

Veranstalter:	PD Dr. Jens Elze
Modul:	<b>Fictions of Neoliberalism</b> (ENG-6, ENG-6a, ENG-12, AA7, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA04, BAC1, BAC2, BAC4, IAA21, IAA23, IAA24, IAA25)
Art der Veranstaltung:	<b>Seminar II</b>
Veranstaltungsnummer:	<b>53-546</b>
Zeit:	<b>2st. Di 16–18</b>
Raum:	<b>Ü35 – 01016</b>
Beginn:	<b>04.04.2023</b>

Course description:

Neoliberalism has been one of the most widely used – some would say ‘overused’ – terms to describe socio-economic and cultural developments across the globe since the 1980s. Great Britain – with the election of Margaret Thatcher in 1979 – has often been at the forefront of debates surrounding ‘neoliberalism’. In this class we will read a range of novels from the mid 1980s to today to debate how neoliberalism has shaped the imagination of at least two generations of writers. In terms of historical context, we will look at the economic policies of the 1970s as major historical turning points in, but we will also trace longer economic and cultural trajectories – such as popular individualism, identity politics, de-industrialization, financialization – that have shaped the contemporary period, which has so often been defined as ‘neoliberal’. Underpinned by cultural theories by Zygmunt Baumann, David Harvey, Joseph Vogl, or Stuart Hall, among others, we will analyze how neoliberalism has impacted ideas of love and relationships, notions of community, and senses of self. We will look at developments in urbanism, at the role of speculative money and capital, and at neoliberal globalization that has drastically reshaped socio-economic relations and realities across the world. Of course, we will also consider the literary forms that writers have designed in response to the cultural impacts of neoliberalism. Towards the end of our class, we should debate whether neoliberalism has to be understood in opposition to the global populisms and authoritarianism of our current moment, or whether they are better to be understood as neoliberalism’s legacy and epitome.

Reading:

Martin Amis, *Money* (1984). **Please obtain and read the before the second week of classes!**

More texts will be announced in the first session.

**Please note: This class will have a high reading load!**

Course requirements: Regular and active participation in the seminar (no more than two missed classes), excellent knowledge of the texts assigned, oral presentation or preparation of discussion questions, term paper.

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

