



Universität Hamburg

Seminar Ia

Julia Lange

Winter Term 2022/2023

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Friday 12 to 2 pm (lecture room Ü35-01047)

Start: 21 October, 2022

Introduction to American Literature and Culture

(AA3, LAA3, LAA16, IAA12, IAA14)

Course description:

This seminar is an introduction to the art of analysing works of literature. Differently put, it serves as an introduction to the methodological and theoretical fundamentals of literary analysis. In the course of the semester, students will be acquainted with the basic tools of the critical trade, i.e. the core concepts, terms, and practices essential to the study of literature and culture. In conjunction with the accompanying lecture, the course addresses different epochs of American literary and cultural history. Genres covered range from poetry to prose, and from drama to film. The ultimate objective is to provide students with the basic skills of textual analysis - skills that should prove beneficial to them in their future studies - and to empower them to engage with texts and media from a critically informed, scholarly- professional perspective.

Last but not least, the course also aims to debunk the myth that literary criticism is an inherently joyless activity. On the contrary, literary analysis can be fascinating and fun!

In the two mandatory **tutorials**, taught by advanced students, Evgeniya Lebedeva and Lilli von Stengel, students will further practice how to read with due attention to formal aspects of literary works. **Please note that participation in one of the two tutorials is absolutely required!** The entire

module thus consists of three parts: the seminar, the tutorial, and the lecture course, all of which are obligatory.

Course requirements

- regular participation
- writing exercises (*Studienleistung*)
- midterm paper and final exam (*Prüfungsleistung*)

Studienleistung

- you will be given specific writing tasks and exercises for each session
- the task descriptions will be uploaded to AGORA in due time
- you will be asked to form an “expert group” with two of your fellow classmates twice throughout the semester; you will then together produce a short analysis (roughly 350 words) on one of the literary texts assigned for a particular session that will need to be uploaded to the AGORA “discussion” section by Friday morning (9 am)
- everyone else (!) will be asked to comment on the texts provided by the expert groups - there will be two expert groups for each week - in the “discussion” section on AGORA over the next five days (i.e. until the following Wednesday morning); you will be asked to produce either one long response (roughly 150 words) or three shorter comments in the discussion thread; please make sure that you thoroughly and critically engage with the arguments proposed by the expert group(s); ideally, you will perpetuate the discussion with your own comments and ideas.
- if you fail to participate in the discussion thread, this will count as a missed session; you may not miss more than two sessions over the entire semester
- writing exercises are not supposed to be summaries of the reading material
- plagiarism results in an automatic fail

Midterm paper

- the papers have to follow MLA citation style and must include a bibliography (a style sheet will be handed out later in the course)
- format: 1,5 spacing, Times New Roman 12
- ca. 8000 characters (without spaces) or 1500 words
- the papers can be based on one or more of your writing exercises

Prüfungsleistung

Midterm paper: December 6, 2022: ca. 4 pages

35% of final grade

Final exam: February 3, 2023: 12:00 p.m. s.t. – 2:00 p.m. s.t., i.e. 120 minutes

65% of final grade

How to fail the class

- missing more than two sessions of the seminar and / or the tutorial (PO §9 Abs. 2)
- failing both the midterm paper and the final exam
- meaning: you can still pass the class if you only fail either the midterm or the final exam.
This will affect your grade, but not the general completion of the class

Where to get the material

All necessary texts for the course can be accessed as pdf-files in the course's AGORA room (WiSe2022_23_Intro_Am_Lange), once participation in the course has been verified.

Syllabus

0	00/00	INTRODUCTION + WHAT IS LITERATURE?	<p>Course Outline and Concepts (see AGORA)</p> <p>follow-up reading (obligatory!): Mario Klarer, "What is Literature? What is a text?" (2013) Terry Eagleton, "Introduction: What Is Literature?"</p>
I	04/24	POETRY I	<p>Mario Klarer, "Poetry" (2013) Anne Bradstreet, "The Author to Her Book" (c. 1650) Edward Taylor, "Huswifery" (1682-83)</p>
II	05/01 no class on Fri- day! -> discus- sion thread only!	POETRY II TUTORIAL	<p>Joel Barlow, from "The Hasty-Pudding" (1793) Philip Freneau, "To an Author" (1788) William Cullen Bryant, "To an American Painter, Departing for Europe" (1829)</p> <p>Introduction + Edward Taylor, from "God's Determinations Touching His Elect" (ca. 1680)</p>
III	05/08	POETRY III TUTORIAL	<p>Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature" (1836) Walt Whitman, "To a Locomotive in Winter" (1876) Emily Dickinson, "I Like to See It Lap the Miles" (ca. 1862)</p> <p>Philip Freneau, "The Indian Burying Ground" (1787) Philip Freneau, "On Observing a Large Red-streak Apple" (1822)</p>

IV	05/15	PROSE I: NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE /UN- RELIABLE NARRA- TION TUTORIAL	Mario Klarer, "Fiction" (2013) Edgar Allan Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart" (1850) William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (1931) Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The Snow-Storm" (1846) Walt Whitman, "I Hear America Singing" (1867)
V	11/22	PROSE II: NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE /FO- CALIZATION TUTORIAL	Ernest Hemingway, "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place" (1926) Katherine Mansfield, "Miss Brill" (1922) Herman Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener. A Story of Wall-Street" (1853)
VI	11/29	PROSE III: NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE / REPRESENTING CONSCIOUSNESS TUTORIAL	Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpa- per" (1892) Katherine Ann Porter, "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall" (1930) Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman, "A New Eng- land Nun" (1891)

VII	06/05 -> 06/09	SPRITG BREAK! TUTORIAL	No class, preparatory work for midterm paper <u>Midterm paper due!</u>
VIII	06/12	POETRY IV: LITERARY EXPERIMENT TUTORIAL	Gertrude Stein, "A Carafe, That Is a Blind Glass" (1914) Ezra Pound, "In a Station of the Metro" (1912) William Carlos Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow" (1923) Ezra Pound, "L' Art" (1916) e.e. cummings, "Picasso" (1925) Mina Loy, "Gertrude Stein" (1924)
IX	06/19	MODERNIST POETRY AND PROSE TUTORIAL	Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (1927) Claude McKay "Harlem Dancer" (1917) Langston Hughes, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (1921) Countee Cullen, "Heritage" (1925) Zora N. Hurston, "How It Feels to Be Colored Me" (1928)
X	06/26	DRAMA TUTORIAL	Mario Klarer, "Drama" (2013) Edward Albee, "The Sandbox" (1959) Tennessee Williams, "Portrait of a Madonna" (1945)

XI	07/03	POSTMODERN LITERATURE I TUTORIAL	Vladimir Nabokov, "Signs and Symbols" (1948) Robert Coover, "The Elevator" (1969) John Barth, "Lost in the Fun House" (1968) + exam preparation
XII	07/10	FINAL EXAM	10:00 p.m. s.t. – 12:00 p.m. s.t., i.e. 120 minutes

The texts on AGORA are from the following sources:

- Barlow, Joel. "The Hasty Pudding." 1793. *Amerikanische Dichtung: Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart*. Ed. Eva Hesse and Heinz Ickstadt. München: Beck, 2000. 18-20. Print.
- Barth, John. "Lost in the Funhouse." 1968. *Lost in the Funhouse. Fiction for Print, Tape, Live Voice*. New York: Anchor Books, 1988. 72-97. Print.
- Baym, Nina, et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 5th ed. 2 vols. New York: Norton, 1998. Print. [find here: Bradstreet, Melville, Hurston, Pound]
- Bryant, William Cullen. "To an American Painter Departing for Europe." 1829. *Virginia Commonwealth University*. Web. 8 Oct. 2015. <<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/webtexts/Bryant/sonnetto-cole.html>> Web.
- Coover, Robert. "The Elevator." *Pricksongs and Descants*. New York: Dutton, 1969. 207-39. Print.
- Cullen, Countee. "Heritage." 1925. *My Soul's High Song: The Collected Writings of Countee Cullen. Voice of the Harlem Renaissance*. Ed. Gerald L. Early. New York: Doubleday, 1991. 104-108. Print.
- Cummings, E.E. "Picasso." 1925. *Selected Poems*. Ed. Richard S. Kennedy. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2007. 35. Print.
- Dickinson, Emily. "XLIII." ca. 1862. *Poems by Emily Dickinson*. Ed. Martha Dickinson Bianchi and Alfred Leete Hampson. Boston: Little, Brown & Company., 1948. 22. Print.
- Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. Reprint. Oxford: Blackwell, 1985. Print.
- Emerson, Ralph Waldo. "Nature." 1836. <<http://www.emersoncentral.com/nature.htm>> Web.
- Freeman, Mary E. W. "A New England Nun." 1891. *A New England Nun and Other Stories*. Leipzig: Heinemann & Balestier, 1892. Print.
- Hemingway, Ernest. "Hills Like White Elephants." 1927. *Men Without Women*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1997. 35-38. Print.
- Hughes, Langston. "The Negro Speaks of Rivers." 1921. *Collected Poems*. <<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44428/the-negro-speaks-of-rivers>> Web.
- Kennedy, X. J., and Dana Gioia. *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. 7th ed. New York: Longman, 1999. Print. [find here: Whitman, Hawthorne, Poe, Faulkner, Hemingway, Mansfield, Porter, Albee]
- Klarer, Mario. *An Introduction to Literary Studies*. Third edition. 1999. Oxon/New York: Routledge, 2011. Print.
- Lauter, Paul, et al, eds. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. 2nd ed. 2 vols. Lexington: Heath, 1994. Print. [find here: Taylor, Freneau, Beecher Stowe, Williams]
- Loy, Mina. "Gertrude Stein." 1924. *The Lost Lunar Baedeker: Poems of Mina Loy*. Ed. Roger L. Conover. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1999. 94. Print.
- McKay, Claude. "Harlem Dancer." 1917. *The Book of American Negro Poetry*. Ed. James W. Johnson. Garfield Heights: Duke Classics, 2012. 179. Internet Resource.
- Nabokov, Vladimir. "Signs and Symbols." *The Stories of Vladimir Nabokov*. New York: Vintage Books, 1997. 594-599. Print.
- O'Brien, Tim. "How to Tell a True War Story." 1990. *The Things They Carried*. London: HarperCollins, 1991. 66-80. Print.

- Perkins Gilman, Charlotte. "The Yellow Wallpaper." 1892. *The Yellow Wallpaper*. Ed. Thomas L. Erskine and Connie L. Richards. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 1993. 29-50. Print.
- Pound, Ezra. "L'art." 1916. *Personae: The Shorter Poems of Ezra Pound*. Ed. Lea Baechler. New York: New Directions, 1990. 118. Print.
- Roupenian, Kristen. "Cat Person." 2017. *You Know You Want This*. London: Jonathan Cape, 2019. Print.
- Stein, Gertrude. "A Carafe." 1914. *Tender Buttons*. <<http://www.bartleby.com/140/1.html>> Web.
- Whitman, Walt. "I Hear America Singing." 1867. <<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/46480>> Web.
- Williams, William Carlos. "The Red Wheelbarrow." 1923. *The Collected Poems of William Carlos Williams., Volume I. 1909-1939. eaves of Grass and Other Writings*. <<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/45502/the-red-wheelbarrow>> Web.

Literature for further reading

- Bal, Mieke. *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative*. 2nd ed. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1997. Print.
- Barsam, Richard and Monahan, Dave. "Looking at Movies." *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film*. 4th ed. New York: Norton, 2012. 1-34. Print.
- Barthes, Roland. *Introduction to the Structural Analysis of Narrative*. Birmingham: Birmingham UP, 1996. Print.
- Booth, Wayne C. *The Rhetoric of Fiction*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1991. Print.
- Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1997. Print.
- Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. Reprint. Oxford: Blackwell, 1985. Print.
- Eicher, Thomas, and Volker Wiemann, eds. *Arbeitsbuch: Literaturwissenschaft*. Paderborn: Schöningh, 1996. Print.
- Fielitz, Sonja. *Roman: Text & Kontext*. Berlin: Cornelsen, 2001. Print.
- Klarer, Mario. *An Introduction to Literary Studies*. Third edition. 1999. Oxon/New York: Routledge, 2011. Print.
- Landy, Alice S. *The Heath Introduction to Literature*. 4th ed. Lexington: Heath, 1992. Print.
- Leitch, Vincent B., gen. ed. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. New York: Norton, 2001. Print.
- Martinez, Matias, and Michael Scheffel. *Einführung in die Erzähltheorie*. 2nd rev. ed. München: Beck, 2000. Print.
- Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook*. 8th ed. New York: The MLA of America, 2016.
- Nünning, Ansgar, ed. *Literaturwissenschaftliche Theorien, Modelle und Methoden: Eine Einführung*. 3rd rev. ed. Trier WVT, 1998. Print.
- Nünning, Vera, and Ansgar Nünning. *An Introduction to the Study of English and American Literature*. Stuttgart: Klett, 2014. Print.

- . *Grundkurs anglistisch-amerikanistische Literaturwissenschaft*. Stuttgart: Klett, 2001. Print.
- Stanzel, Franz K. *Theorie des Erzählens*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1995. Print.
- Vogt, Jochen. *Aspekte erzählender Prosa: Eine Einführung in Erzähltechnik und Romantheorie*. Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag, 1990. Print.
- Zapf, Hubert. *Kurze Geschichte der anglo-amerikanischen Literaturtheorie*. Tübingen: Francke, 1991. Print.
- Zapf, Hubert, ed. *Amerikanische Literaturgeschichte*. 3rd ed. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2010.

Reference works

- Engler, Bernd, and Kurt Müller, eds. *Metzler Lexikon amerikanischer Autoren*. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2000. Print.
- Nünning, Ansgar, ed. *Metzler Lexikon Literatur- und Kulturtheorie. Ansätze – Personen – Grundbegriffe*. 2nd rev. ed. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2001. Print.
- Zapf, Hubert, ed. *Amerikanische Literaturgeschichte*. Stuttgart: Metzler, 1997. Print.

Internet addresses you may want to consult

- A Guide to the Theory of Literary Genres: <http://www.uni-koeln.de/~ame02/ppp.htm>
- Literary Resources on the Net: <http://newark.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/>
- American History Timeline: <http://www.animatedatlas.com/timeline.html>
- A Handbook of Rhetorical Devices: <http://www.virtualsalt.com/rhetoric.htm>
- American Poets and Poetry: <http://www.poets.org/>
- Poetry Foundation: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/>
- American Literature: <http://www.americanliterature.com/>
- The Purdue University Online Writing Lab <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>
- Online-Wörterbuch: <http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/>

Journals on literary studies

- American Literature*
- American Studies Journal*
- Amerikastudien*
- AAA. *Arbeiten aus Anglistik und Amerikanistik*
- Contemporary Literature*
- Journal of American Studies*
- MFS. *Modern Fiction Studies*
- Narrative*
- NLH. *New Literary History*
- Nineteenth Century Studies*
- PMLA. *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*

Poetics Today

ZAA. Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik