

Veranstalter:	PD Dr. Jens Elze
Modul:	1930s British Literature: Marginal Modernisms (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:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-549
Zeit:	2st. Mo 14–16
Raum:	Ü35 – 01047
Beginn:	03.04.2023

Course description:

The 1930s may not necessarily be a marginal period in British literary history, but they may certainly seem that way in opposition to the overbearing status of the 1920s which are typically consecrated as the highpoint of literary modernism. Literatures from the 1930s in this class will see that the 1930s were continuing, canonizing, and radicalizing some of the developments of the 1920s, such as an interest in memory and psycho-analysis, in urban experience, and in the reduction or multiplication of narrative and lyrical voice. Some of the main authors of the 1920s like Virginia Woolf and T.S. Eliot were still very active in the 1930s and we will look at some of their works. But we will also study writers who only entered the literary sphere in the 30s and introduced new styles and themes into fiction and poetry, such as Elizabeth Bowen, Jean Rhys, or George Orwell. Primary among those new concerns that we will discuss is a more explicit focus on marginal lives and experiences in society and in the city – of women, of the lower classes, of those not born in England, but also of those living in the rapidly expanding suburbs of London. While many writers continued modernist developments, we will also focus on emerging debates that questioned the suitability of modernist styles for conveying the urgent political matters of the time, such as economic crisis, the rise of fascism in Europe (including in England) and the looming threat of war. Though interested in exploring marginality, I hope that through our discussions the 1930s will emerge as a by no means marginal period when it comes to the quality and diversity of its literary output.

Please obtain the following texts in the editions mentioned below:

Virginia Woolf, *The Waves* (Oxford Classics). **Please begin reading before beginning of classes!**

Jean Rhys, *Voyage in the Dark* (Penguin Modern Classics).

More texts will be announced during the first session.

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:	s. Sprechstundenliste
Sprechstunden in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste