

Veranstalter.....	Janina Wierzoch, M.A.
Thema.....	‘Eyre Affairs’: Reworkings and adaptations of Charlotte Brontë’s <i>Jane Eyre</i>
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar Ib
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-542
Zeit.....	2st., Mo 14-16
Raum.....	Phil 1250
Beginn.....	02. April 2012

Course description:

Published in 1847, Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre* has become one of the classics of 19th century British literature. Though outwardly “poor, obscure, plain, and little”, the heroine makes her way from social obscurity and a seemingly predetermined course of life to her very own notion of happiness. Her trail is lined with themes of abuse, mysterious old mansions, dark secrets and great romance. Meanwhile, the novel negotiates questions of female identity and autonomy in Victorian England, touches upon colonial perspectives and other more general issues. The novel has ever since inspired writers and filmmakers to rework the tale into countless versions reflecting new perspectives on cultural issues.

While the seminar will be concerned with different medial forms of *Jane Eyre*, we will obviously start by reading the novel itself. We will address aspects of structure, themes and cultural implications that constitute the status of the novel. We will then turn to reworkings and adaptations of more recent origin, first of all Jean Rhys’s *Wide Sargasso Sea*, a 1966 postcolonial novel that re-contextualises the 'madwoman in the attic' motive. We will be working with cinematic and TV-adaptations of both novels to trace the diversification of the tales in different settings. Most recent perspectives on *Jane Eyre* will also be taken into account through works such as Jasper Fforde’s *The Eyre Affair* (2001), in which the world of the novel itself is threatened by the particularly evil Acheron Hades in a fantastic alternative mid-1980s-Britain.

Required texts and preparation: *Jane Eyre* has to be read in preparation for the session on April 16. You should be aware that for the film screenings additional appointments will be necessary. For in class discussion please get the following editions:

- Charlotte Brontë. *Jane Eyre*. Wordsworth Collection, 1992.
- Jean Rhys. *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Penguin Modern Classics, 2011.
- Jasper Fforde. *The Eyre Affair*. Hodder & Stoughton, 2011.

Credit requirements: Regular and active participation, an oral presentation and a term paper (10-13 pages).

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	s. Sprechstundenliste