



Seminar Ia: 53-537

**Prof. Dr. Susanne Rohr**

**Winter Term 2016/17**

Office hours: Tuesday, 11 am - 12 pm, room 1256

Thursday 12 pm to 2 pm; lecture room 1219

Start: 20 October, 2016

## **Introduction to American Literature and Culture** (AA-E2, ENG-2, AA3, LAA3, LAA16)

In this seminar we will discuss the question of how to deal with literature from a scholarly perspective. Our guiding question will be: What are the tools necessary for a professional analysis of literature? The seminar will thus provide an introduction to the methodological and theoretical fundamentals of textual analysis. In dialogue with the accompanying lecture course on "American Literary History" that is part of the module the specific interpretation of texts from different eras of American literary history will be practiced. In our discussion of the three traditional genres, prose, poetry and drama, we will focus on basic textual structures, such as the narrative perspective, character development, spacio-temporal setting etc. The basic premises of literary research and documentation ("wissenschaftliches Arbeiten") will also be introduced.

The seminar is accompanied by two mandatory **tutorials**, taught by advanced students, **Annalena Mielke** and **Jan Loeding**. Both tutorials will take place on Thursday, 8.00 – 10.00 a.m., either in **room 1250 (Loeding)** or **1263 (Mielke)**. Thus, the entire module consists of three parts: this seminar, the tutorial, and the lecture course, all of which are obligatory.

### **Course Requirements**

- **Regular participation (no more than two absences)**
- **Writing Exercises (*Studienleistung*)**
- **Midterm paper and final exam (*Prüfungsleistung*)**

### ***Studienleistung***

- You have to write a single paragraph on one of the literary texts that you have to prepare for a session
- You will be given specific writing tasks and exercises for some of the sessions
- The task descriptions will be uploaded to AGORA
- For each discussion two to three students are asked to read out their paragraphs. An additional three students have to hand in their paragraphs

(write legibly (but preferably type it)!)

- If you fail to produce a paragraph, that is your one freebee
- The second time you fail to produce a paragraph, you no longer fulfill the course requirements

### ***Prüfungsleistung***

**Midterm** Paper: December 8th, ca. 4 pages  
30% of final grade

**Final** Exam: January 30th, 90 minutes  
50% of final grade

**Oral** Participation (seminar + tutorial):  
20% of final grade

### **Calculation example:**

Midterm: 2,3 (30%)  
Exam: 1,7 (50%)  
Oral: 3,0 (20%)  
2.1 = gut (2.0)

### **How to Fail the Class**

- Missing more than two sessions of the seminar and/or the tutorial (PO §9 Abs. 2)
- Not being able to provide a writing exercise more than once (PO §13 Abs. 1+2)
- Failing both the midterm paper and the final exam
- Meaning: You can still pass the class if you only fail either the midterm or the final exam. This will affect your grade, but not the general completion of the class

### **Calculation example:**

Midterm: 3,0 (30%)  
Exam: 5,0 (50%)  
Oral: 4,0 (20%)  
4.2 = ausreichend (4.0)

### **Buddy System**

If you've already completed the "Intro to British Literature" seminar, you will serve as a senior advisor to one or two freshman students and share your knowledge with them. The buddy system will be implemented in the tutorials.

All necessary texts for the course can be accessed as pdf-files in the course's Agora-room, once participation in the course has been verified. You may also buy a printed copy at Cobra-Copy, Von-Melle-Park 5 (located in WiWi-Bunker's passageway to Grindelallee).

