienleistung (see above)

+ annotated bibliography on 7 critical texts

+ term paper

Note: If you use an e-reader, make sure you know how to navigate quickly and expertly within the text, how to mark passages (and find them again), how to make annotations, and how to quote properly from an eBook. I advise against working on smartphones for scholarly purposes.

Note: Registered students who fail to show up for the first session will automatically be set "inactive" on Stine, so that another student may take up their place.