

Veranstalter:	<b>Dr. Stefan Schenk-Haupt</b>
Modul:	<b>Shakespeare's Comedies: Laughter, Dramatic Art, Adaptation and Performance</b> [AA-A2, ENG-6/a, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, MAST-E4, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung:	<b>Seminar II</b> ( Seminar Ib für Studierende mit Zulassung vor WS 14/15)
Veranstaltungsnummer:	<b>53-543</b>
Zeit:	<b>2st., Do 16-18</b>
Raum:	<b>Phil 1250</b>
Beginn:	<b>15. Oktober 2015</b>
<p>I would have liked to entitle this course “Shakespeare’s Comedies. Introduction to Laughter”. But that is not funny. In this course we will discuss Shakespeare’s more light-hearted plays, although there are some dark shadows looming in the backyard as well. As a general introduction to Shakespeare as well as the genres of tragedy and comedy, we will start with looking at the first act of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>. Then, we will approach the risible from three perspectives. Firstly, we will discuss extensively three plays by the CnC of British Literature: <i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> (an early ‘lyric comedy’), <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i> (a comedy of manners) and <i>All’s Well that Ends Well</i> (a late, so-called ‘dark’ comedy). Secondly, we will discuss theories of laughter and the comic, namely Aristotle (<i>Poetics I + II</i>), Bergson (<i>Le rire</i>), Freud (<i>Der Witz und seine Beziehung zum Unbewußten</i>). Texts and excerpts in English (except for Freud) will be provided. Thirdly, we will work with the media and look at aspects of performance and adaptation, focussing on Kenneth Branagh’s and Joss Whedon’s movie versions of <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>. The latter will be complemented by the Laurel and Hardy farce <i>Our Relations</i> (based on <i>The Comedy of Errors</i>), the Globe Production of <i>Twelfth Night</i> (featuring an all-male cast) and diverse sketches to be accessed via Youtube. Every participant is obliged to tell at least one joke in class, preferably a good one.</p> <p><b>Text books</b> (any critical edition will suffice, I recommend <i>Oxford</i> and <i>New Cambridge</i>):  Shakespeare, William. 2004. <i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>. (Arden Sh. 3<sup>rd</sup> series.) London.  Shakespeare, William. 2006. <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i>. (Arden). London.  Shakespeare, William. 2007. <i>All’s Well that Ends Well</i>. (Arden) London.</p> <p><b>Books you also need:</b>  Aristoteles. 1994. <i>Poetik</i>. Hg. und übersetzt von M. Fuhrmann. Stuttgart: Reclam, erg. 2012.  Cuddon, J. A. <sup>4</sup>1998 or <sup>5</sup>2014. <i>The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms</i>. London, revised edition.</p> <p><b>Course requirements:</b>  <i>Participation:</i> Regular attendance, thorough preparation of the texts at hand, writing a protocol  <i>Studienleistung:</i> Presentation (5-10 minutes incl. monitoring a concise discussion), one good joke  <i>Prüfungsleistung:</i> Term Paper (10-15 pp. of serious writing, 14-20 pp. all in all)</p>	
Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	<b>t.b.a.</b>
Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	<b>t.b.a. / appointment per mail</b>

