

INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY STUDIES II

Course number: ENK.02422UB · **First session:** 15 October 2021

Room and time: Seminar Room (Attems-gasse 25, Top Floor), Friday, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Lecturer: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stefan L. Brandt · **Email:** stefan.brandt@uni-graz.at

Office Hours: Thursday, 4:00-6:00 p.m. (Heinrichstr. 18, 1st floor)

Course tutor: Katie Beth Neubert (katie.neubert@uni-graz.at)

Description: This course is designed as a broad introduction to the study of narrative fiction and drama, with a special focus on American literature. It will encompass theoretical aspects (literary theory, terminology, analysis, etc.) as well as practical components (e.g., hints on how to write an academic paper). We will read and discuss numerous short stories, a novel, and a play. This course prepares you for future courses in literary studies and aspires to spark interest in the value and fascination of literary works.

Teaching and Learning Method: Presentations, class discussions, constructive feedback, e-learning, in-depth analyses of literary texts, practical application of theoretical approaches. All materials will be available on **Moodle**. In addition, please purchase copies of Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* and Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesman*.

Assessment (you need to receive at least a 'D-' ('4-') in all four sections in order to pass this class):

- A. **Regular attendance** (*no more than 2 absences*); active in-class *participation*; quizzes. (25% of final grade)
- B. **Taking minutes** of one session ('Protokoll'); to be emailed to me - stefan.brandt@uni-graz.at - by the following Monday (three days later); **revised minutes** to be **uploaded** onto Moodle by yourself *before the next session*, in which you will distribute a **handout** with all vital information on it. (25% of final grade)
- C. **2-page research proposal** (due Dec. 10); **final paper of 5-7 pages** (due Feb 11, 2022). (25% of final grade)
- D. **Final Exam** (Terminology, Guided Interpretation). (25% of final grade)

Deadline for Final Papers: Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, in digital form on Moodle together with an editable Google-Docs document (together with declaration of honesty). There is no extension to this deadline!

Please upload digital versions of your final paper on Moodle in the assigned folder. Make sure you take a look at *all texts* on Moodle and check out books from the Department Library (Heinrichstr. 36) to use in the paper!

A.) REGULAR ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Regular attendance and **active participation** in class sessions are crucial to the success of the course. *Absences* must be explained in writing, preferably prior to class. No more than two absences are allowed. You are expected to be present in our meeting not only having read the assigned material, but also prepared to fully engage with the material, ask questions, offer perceptive interpretations, and even argue for your way of reading the text at hand. Note: There might be **pop quizzes** (i.e., unannounced tests at the beginning of a session) to check whether you have read the materials.

B.) MINUTES ('PROTOKOLL')

All students need to hand in a **typed copy of the minutes** they took for a particular class meeting.

This report has two purposes: it enables students who missed a class meeting to **catch up**, and it provides **feedback to the instructor**, illustrating the in-class learning process. Furthermore, it will help you to prepare for the final exam.

Taking minutes is a great skill both in college as well as in professional life. It enables the person who writes the minutes to **review and restructure data coherently**, which is necessary to grasp the **essential information** of discussions.

Pay attention to the following procedure:

- Since you will be working in groups, please make sure you are clear about your individual role within this group. You will **collect the individual group members' contributions to the minutes**, format them, and make sure there will be **paper copies** for everyone at the beginning of the next session.
- Please correspond with me on all matters leading up to posting the final version of your minutes. All minutes should be in the same format. Please follow the style guide below.
- Make sure you **email me** your minutes as a Word file **three days later** by Monday evening (8 p.m.). Do go through your minutes before you send them out (to check for **spelling, correct use of names and theoretical concepts**, etc.).
- I will then check the minutes and send them back to you for correction. My changes will be visible in the **track change** mode; please revise your minutes accordingly.
- After making these corrections, you will **upload** the **final version** onto Moodle. This way, we will have a complete set of minutes of all our class meetings.

Here are some cues for the typed minutes you will be handing in:

- Use a **clear structure** of the agenda, i.e. use subtitles to identify the subchapters. Remember that there is a difference between summarizing chronologically and thematically.
- Use complete sentences in the minutes (using bullet points to list specific aspects).
- Indent new paragraphs.
- Make important terms **stand out** (e.g. in bold lettering).
- Quote carefully and use footnotes to identify the quotation.
- Please use the font Arial, pt. 12

Use the following structure:

Keeper(s) of the minutes:

Agenda:

1. **XXXXXXXXXX**
XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX
2. **XXXXXXXXXX**
XXXXXXXXXX
3. **XXXXXXXXXX**

Please note!

Save and send your document as

NumberOfSession_YourSurnames_Minutes (for example, 4_Moser_Hofer_Minutes)



C.) RESEARCH PROPOSAL & FINAL PAPER

The **research proposal** (2 pages), containing a basic outline for your final paper, is due around mid-term, on **Dec. 10, 2021**. The form for the research proposal will be available on Moodle. You need to upload it, together with an editable Google docs version, in the 'upload section' for research proposals on Moodle.

The **final paper** (max. 5-7 pages, including title page, table of contents, and bibliography, 1,700 – 2,500 words) should be typed (12pt Times New Roman, using one side of the sheet only, pages numbered).

The final paper should show your name and email address, the course title, the instructor's name, the date of submission, and the number of words. Primary and secondary sources need to be cited according to the Uni Graz guidelines for style and format. The **deadline** for submission of the

final paper is **Friday, February 11, 2022**. Keep in mind: A good paper is a finished paper. There is **no extension** of this deadline.

D.) FINAL EXAM

The computer-based final exam will take place in the Schuhmeister Room (WALL, Merangasse 70) on **January 14, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** There will be single- as well as multiple-choice questions. There may also be image riddles and gap texts. You will receive further information on the procedure and the type of questions in class.

SYLLABUS

- 15 October** **INTRODUCTION – Literary Theory: A User-Friendly Guide**
Main texts (required):
Ansgar & V. Nünning, *An Introduction to the Study of English and American Literature*, Glossary (2009).
“Literary Studies: Terminology for FP I at University of Graz.”
Keywords:
Canon; Fictionality; Genre; Literary History; Narrative Literature; Signifier/Signified; Travelogue.
- 22 October** **NARRATIVE PROSE – Introduction, Narrative Composition**
Main text (required):
Ansgar & Vera Nünning, *An Introduction to the Study of English and American Literature*, ch. 5 (2009).
Additional text (recommended):
Michael Meyer, “Narrative,” from: *English and American Literatures*, ch. 3 (2008).
Keywords:
Characters; Defamiliarization; Flash Fiction; Hermeneutics; Heterodiegetic; Homodiegetic; Literariness;
Prose; ‘Real Author’ vs. ‘Narrator’; Reliable vs. Unreliable Narrator; Story vs. Plot; ‘Story Time’ vs.
‘Discourse Time’; World-Making.
- 29 October** **SHORT FICTION – An Introduction**
Main texts (required):
Stephen Matterson, “Short Story” [Definition] (2003) & M.H. Abrams, “Short Story” [Definition] (1985).
Keywords:
Alliteration; Ambiguity; Anaphora; Asyndeton/Polysyndeton; Ellipsis; Internal/External Focalization;
Imagery; ‘Interior Monologue’ vs. ‘Free Indirect Discourse’; Narration vs. Focalization; Oxymoron;
Paradox; Short Story; Simile/Metaphor/Metonymy/Synecdoche; Symbol; Theme.
- 5 November** **GUIDED INTERPRETATION – “The Fall of the House of Usher” and LITERARY THEORIES**
Main texts (required):
Edgar Allan Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1892). [primary text].
Additional texts (recommended):
G.R. Thompson, “Reflections on the Doppelgänger Motif in ‘The Fall of the House of Usher’” (1972).
Peter Barry, “Ecocriticism,” from: *Beginning Theory* (2002). [secondary text].
Lois Tyson, “Overview” of literary theories, from: *Critical Theory Today* (2006).
Keywords:
Communication Systems; Ecocriticism; Functions of Literary Texts; Gothic; Mise en Abyme; New Criticism.
- 12 November** **LITERARY THEORIES – Focus on Marxism: “Bartleby the Scrivener”**
Main texts (required):
Herman Melville, “Bartleby [the Scrivener]” (1853). [primary text].
Lois Tyson, “Using Concepts from Marxist Theory to Understand Literature” (2011). [secondary text].
Additional text (recommended):
Peter Barry, “Marxist Criticism,” from: *Beginning Theory* (2002).
Keywords:
Ecocriticism; Marxist Criticism; New Historicism; Postcolonial Theory; Poststructuralism/Deconstruction;
Psycho-Analytic Approach; Reader-Response Theory; Self-Referentiality; Structuralism.
- 19 November** **THE NOVEL I: An Introduction – The Awakening**
Main texts (required):
Kate Chopin, *The Awakening* (1899) [primary text] (please purchase book).
Nünning book, chapter 5 [secondary text] (Analysis of Narrative Texts, esp. passages on the NOVEL).

Additional texts (recommended):

Peter Barry, "Feminist Criticism," from: *Beginning Theory* (2002). [secondary text].

Erik Margraf, "The Awakening as a Naturalist Novel" (2005).

Keywords:

Bildungsroman; Character Constellation; Epic; Epistolary Novel; Modernist Fiction; Novel; Protagonist; Literary Realism.

26 November THE NOVEL II – CONTINUED

Main text (required):

Kate Chopin, *The Awakening* (1899) [primary text] (please purchase book).

Additional texts (recommended):

Lois Tyson, "Psychoanalytic Criticism"/"Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Criticism" [secondary texts] (2006).

Lois Tyson, "Feminist Theory" [secondary text] (2006).

Keywords:

Aesthetic Illusion; Intertextuality; Manipulation of the Reader; Metafiction; Postmodernism.

03 December INDEPENDENT STUDY UNIT – Write Your Research Proposal at home!

Stay home and create a 2-page research proposal at home for a potential final paper (see document on Moodle) to be handed in on December 10.

10 December DRAMA I – Historical Development, Types and Conventions, Key Elements

Main texts (required):

Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949) [primary text] (please purchase book).

Nünning book, ch. 4 (2009).

Keywords:

Alienation Effect; Aside; 'Breaking the Fourth Wall'; Comic Relief; 'Dialogue' vs. 'Soliloquy' vs. 'Monologue'; 'Drama' vs. 'Theater'; Paratext; Point of Attack; 'Primary Text' vs. 'Secondary Text'; 'Tragedy' vs. 'Comedy'.

**Moodle Deadline
Research Proposal TODAY!**

17 December DRAMA II and CLOSING DISCUSSION

Main texts (required):

Same texts as for December 10.

Keywords:

Diction; Dramatic Irony; Performance; Stage Directions.

Bring two (!) relevant books from the Department Library to the session and briefly explain your selection.

**Bring two library books
to TODAY's session!**

14 January FINAL EXAM – Terminology and Guided Interpretation

Computer exam, Schuhmeister room (0033EG0100), Merangasse 70 (WALL).

21 January ACADEMIC WRITING I – Final Paper

Finding a Topic; Steps of Research; Time Management; Online Databases; No-Gos; Close Reading, Grading.

28 January ACADEMIC WRITING II, WRAP-UP of COURSE

Final paper, wrap-up of exam, final questions.

FINAL PAPER DUE ON FEBRUARY 11, 2022 (with Declaration of Honesty) on MOODLE