

<b>Veranstalter</b>	<b>Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger</b>
<b>Thema</b>	<b>Short Literary Forms: American Prose Poems</b> [ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-13, AA7, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA03, AA-MA05, IAA22, IAA23, IAA24, IAA25]
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b>	<b>Seminar II</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b>	<b>53-555</b>
<b>Zeit</b>	<b>Mo, 16-18</b>
<b>Raum</b>	<b>Ü35-01016</b>
<b>Beginn</b>	<b>17.10.2022</b>

### **Course Description:**

The overall aim of this course is to study and thus learn to appreciate the prose poem as a literary form which has been evolving, in Europe, roughly since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Though never uncontroversial – especially the Modernist poetic giant T.S. Eliot was notably critical of the form – the prose poem has thrived in recent decades and clearly serves an important aesthetic function in the eyes of many writers and readers alike. Oscillating between narrative prose and lyrical poetry, the short(ish) prose poem holds an intriguing and hard-to-define position in the long history of literature. Thus, in Paul Hetherington and Cassandra Atherton’s apt phrase, “prose poems may be understood as fragments – they never give the whole story and resist closure” (*Prose Poetry: An Introduction* 14). Moreover, by making great use of connotation over denotation – the implications of which will become clear in the course of our seminar – prose poems resonate richly with the cultural contexts in which they emerge, as well as previous ones across time. We will test this claim by reading and discussing a range of different prose poems by American writers starting with Edgar Allan Poe and also including Gertrude Stein, e.e. cummings, Lydia Davis, and Claudia Rankine, among many others. In addition to the primary texts, there will be substantial reading and discussion of secondary sources, as well.

Important: All students taking this course must obtain the anthology *Great American Prose Poems. From Poe to the Present*, ed. David Lehman (New York: Scribner Poetry, 2003. ISBN-13: 978-0743243506.

### **Course Requirements:**

Regular attendance and active participation, excellent knowledge of all the texts assigned, via careful reading/preparation; completion of short assignments and/or in-class presentations, as well as a term paper of ca. 15 pages to be completed by the end of the semester.

<b>Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:</b>	Di 16-17 Uhr u. nach Vereinbarung per E-Mail
<b>Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:</b>	Genaue Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben