

Veranstalter:	Dr. Stefan Schenk-Haupt
Modul:	Shakespeare's Revenge Tragedies: <i>Titus Andronicus</i> and <i>Hamlet</i> [ENG-6/a, AA-V3a/b, ENG-12, AA7, AA-10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-MA3, AA-MA4, MAST-A5, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-548
Zeit:	2st., Tuesdays 16-18
Raum:	Phil 1219
Beginn:	4. April 2017

Course description:

The course focuses on two notorious plays by William Shakespeare: the reviled *Titus Andronicus* and the acclaimed, yet enigmatic *Hamlet*. Both are revenge tragedies, which means that they are preoccupied with archaic and 'modern' (Renaissance) codes of behaviour and ethics.

Violence, physical and psychological abuse, torture, dismemberment, blood bath, mutilation, rape, cannibalism – *Titus* has it all. Based on a cyclical concept of history as an iteration of massacre and destruction, this grim and yet highly artful and even witty play poses questions of great impact. What is the nature of human aggression and violence? What is the early Shakespeare's take on society? Is there a way out?

Hamlet is confronted with a similar situation – he is obliged with the task to exert revenge. In contrast to *Titus*, Shakespeare mutes down the acts of violence and gives his protagonist ample opportunity to reflect on the situation and to make up his mind. And yet the outcome is similar: intrigue, mistrust, abuse and psychological torture (directed especially against female characters), manslaughter and a final blood bath.

Topics:

- Violence in anthropology, violence in the media
- Tragedy, comic intrusion, risus purus
- Madness, feigned madness, madness and society
- Culture, human nature and revenge

Screenings (Phil 1269): *Titus* (J. Taymor), *Titus Andronicus* (Globe production), *Hamlet* (RSC)

Books to buy:

Shakespeare, William. 1985. *Hamlet*. (New Cambridge Shakespeare.) Ed. by Philip Edwards.

Shakespeare, William. 1995. *Titus Andronicus*. (The Arden Shakespeare.) Ed. by Jonathan Bate.

****NOTE: These are the best reading texts, please stick to these two editions.****

Course requirements:

Studienleistung: Protocol + presentation (10 minutes max.) or attend *all* three screenings

Prüfungsleistung: Schriftlicher Leistungsnachweis (Form wird bekannt gegeben)

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Wednesdays 13.45-15.30
Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	28.3., 15-17 Uhr