

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Stephan Karschay
Thema	Introduction to British Literature and Culture [AA-E2, ENG-2, AA2, LAA2, LAA15]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar Ia
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-535
Zeit	Mittwoch, 14-16
Raum	1219
Beginn	19. Oktober 2016

Course description:

If you can make sense of the host of squiggly symbols and marks on this page, you are presumably able to read. This course, however, is designed to teach you how to ‘read’ – that is to say, it will equip you with the requisite tools and methods to analyse literature (and, indeed, all manner of cultural texts) in a scholarly and systematic fashion. After engaging in foundational questions about the nature of literature and texts in general, you will be introduced to the key concepts employed in the analysis of genre (poetry, drama, and narrative fiction) and media (theatre and film). In the course of term, you will not only be made familiar with a broad selection of poetry, we will also read one play (William Shakespeare’s domestic tragedy *Othello*) and one novel (Penelope Lively’s Booker-winning *Moon Tiger*) in their entirety. Thus you should get a first impression of the great variety of British literature and culture. Time permitting, we will briefly look at different schools of critical theory to help you understand what is at stake when we look at texts from a particular perspective (say, as feminist, poststructuralist, or postcolonial critics). Parallel attendance of the lecture class *History of British Literature* is highly recommended, as it will provide you with the relevant cultural contexts for our analyses.

Set texts (As e-readers are not acceptable in this seminar, you must own a paper copy):

Lively, Penelope. *Moon Tiger* [1987]. London: Penguin, 2006.

Meyer, Michael. *British and American Literatures*. Tübingen: Francke, 2011. (UTB Basics)

Shakespeare, William. *Othello* [written c. 1603]. Ed. Ayanna Thompson and E. A. J. Honigman. London: Bloomsbury, 2016. (The Arden Three Shakespeare) or, alternatively, Stephen Greenblatt *et al.* (eds), *The Norton Shakespeare*. New York: Norton, 2015. (Available as (a) The Complete Norton Shakespeare, (b) The Essential Plays, or (c) The Tragedies – all of which contain *Othello*).

Recommended for your studies:

Greenblatt, Stephen *et al.* (ed.). *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (6 vols). New York: W. W. Norton.

Löffler, Arno and Eberhard Späth (eds). *English Poetry: Eine Anthologie für das Studium*. Tübingen: Francke, 2003.

Studienleistung

Regular and active participation (no more than two missed classes), an obligatory tutorial taught by advanced students that accompanies the class, preparation of the reading material for both the seminar and the tutorial, completion of short homework assignments.

Prüfungsleistung

Written exam at the end of our course.