| Veranstalter: | Charlotte Jost |
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| Modul: | Reading Speculative Fiction: Mary Shelley and Margaret Atwood [ENG-6, ENG-6a, ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-12, ENG-13, AA7, AA10, AA11, LAA9, LAA10, LAA12, LAA13, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA05, AA-MA06] |
| Art der Veranstaltung: | Seminar II |
| Veranstaltungsnummer: | 53-545 |
| Zeit: | 2st. Dienstag 29.10.2019 18-20 Uhr Freitag 15.11.2019 16-20 Uhr Samstag 16.11.2019 10-17:00 Uhr Freitag 13.12.2019 16-20 Uhr Samstag 14.12.2019 10-17:00 Uhr Dienstag 21.1.2020 18-20 Uhr |
| Raum: | Ü35- |
| Beginn: | Blockseminar |

Course description:

In the era of rapid technological development and fake news, visions of mostly dystopian potential futures are omnipresent in literature and the media. As anxieties about the future of planet and humanity grow in urgency, they also grow temporally closer to our own experience. Margaret Atwood famously coined the term *speculative fiction* to identify literature that presents a realistic vision of the near future. In this course, we will approach this topic from a reader's perspective. How can we tell whether a vision of the future is realistic? What changes do we envision and what areas of the society remain the same? To understand the possibilities and limits when reading speculative fiction, we will first take a step back. We will read Mary Shelley's *The Last Man* to look more closely at past generations' interpretation of the 21st century. In the second half of the seminar, we will turn to a staple of the genre, Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake* to identify our own relationship with the future. Throughout the course, we will engage with reader-response approaches to fiction and the idea of speculative fiction as a genre.

Course Materials

Most materials will be made available via Agora, but students are required to purchase:

Mary Shelley's *The Last Man* in the Oxford Classics edition (Oxford UP 2008) Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake* (recommended edition: Virago Paperback)

Course Requirements

Regular and active participation, thorough preparation of assigned texts, written responses to assigned or further readings by means of an informal reading journal, as well as a final term paper.

| Sprechstunden im Semester: | s. Sprechstundenliste |
|---|-----------------------|
| Sprechstunden in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit: | s. Sprechstundenliste |