

Veranstalter	PD Dr. Monika Pietrzak-Franger
Thema	Death and Disease in British Culture [ENG-6/a, AA-V3a/b, ENG-12, AA7, AA-10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-MA1, AA-MA2, AA-MA6, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-549
Zeit	Blockseminar: 21.12., 11.1., 18.1. und 25.1.17, 14-20 Uhr
Raum	Phil 701
Beginn	21. Dezember 2016

Contemporary culture has sanitized death and disease. In fact, it has almost rendered them invisible. Whereas in the past, death, getting older and dying were integral to everyone's life experience, today both are regarded as something to be avoided at all costs (through the ever growing emphasis on health and fitness, plastic surgery, the culture of youth, life-saving procedures, etc.). In view of these developments many rituals which were used to help people come to terms with death and disease has lost their importance and, with them, collective and individual reflection on these issues have become marginalized.

This seminar, organized jointly by myself and Prof. Gordon Mitchell (Professor für Religion und Interkulturelle Erziehung) will allow students to reflect on the issues of death and disease by not only asking them to undertake a number of readings but also by involving them in a creative group-project in the course of which they will be asked to face the issue of transience. After the introduction and the group work, students will be introduced to the tradition of *dance macabre* and to a number of crucial texts on the topic.

Course Requirements:

Studienleistung: regular and active participation, preparation of the reading material for the seminar, completion of short homework assignments, participation in the creative project.

Prüfungsleistung: Term paper

Reading: All required readings will be announced during the first session.