Veranstalter	**Prof. Dr. Ute Berns**
Thema	**On the Edge: Contemporary British and US-American Texts in Performance** [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	**53-546**
Zeit	**Mi 10-12**
Raum	**Ü35-01054**
Beginn	**16. Oktober 2019**

Course description

This seminar will investigate upcoming performances of prize-winning British and American dramatists/authors on Hamburg's theater stages. We will have the chance to read *and see* work by Alice Birch and Simon Stephens from the UK, and Maggie Nelson and Tracy Letts from the USA. All of the plays/texts were written in the last twelve years, they range from the dramatic to the postdramatic, and they strongly focus on female perspectives – in widely different social contexts.

The seminar will introduce you to – or take you further into – the medium of theatre and performance. We will draw on selected theoretical texts and discuss theatre texts, but we will also analyze the performances as autonomous cultural objects: How do the use of time, space and lighting structure specific performances, and which role do other media play on stage? How do specific dramaturgical strategies highlight contemporary subjectivities and which are the challenges posed by a solo-performance? Or, finally, how do the performances relate to their audiences? Analytical questions like these will provide the basis for our discussion of the aims of these productions and the way in which they comment on British, American (and German) culture today.

Course requirements

Regular attendance and excellent knowledge of the set texts/theatre performances (theatres offer cheap student tickets); course assignments (e.g. reading responses or participation in expert groups) during the semester and (to receive the maximum credit points) a term paper. A seminar outline and reading material will be made available in the first class and on Agora.

Note: Students who are registered but who do not show up for the first session will automatically be set "inactive."