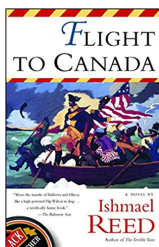




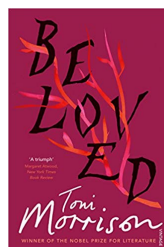
Instructor: **Jolene Mathieson**
Title: **Anglo-American (Neo)-Slave Narratives**
Course: **Seminar II** [ENG-6, ENG-6a, ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-12, ENG-13, AA7, AA10, AA11, LAA9, LAA10, LAA12, LAA13, AA-MA3, AA-MA4]
Number: **53–560**
Time: **Mondays, 12–14h**
Room: **Ü35 – 01016**
Starts: **01.04.2019**

Course Description: The first unit of this course will read and discuss two traditional slave narratives – Olaudah Equiano’s *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, Or Gustavus Vassa, The African* (1789) and Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, written by herself* (1861). Written from the late eighteenth to the late nineteenth century in England, the Caribbean and the United States, and instrumentalizing the discourses of abolitionism, realism and sentimentalism, traditional slave narratives were composed by or on behalf of formerly enslaved Africans that charted their transition from slavery to freedom. While the Afro-Caribbean and African American slave narrative is an originary, authentic and thus constituting form of literary and cultural expression in the former English colonies and the U.S., its success as a genre was heavily dependent on notions of authority and voice. The ‘problem’ of voice resulted in a hybrid but codified genre, the conventions and tropes of which consistently structured the form — the use of ‘authenticating’ paratexts and documents, descriptions of psycho-sexual violence and cruelty, inventories of household items, clothes and tasks, a critical confrontation with the master, a successful flight, a dangerous state of fugitivity, an intellectual and spiritual journey to acquire literacy and religious redemption, the acquisition of freedom and subsequent political activism. In our second unit, we will focus on neo-slave narratives – Ishmael Reed’s *Flight to Canada* (1976), Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* (1987) and Caryl Phillips’s *Cambridge* (1991) – and examine how contemporary Black writers modify, critique, de- and reconstruct this genre, and create a space for positioning and enacting Black personhood. Our primary materials will be complimented by theoretical essays on (neo-)slave narratives, Black Atlantic identity (by Stuart Hall) and notions of slavery and social death (by Orlando Patterson).

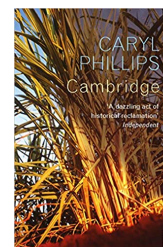
Requirements: The *Studienleistung* will consist of thorough preparation of all reading material, completion of homework assignments, and active participation with group work and oral presentations. The *Prüfungsleistung* consists of a research paper, the length of which is determined by your module. A reader will be made available on the first day of class; however, **each of you must purchase the following books in the following editions:**



Ishmael Reed,
Flight to Canada [1976]
Scribner: 1998



Toni Morrison,
Beloved [1987]
Vintage: 1997



Caryl Phillips,
Cambridge [1991]
Vintage: 2008