

Veranstalter:	Meryem Buse Aylan
Modul:	DIGITAL: American Naturalist Novel [ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-13, AA7, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, IAA22, IAA23, IAA24, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA03, AA-MA05]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-564
Zeit:	2st. Mi 16-18
Raum:	
Beginn:	

Course description:

This course aims to focus on the characteristics of some primary novels from the movement of American Literary Naturalism. What is naturalism as a literary movement in American Literature, and how is it to be defined as a highly debated issue? How is it to be applied in these novels, and do the novels somehow subvert the commonly accepted definition in their own way by contributing to its potential and "openness" for new interpretations? Objectivism as a consequence of the scientific approach, human-nature relationship/struggle, the influence of heredity/ancestors, the impact of the social environment on humans, and determinism along with the frequent use of fate/fortune/chance/luck can be all considered to be the main features of this movement but how do they work (similarly or differently) in the novels? This course not only examines how American Literary Naturalism has been explained by various critics so far but also targets to encourage students to come up with new explanations and comments on this movement with "unclear borders". Although there is a wide range of novels studied under the title of naturalism, three main ones by the prominently accepted authors of American Literary Naturalism have been selected for this course to illustrate the salient aspects of naturalism in American Literature. The novels to be studied are *Sister Carrie* by Theodore Dreiser, *The Sea-Wolf* by Jack London and *McTeague* by Frank Norris. Additionally, there will be secondary sources to be announced in advance in correlation with the discussion of each class.

Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

Selections from *The Oxford Handbook of American Literary Naturalism* by Keith Newlin, ed., *The Experimental Novel* by Émile Zola, *American Literary Naturalism, a Divided Stream* by Charles Child Walcutt, "'Not Men': A Natural History of American Naturalism", *The Kenyon Review* by Malcolm Cowley, *The Cambridge Companion to American Realism and Naturalism: From Howells to London* by Donald Pizer, "The Original Social Purpose of the Naturalistic Novel", *The Sewanee Review* by George Wilbur Meyer and extracts from *On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin and *Principles of Biology* by Herbert Spencer.

Week 2: *Sister Carrie*

Week 3: *Sister Carrie*

Week 4: *Sister Carrie*

Week 5: *Sister Carrie*

Week 6: *The Sea-Wolf* - Writing assignment (*Sister Carrie*) due
 Week 7: *The Sea-Wolf*
 Week 8: *The Sea-Wolf*
 Week 9: *The Sea-Wolf*
 Week 10: *McTeague* - Writing assignment (*The Sea-Wolf*) due
 Week 11: *McTeague*
 Week 12: *McTeague*
 Week 13: *McTeague*
 Week 14: Review - Writing assignment (*McTeague*) due

Class Policy:

- Students may not miss more than two class sessions.
- Reading appointed texts, both primary and secondary, before the classes is crucial and essential.
- There will be three writing assignments on each novel due as displayed on the schedule. Writing and sending these assignments on time is one of the requirements of this course. Each paper should be around 1000 words. These three papers will cover your midterm grade.
- A final essay will be assigned with the requirement of around 3000-3500 words.
- Plagiarism is not acceptable. Students are expected to follow the proper citation rules and to be careful with anything that can compromise their academic integrity.

Grading:

Class participation: 15 %

Writing assignments: 45 % (15% percent each)

Final Essay: 40 %

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