

Introduction to Literary Studies II

Room and time: Seminar Room 34.D2, Friday, 4:00-5:30 p.m. · **Course number:** ENK.02422UB

Lecturer: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stefan L. Brandt · **Email:** stefan.brandt@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. 9); **final paper of 5-7 pages** (including title page, table of contents, and bibliography) (due Feb 13, 2023). (25% of final grade)
Important: For the correct mode of citation, follow the style sheet on Moodle.
- D. **Final Exam** (Terminology, Guided Interpretation). (25% of final grade)

Deadline for Final Papers: Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, 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 primary and secondary texts** on the Moodle website and check out specific books on your topic from the Department Library (Heinrichstr. 36, 2nd floor).

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 AND FINAL PAPER

The **research proposal** (2 pages), containing a basic outline for your final paper, is due **Dec. 9, 2022**. The form for the research proposal is available on Moodle. Fill it out and upload it together with an **editable Google docs version** of that same document in the 'upload section' for research proposals on Moodle. **Insert the link to the Google docs version in the comment function to your post on Moodle.**

Important: Consult the **secondary texts on the Moodle website!** (Search for your topic under the respective session.)

The **final paper** (max. 15 pages, including title page, table of contents, and bibliography, 5,000 – 6,000 words) should be uploaded (together with an **editable Google Docs version**) in the respective forum on Moodle. **Insert the link to the Google docs version in the comment function to your post on Moodle.** (Do not put it somewhere in the document itself!)

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 **Monday, 13 February 2023**. Keep in mind: A good paper is a finished paper. There is **no extension** of this deadline.

Important: **Cite all sources according to the Uni Graz guidelines (see style sheet on Moodle).** (Do not use APA or other modes of citation.)

D.) FINAL EXAM

The computer-based final exam will take place in the Schuhmeister Room (WALL, Merangasse 70) on **January 13, 2023, 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

- 14 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.
- 21 October NARRATIVE PROSE – Introduction to 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’; Story vs. Plot; ‘Story Time’ vs. ‘Discourse Time’; World-Making.
- 28 October NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES – Beginnings and Endings, Points of View, Focalization, Imagery, Tropes**
Main text (required):
 Ansgar & Vera Nünning, *An Introduction to the Study of English and American Literature*, ch. 5 (2009).
Keywords:
 Alliteration; Ambiguity; Anaphora; Asyndeton/Polysyndeton; Ellipsis; Internal/External Focalization; Imagery; ‘Interior Monologue’ vs. ‘Free Indirect Discourse’; Narration vs. Focalization; Oxymoron; Paradox; Reliable vs. Unreliable Narrator; Simile/Metaphor/Metonymy/Synecdoche; Symbol; Theme.
- 4 November SHORT FICTION & GUIDED INTERPRETATION – “The Fall of the House of Usher” / LITERARY THEORIES**
Main texts (required):
 Stephen Matterson, “Short Story” [Definition] (2003) & M.H. Abrams, “Short Story” [Definition] (1985).
 Edgar Allan Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1892). [primary text].
Additional texts (recommended):
 G.R. Thompson, “Reflections on the Doppelganger 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; Short Story.
- 11 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.

18 November THE NOVEL I: An Introduction – *The Awakening*

Main texts (required):

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

Nünning book, chapter 5 [secondary text] (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.

25 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.

2 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 9.

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

Main texts (required):

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

16 December DRAMA II and CLOSING DISCUSSION

Main texts (required):

Same texts as for December 9.

Keywords:

Diction; Dramatic Irony; Performance; Stage Directions.

Bring two (!) **relevant books** from the Department Library to the session and briefly explain your selection. (Note: Do *not* choose a standard overview of literary theory – e.g., the Nünning book – but a SPECIFIC STUDY!)

13 January FINAL EXAM – Terminology and Guided Interpretation

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

20 January ACADEMIC WRITING I – Final Paper

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

27 January ACADEMIC WRITING II, WRAP-UP of COURSE

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

FINAL PAPER DUE ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023 (with Declaration of Honesty) on MOODLE

Moodle Deadline
Research Proposal TODAY!

Check out two books from
the DEPARTMENT LIBRARY
and *bring* them to class.