

Veranstalter:	JProf. Dr. Ralf Hertel
Thema:	Elizabethan Others [AA-V3a/b, ENG-12, AA-M4, AA-M6, AA-M11, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-552
Zeit:	2st., Do 10-12
Raum:	Phil 1250
Beginn:	20. Oktober 2011

Course description:

Postcolonial theory has alerted us to the importance of Othering for the construction of identity: by distancing themselves from what they are *not*, cultures crucially define their own identity. The Elizabethan age is an era in which all sorts of Others figure prominently in texts and on the stage, and we will study the textual negotiations of a variety of these figures in the course of our seminar. In particular, we will deal with the depiction of those foreigners closest to home – the Irish, the Welsh, and the Scots – in Shakespeare’s history play *Henry V*; with literary representations of Frenchmen, Italians, and other Continental Europeans in travelogues such as Thomas Nashe’s *Unfortunate Traveller*; with stage moors such as Shakespeare’s *Othello*; with Jews in Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*; with Orientals in Marlowe’s *Tamburlaine the Great* and Hakluyt’s *Principal Navigations*; and finally with the creatures of the New World as we find them in Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*. Our interpretations will be characterised by a double focus: while we study the depiction of foreigners in these texts, we will ask ourselves what this might tell us about a specifically early modern Englishness. Discussions of relevant theoretical approaches will round off our seminar.

With an eye to tackling the extensive amount of texts to be discussed, **I recommend that you have read at least our first play, Shakespeare’s *Henry V*, before the start of our seminar** (I recommend T. W. Craik’s Arden Edition). For background reading I recommend Ania Loomba’s essay “Outsiders in Shakespeare’s England” in *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare*, edited by Margreta de Grazia and Stanley Wells (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Participants are required to contribute actively to our discussions, to deliver an oral presentation, and to hand in a term paper.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste
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