

Veranstalterin	Dr. Christina Schönberger-Stepien
Titel der Veranstaltung	Introduction to British Literature and Culture
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar Ia [AA2, LAA2, LAA15, IAA11, IAA14]
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-536
Zeit	Mittwoch, 10-12 Uhr (+ 2 Std. Tutorium)
Raum	Ü35 – 01047
Beginn	05.04.2023

Course description:

This seminar introduces students to the study of British literature and culture. We will explore key theoretical concepts and critical terminology as well as practical methods for the scholarly analysis of literary texts and genres (including poetry, drama, and narrative). The fundamental questions we will address in this course are: What is literature and what are the main literary genres? How do we read and interpret literary texts? Which analytical tools and methods do we use for which text or genre? In addition to a selection of shorter texts, excerpts, and secondary material, we will read William Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado About Nothing* and Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein* as touchstones for our engagement with dramatic and narrative theory respectively. Studying texts from the early modern period to the present, we will also trace central developments in literary and cultural theory. Finally, we will touch upon the main principles and methods of academic research and writing (which will be expanded on in the tutorials that accompany this course). Parallel attendance of the lecture *History of British Literature* is highly recommended.

Set texts:

Shorter texts, excerpts, and secondary reading will be made available via OpenOlat. In addition, please obtain (or borrow) copies of the following two works, ideally in the editions listed below.

- Shakespeare, William. *Much Ado About Nothing*, edited by Claire McEachern, Bloomsbury, 2016. [The Arden Shakespeare Third Series; ISBN 978-1472520296]
- Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. 1818. Oxford UP, 2018. [Oxford World's Classics; ISBN 978-0198840824]

Course requirements:

Regular and active participation (no more than two missed classes), preparation of assigned texts and reading material, completion of short course assignments, attendance of an obligatory tutorial that accompanies the seminar. The seminar concludes with a final exam at the end of term.

Please note:

Students who are registered for this course but do not show up for the first session without prior notice will automatically be set "inactive" on STiNE.