

Veranstalter .....	Julia Lange
Thema .....	Introduction to American Literature and Culture [AA3, LAA3, LAA16]
Art der Veranstaltung .....	Seminar Ia
Veranstaltungsnummer .....	53-542
Zeit .....	Fr 10-12 (+ 2 Std. Übung Mo 14-16/Mi 14-16)
Raum .....	Ü35-01047
Beginn .....	18. Oktober 2019

This seminar is an introduction to the art of analysing works of literature. Differently put, it serves as an introduction to the methodological and theoretical fundamentals of literary analysis. In the course of the semester, students will be acquainted with the basic tools of the critical trade, i.e. the core concepts, terms, and practices essential to the study of literature and culture. In conjunction with the accompanying lecture, the course addresses different epochs of American literary and cultural history. Genres covered range from poetry to prose, and from drama to film. The ultimate objective is to provide students with the basic skills of textual analysis - skills that should prove beneficial to them in their future studies - and to empower them to engage with texts and media from a critically informed, scholarly- professional perspective.

Last but not least, the course also aims to debunk the myth that literary criticism is an inherently joyless activity. On the contrary, literary analysis can be fascinating and fun!

In the two mandatory tutorials, taught by advanced students, Naomi Boye and Nino Torricelli, students will further practice how to read with due attention to formal aspects of literary works. The tutorials will take place on **Mondays, 2-4pm** and **Wednesdays, 2-4pm**. **Please note that participation in one of the two tutorials is absolutely required!** The entire module thus consists of three parts: the seminar, the tutorial, and the lecture course, all of which are obligatory.

### Course requirements

- regular participation (no more than two absences)
- writing exercises (*Studienleistung*)
- midterm paper and final exam (*Prüfungsleistung*)

### Studienleistung

- you have to write a single paragraph (no more than 250 words) on one of the literary texts
- that you have to prepare for a session
- you will be given specific writing tasks and exercises for each session
- the task descriptions will be uploaded to AGORA in due time
- for each session two to three students are asked to read out their paragraphs; an additional three students have to hand in their paragraphs (write legibly!)
- if you fail to produce a paragraph, that is your one freebee
- the second time you fail to produce a paragraph, you no longer fulfill the course requirements
- writing exercises are not supposed to be summaries of the reading material
- plagiarism results in an automatic fail

### Midterm paper

- the papers have to follow MLA citation style and must include a bibliography (a style sheet will be handed out later in the course)
- format: 1,5 spacing, Times New Roman 12

- ca. 8000 characters (without spaces) or 1500 words
- the papers can be based on one or more of your writing exercises

### **Prüfungsleistung**

**Midterm paper:** December 5, 2019: ca. 4 pages

35% of final grade

**Final exam:** January 30, 2020: 10:00 a.m. s.t. – 12:00 p.m. s.t., i.e. 120 minutes

65% of final grade

### **How to fail the class**

- missing more than two sessions of the seminar and / or the tutorial (PO §9 Abs. 2)
- not being able to provide a writing exercise more than once (PO §13 Abs. 1+2)
- failing both the midterm paper and the final exam
- meaning: you can still pass the class if you only fail either the midterm or the final exam.  
This will affect your grade, but not the general completion of the class

### **Where to get the material**

All necessary texts for the course can be accessed as pdf-files in the course's AGORA room (WiSe19/20\_Intro\_Am\_Lange), once participation in the course has been verified.