

Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Ute Berns
Thema:	Early Modern Revenge Drama [AA-A2, ENG-6, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar Ib
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-542
Zeit:	2st., Mi 10-12
Raum:	Phil 1250
Beginn:	19. Oktober 2011

Course description:

The revenge tragedy with its stagings of graphic violence was a popular dramatic genre in Elizabethan and Jacobean England. And it offers significant insights into the contemporary culture. Having suffered a grave injury, the hero of the play is unable to find justice and seeks to take revenge. The act of vengeance poses the question as to who may or ought to institute justice by force, especially in the face of corruption. This engenders discussions about divine justice and Christian morality as well as the legitimate or illegitimate use of state power. In addition, revenge raises fears of feuds or even civil war. The seminar will investigate three revenge tragedies – Kyd’s *The Spanish Tragedy* (mid 1580s) Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* (ca. 1600) and Middleton/Tourneur’s *The Revenger’s Tragedy* (1607) – including one film version and a stage version recorded on DVD.

You will practice the analysis of dramatic conflicts and characters, and you will investigate dramatic strategies aimed at involving, shocking or winning over the audience. You will analyse the aesthetic potential of representing acts of vengeance and you will debate the cultural issues involved. Our discussions will be rounded off with an excursion into our contemporary culture of revenge as it is exemplified in Quentin Tarrantinos *Kill Bill* (2003).

Literature:

Four Revenge Tragedies: 'Spanish Tragedy', 'Revenger's Tragedy', 'Revenge of Bussy D'Ambois', 'Atheist's Tragedy', ed. Katherine Eisaman-Maus, Oxford University Press 2008.
 Norbert Greiner / Wolfgang Müller, *Hamlet: Englisch-deutsche Studienausgabe*. 2005.

Credit requirements include active and regular participation in class, an oral presentation and a term paper.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Mi , 16.30-17.30 Uhr in Phil 105
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	30.8. und 12.9.11, ab 11.30 Uhr in Phil 105

