

Veranstalterin:	Rebekka Rohleder, M. A.
Thema:	A Literary Family: Mary Wollstonecraft, William Godwin, and the Shelleys [AA-A2, ENG-6, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar Ib
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-541
Zeit:	2st., Mo 14-16
Raum:	Phil 564
Beginn:	Mo, 18.10.2010

Kommentar zur Veranstaltung:

In this class, we will look at a family of philosophers and poets, Romantics and revolutionaries – four authors who have all taken a considerable part in the aesthetic and political debates, and the literary developments which took place in Britain around 1800.

During the course of the semester, we will read and discuss a variety of works: two novels, a political treatise, lyric poetry, and essays. We will first encounter William Godwin's *Caleb Williams; or: Things As They Are*, a novel that illustrates the author's political beliefs, but which is a detective novel as well. We will read Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, an early feminist manifesto, and a powerful cultural critique at that. Of their daughter, Mary Shelley's works, we will read her most famous novel, namely *Frankenstein*. And we will encounter the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, Mary Shelley's husband, with some of his shorter poems and two of his essays, illustrative both of his specific brand of Romantic aesthetics and of his radical politics.

However, there is much more to be discovered, both about the authors' other works and concerns, and about the literary and/or political circles in which they moved. Therefore, sessions in which we discuss these texts will be interspersed with others in which students present the results of their research on some of these contexts. Thus, we will treat these and other authors not as isolated figures, but as implicated in specific networks and discourses which have contributed to shaping both their works and our perception of them.

How to get a "Schein":

- regular and active(!) participation
- presentation
- term paper (10 pages)

Editions:

The poems and essays by Percy Bysshe Shelley will be provided separately. For the other texts, please use the following editions (in-class discussions will be much easier to conduct if everyone has the same edition, with the same page numbers!):

William Godwin, *Caleb Williams: Things As They Are* (London: Penguin, 2005). ISBN 9780141441238

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (London: Penguin, 2004). ISBN 9780141441252

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (London: Penguin, 2003) ISBN 9780141439471

Please note: We will begin to discuss *Caleb Williams* in the second week of the semester (25.10.), and everybody will be required to have read the novel by then!

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	nach Vereinbarung per E-mail
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	nach Vereinbarung per E-mail