Veranstalter:	Dr. Philipp Hunnekuhl
Modul:	DIGITAL: Introduction to British Literature and
	Culture
	[AA2, LAA2, LAA15, IAA11, IAA14]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar Ia
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-533
Zeit:	2st. Montags, 10-12 Uhr
Raum:	
Beginn:	

Course description:

This survey course has two key objectives: 1) to familiarize students with literary genres, canonical works, and traditions within British culture more broadly; and 2) to equip students with the necessary tools for textual and cultural analysis, knowledge of research methods and ethics, and command of basic hermeneutics. We shall proceed chronologically from medieval poetry and early modern drama to the present, discover the birth of the novel and the essay, discuss the pitfalls of retrospective periodization, and reflect on our reading from select angles in critical and intellectual history. Our syllabus encompasses the following titles (usually short-ish extracts, unless otherwise indicated) and analytical foci:

- week 1 (11 October): Introduction. Focus: course scope and contents; general housekeeping; academic practice and ethics.
- week 2 (18 October): Terry Eagleton, *Literary Theory: An Introduction* (1983); Wolfgang Iser, 'Interaction between Text and Reader'.
- week 3 (25 October): anon., *Beowulf* (c.1000 AD). Focus: periodisation, translation, and tradition.
- week 4 (1 November): Geoffrey Chaucer, 'The Wife of Bath's Prologue' and 'Tale', from *Canterbury Tales* (*c*.1387–1400). Focus: realism vs allegory.
- week 5 (8 November): **William Shakespeare**, *Hamlet* (1603) (complete). Focus: psychoanalysis.
- week 6 (15 November): John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (1667). Focus: the epic, rebellion, and dissent.
- week 7 (22 November): Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (1719). Focus: genre the novel; postcolonial criticism.
- week 8 (29 November): William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads* (1798). Focus: historicism.
- week 9 (6 December): William Hazlitt, *Table–Talk* (1821). Focus: genre the essay.
- week 10 (13 December): Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865). Focus: didacticism vs aesthetic autonomy.
- week 11 (3 January): **Virginia Woolf**, *A Room of One's Own* (1929) (complete). Focus: feminist and materialist criticism; modernism.
- week 12 (10 January): **Peter Ackroyd**, *Hawksmoor* (1985) (complete). Focus: postmodernism.
- week 13 (17 January): Shira Wolosky, *The Art of Poetry* (2001) and selected poems. Focus: prosody across periods.
- week 14 (24 January): **Arundhati Roy,** *The God of Small Things* (1997) (complete). Focus: contemporary and postcolonial literature.

You will need to buy a copy of each of the four works stated in **bold print** above – any edition, used or new. All other texts will be made available as PDFs on Agora.

Please note: if you don't attend our first seminar without prior notice, you will be set

'inactive' on Stine so that another student may take up your place.

Recommended reading:

Paul Poplawski, English Literature in Context (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Requirements for successful completion:

Prüfungsleistung: regular attendance, active in-class participation (including a presentation), and a final 2500-word scholarly essay

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