

Lecturer: Lars Schmeink, MA, MoHE

SoSe 2014

Office Hours: request per email
Friday 10 am to 12 pm (c.t.); Room 1219

Start: April 4th, 2014

Introduction to Literary Studies (American Literature) (AA-E2, ENG-2)

In this seminar we will discuss the question of how to deal with literature from a scholarly perspective. Our guiding question will be: What are the tools necessary for a professional analysis of literature? The seminar will thus provide an introduction to the methodological and theoretical fundamentals of textual analysis. In dialogue with the accompanying lecture on "American Literary History" (taught by Prof. Dr. Kucharzewski) the specific interpretation of texts from different eras of American literary history will be practiced. In our discussion of the three traditional genres, prose, poetry and drama, we will focus on basic textual structures, such as the narrative perspective, character development, spacio-temporal setting etc. We will furthermore discuss the question of how texts can be understood differently, depending on the theoretical approach taken. In one special session, we will deal with the specificity of visual media texts (i.e. film). The basic premises of literary research and documentation ("wissenschaftliches Arbeiten") will be introduced.

The seminar is accompanied by two mandatory tutorials, taught by advanced students. Time and course rooms for these tutorials will be announced separately.

Course requirements

- attendance at seminar / tutorial / lecture (no more than 2 missed sessions)
- in-class tasks (reports, short essays, online discussions) at lecturer's discretion
- "Bibliotheksrallye" – at tutor's discretion
- final exam

Please note: The final exam will not take place during our scheduled course hours but during the last week of classes on

Thursday, July 10th, 2014 – 2 to 4 pm (ESA M)

Attendance at that exam time is mandatory and needs to be reserved with other courses.

All necessary texts for the course can be accessed as pdf-files in the course's Agora-room, once attendance in the course has been verified.