

Veranstalter.....	Florian Sedlmeier
Thema.....	Genre Fiction — Fictions of Genre
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-562
Zeit.....	Mi, 12-14
Raum.....	Ü35-01016
Beginn.....	16.10.2019

### Course description:

While the notion of genre fiction continues to be pejorative in its use, denoting a lack of literary quality, contemporary writers of critical acclaim rewrite “the genres of genre fiction” (Rosen) for purposes of both literary distinction and marketability. At the same time, genres remain powerful retroactive fictions of classification. As such, they consolidate what Derrida has called “the law of genre,” namely that “genres are not to be mixed.” This “law” keeps reminding us of what it aims to obscure: the constructiveness of genres as conventions both literary and social.

These arguments in mind, the seminar discusses various theories of genres, before zooming in on two seemingly diametrically opposed ones and their trajectories from the nineteenth century to the present: the sentimental novel and the Western. Heavily gendered, these genres already point to their affinity with social organization. Both enjoy unbroken popularity not only as genre fictions with their underlying fictions of genre, but they have also been rewritten in recent decades by acclaimed writers. Notably, such rewritings coincide with renewed critical interest in masculinity (link to Western) and affect/emotion (link to sentimental), up to the point where both genre conventions intersect with one another in interesting ways. By consequence, the respective codes and norms of the social are destabilized, to the effect that “the law of the genre” is undermined, while the productivity of “the genres of genre fiction” is retained.

Both a reader with course material and a list of the assigned texts you may need to purchase or borrow from libraries are provided in the first session. Students are expected to attend and participate regularly. They should be willing to be part of a discussion/expert group. The requirement for a grade is a term paper.

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

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Di, 16-17
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	....