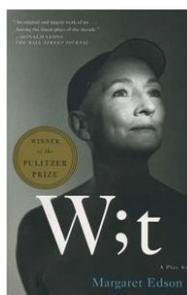


Veranstalter.....	Paul Hamann
Titel.....	Thoughts on Love and Learning: The Metaphysical Poets
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-547
Zeit.....	Mo, 10-12 c.t.
Raum.....	Ü35 Room 01054
Beginn.....	16 October 2017

In this course, we will discuss works from the so-called “Metaphysical Poets”. While this label has been contested ever since John Dryden (1631-1700) suggested it, it is now usually taken to describe a group of early seventeenth-century poets comprising John Donne, George Herbert, Richard Crashaw, Henry Vaughan, Andrew Marvell and Thomas Traherne. Having fallen out of favour by the end of their own century, modernist writer T.S. Eliot inaugurated a revival of their poetry in the 1920s, praising their combination of feeling and intellect as an ideal for modern literature.

Taking its cue from Eliot, without of course neglecting the more recent scholarship, this course will address the many ways in which these poets combine investigations of (erotic) love with concerns of spirituality and religion. Sometimes this produces a cheeky blend of theology and sexual discourse, sometimes a formally and intellectually complex contemplation of human emotions and desires. There is a sense of a troubled interiority on the part of the speaker in many of these poems, revealing the quite modern characteristics of their subjectivity.

This modern quality of the poems also allows for contemporary readers to find personal resonances within these early modern texts. John Donne’s poetry in particular has proven popular with twentieth- and twenty-first-century readers and, as inspiration, with writers and musicians from Van Morrison’s 1983 song “Rave on John Donne” to Edward Docx’s 2003 novel *The Calligrapher*. To conclude the course, we will take a look at some of these contemporary references to the Metaphysical Poets, especially at the role of Donne in Margaret Edson’s play *W;t*.



**Course requirements:**

Regular attendance and participation, occasional homework assignments/response papers as well as a research paper of about 12-15 pages

<b>Sprechstunde in der Vorlesungszeit:</b>	<b>Mondays, 12 pm – 1 pm</b>
<b>Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:</b>	<b>appointment via email</b>