

<b>Veranstalter:</b>	<b>Prof. Dr. Ute Berns</b>
<b>Modul:</b>	<b>George Eliot's <i>Middlemarch</i>: „A Novel for Grown-ups“ (Virginia Woolf)</b> [ENG-6, ENG-6a, AA-V3a, AA-V3b, ENG-12, AA7, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA6, AA-WB, Master-WB]
<b>Art der Veranstaltung:</b>	<b>Seminar II</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer:</b>	<b>53-546</b>
<b>Zeit:</b>	<b>2st., Mi 10–12</b>
<b>Raum:</b>	<b>Ü35-01054</b>
<b>Beginn:</b>	<b>ab 18.10.17</b>

### **Kursbeschreibung:**

After the publication of *Middlemarch* (1871–1872), contemporaries celebrated George Eliot (née Mary Anne Evans) as the unrivalled novelist of the age. For Eliot such praise, directed at a supreme literary achievement, also marked a social triumph. Her literary reputation had steamrolled the objections to the way she lived her life, considered scandalous by Victorian standards: the unmarried Eliot was a self-declared atheist and openly living with another woman's husband.

Eliot's novel *Middlemarch*, tracing the life of several households in a provincial town in England, engages with the central issues of her time. They include the extension of the franchise, a political reform project that spanned the whole of the nineteenth century, and the so-called Woman Question (the suffragette activists Bessy Parkes and Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon became Eliot's close friends). A further issue that shapes the text is the contemporary scientific debate on evolution in the wake of the works of Charles Darwin, Herbert Spencer, and Thomas H. Huxley (all of whom she knew personally). Yet her novel also occupies a significant position in literary history – critics refer to it as a prime example, if not *the* defining British example of nineteenth-century realism; *Middlemarch's* complex narrator figure and textual strategies have been at the centre of important narratological debates.

This will be a seminar for readers! The novel was first published in eight small volumes over the course of twelve months. In this seminar, you will experience this seriality, as we will tackle the volumes one by one. At the same time the seminar will introduce you to nineteenth-century cultural debates and familiarize you with the foundational concept of 'realism', its philosophical implications and its narrative possibilities. Prof. Daniel Brown from the University of Southampton will be our special guest in one of the classes in December.

### *Course requirements:*

Regular attendance,  
excellent knowledge of the text,  
course assignments during the semester and  
(to receive the maximum credit points) a term paper.

<b>Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:</b>	<b>s. Sprechstundenliste</b>
<b>Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:</b>	<b>tba</b>

