

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger
Thema	To Kill a Literary Icon: Harper Lee's Work Revisited [ENG-7, ENG-7a, AA-V4ab, ENG-13, AA-MA3, AA-MA4, AA7, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-567
Zeit	Di 16-18
Raum	Phil 1250
Beginn	18.10.2016

Course Description:

Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* became an instant classic when it first appeared in 1960. Not only did it receive the Pulitzer Prize in the following year; perhaps even more importantly, it served as a moral compass for generations of US-Americans since then, greatly appreciated for its quaint and humorous depiction of southern life regardless of its serious subject matter including racism and rape, with the novel's undying popularity no doubt owing much to the successful genre of Southern gothic. The iconic status of the book was further cemented in 1962, when the film adaptation, directed by Robert Mulligan and starring Gregory Peck, came out to equally great acclaim and was generally perceived as a strong anti-racist statement against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement. The publication of *Go Set a Watchman* in 2015 prompts us to re-evaluate the perception of both novel and film. Actually an earlier draft of the classic-to-be, the recently-published book invites a close analysis of different literary techniques and their effect on the reading experience. This seminar will be an extended exercise in close reading, then: of the classic novel, the film based on it, and finally the "new" novel arguably calling everything into question. Toward the beginning of the course, we will also familiarize ourselves with theories of race (e.g. by Anthony Appiah), that troubling concept at the core of U.S. American culture then as now.

Course Requirements:

Regular attendance and preparatory reading, active participation, response papers and/or an oral presentation, and a term paper of ca. 15 pages at the end of the course.

All students will have to buy the following texts: Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (ISBN-13: 978-0446310789); Harper Lee, *Go Set a Watchman* (ISBN-13: 978-1784755281).

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit	Mo 16-17 Uhr und nach Vereinbarung
Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit	Genaue Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben