

Instructor: **Jolene Mathieson, M.A.**
 Title: **Introduction to British Literature and Culture**
 Course: **Seminar Ia + two-hour tutorial**
 Number: **53-534**
 Time: **Tuesdays, 12-14h + two-hour tutorial (TBA)**
 Room: **Phil 1219**
 Starts: **05.04.2016**

Course description:



Rogier van der Weyden
The Magdalen Reading, 1435



Vincent Van Gogh
The Novel Reader, 1888



Jeffrey Dale Starr; *Woman Reading
in Parc Monceau, 2012*

Hello and welcome to the Institute of English and American Studies! This introductory seminar is a mandatory course within the *Einführungsmodul* and is designed in a two-fold manner. First, it will provide first-semester students a broad and yet intensive introduction to the key concepts, central topics and basic terminology necessary for the academic study of literary and cultural texts. Here you will learn what it means to analyse texts in a scientific context using scholarly methods. Second, it will serve as an arena for second-semester students to deepen your understanding of these issues and to sharpen your skills. Together we will all engage with the rich literary and cultural heritage of the British Isles by considering canonical and some non-canonical texts from an array of media and genres. These texts include narrative and lyrical poetry, ranging from *Beowulf* to Patience Agbabi's "About Face", Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, a couple of short stories as well as very brief excerpts from a few novels. We will also analyse an apocalyptic film as well as an episode from a British television crime series. By the end of the course, you will have become acquainted with a number of cultural artefacts and you will be familiar with literary and media genres, critical terminology and technical analysis.

Requirements: As the stated goal of this seminar is to empower each and every one of you to approach and engage with literary and cultural texts *as scholars*, this seminar will focus on developing your analytical thinking skills and enhancing your ability to express yourself in academic writing. As such, the *Studienleistung* will consist of thorough preparation of all reading material for both the seminar and the tutorial, completion of short homework assignments for both the seminar and the tutorial, active participation, and two academic essays. The *Prüfungsleistung* consists of a 10-to-12 page research paper. Attendance in the first session is mandatory. Anyone absent on the first day of class will be dropped from the course.

Texts: Each of you must purchase the 'Seminar 53-534' Reader at Cobra Copy (Von-Melle-Park 5, 20146 HH) and bring it to every session.