

<b>Veranstalter:</b>	<b>Prof. Dr. Ute Berns/ PD Dr. Jens Elze</b>
<b>Modul:</b>	<b>Key Concepts: Early Modern Literature and Culture</b> (ENG-6, ENG-6a, ENG-7a, ENG-12, AA10, LAA9, LAA11, LAA12, LAA13, IAA21, IAA24, SLM-WB, Master-WB, SG)
<b>Art der Veranstaltung:</b>	<b>Vorlesung</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer:</b>	<b>53-531</b>
<b>Zeit:</b>	<b>2st. Mo 16–18</b>
<b>Raum:</b>	<b>Ü35-00129–02</b>
<b>Beginn:</b>	<b>03.04.2023</b>

#### Course description:

This lecture series offers a survey of the British Literature and Culture of the Early Modern period, from the aftermath of the English Reformation to the Civil War. Focusing on key concepts of the period and their critical discussion today, the lectures will present you with a broad spectrum of authors from Shakespeare and Marlowe to Mary Wroth and John Donne. We will cover different media, from dramatic texts performed in the thriving theatres of London, among them Shakespeare's Globe, to the craze of 'sonneteering,' with poems circulating in courtly manuscript cultures. And we will address the defining political, aesthetic and scientific discourses of the period. Political concepts tackled in this lecture series include, for instance, 'Machiavellianism', the mobilization of 'scepticism' in Elizabethan society, or the notion of revenge as a form of 'wild justice', played out on the gory theatrical stages of Kyd, Shakespeare and Marston. Aesthetic concepts will showcase an early modern interplay between ideas of literature as the perfection of classical models and practices of literature that pushed it into the direction of what we would call 'autonomous art'. Yet we will also zoom in on practices of self-fashioning, whether in the city, at court or on an imagined world stage, teasing out the notions of otherness these practices invoke. Addressing fault lines along hierarchies of rank, gender, ethnicity and sexuality, our lectures will move back and forth between systematic surveys on the one hand, and case studies of individual texts and media on the other. The series will include guest lectures.

#### Course requirements:

For B.A. and M.A. students and ERASMUS/other exchange students: Pass three short online quizzes over the course.

For all M.Ed. students and those ERASMUS/other exchange students who need graded credits: Pass three short online quizzes over the course and hand in a three-page close reading by the end of the lecture series.

#### Further Reading:

Studying the period in any literary history would make for useful preparation; a good place to

start is Hans Ulrich Seeber, *Englische Literaturgeschichte* (Metzler 5. ed.) or Lisa Hopkins and Matthew Steggle, *Renaissance Literature and Culture* (Continuum 2006).

Sprechstunden Semester:	im	<b>s. Sprechstundenliste</b>
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Sprechstunden vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	in der	<b>s. Sprechstundenliste</b>
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