

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger
Thema	The Sea is More than History: Jennifer Egan's <i>Manhattan Beach</i> [ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-13, AA7, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA05]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-563
Zeit	Di 14-16
Raum	Ü35 - 01016
Beginn	15.10.19

Course Description:

In 2017, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jennifer Egan published *Manhattan Beach*, her widely-acclaimed sixth novel, which has a way of reusing – or rather repurposing – multiple genres perhaps best described, for lack of a better term, as postmodernist. Thus, even though most critics agree that *Manhattan Beach* might be read as a historical novel, it is also a war novel and, what is more, a feminist coming of age narrative. However, while making productive use of such diverse genre markers, the novel transcends any particular genre description by more broadly exploring the uncertain shorelines of human experience across various literary modes of representation. While this seminar will certainly focus on the novel itself as a particularly rich meta-commentary on the trajectory of American literature roughly since Herman Melville, we will also study a body of critical, secondary texts the book has already inspired and which was published in the March 2019 issue of the *Publication of the Modern Language Association*. By thus combining the close analysis of a literary work with the study of various theories and methodologies in connection with it, this seminar provides students with the opportunity to hone their skills as readers and scholars of contemporary American literature conceived as an echo chamber of literary and cultural history.

Course Requirements:

All students need to acquire (and bring with them!) the following book:
Jennifer Egan, *Manhattan Beach* (2017); ISBN 978-1-4721-5090-5

Requirements for receiving full course credit:

Regular attendance and active participation, excellent knowledge of primary and secondary texts, completion of short written assignments, as well as a term paper (ca. 15 pp.) to be completed by the end of the semester.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit	Di 16-17 Uhr und nach Vereinbarung per E-Mail
Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit	Genaue Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben (s. Aushang und Instituts-Webseite)