

Introduction to Literary Studies II

Course number: ENK.02422UB · **First session:** 13 March 2020

Room and time: Seminar Room (Attemsgasse 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)

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 F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* 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 June 5); **final paper of 5-6 pages** (due July 13). (25% of final grade)
- D. **Final Exam** (Terminology, Guided Interpretation). (25% of final grade)

Deadline for Final Papers: Monday, July 13, 2020, in digital and printed form (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. Printed versions should be sent to the Dept. of American Studies, University of Graz, Attemsgasse. 25/II, A-8010 Graz (or thrown in our *post box* at the entrance). Make sure you check out books from the Department Library (Heinrichstr. 36) to use in the paper!

Syllabus

13 March	INTRODUCTION – Literary Theory: A User-Friendly Guide Main texts (required): Ansgar & V. Nünning, <i>An Introduction to the Study of English and American Literature</i> , Glossary (2009). “Literary Studies: Terminology for FP I at University of Graz.” Keywords: Canon; Fictionality; Genre; Literary History; Narrative Literature; Signifier/Signified; Travelogue.
20 March	NARRATIVE PROSE – Introduction, Narrative Composition Main text (required): Ansgar & Vera Nünning, <i>An Introduction to the Study of English and American Literature</i> , ch. 5 (2009). Additional text (recommended): Michael Meyer, “Narrative,” from: <i>English and American Literatures</i> , 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.
27 March	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.
3 April	GUIDED INTERPRETATION – “The Yellow Wallpaper” and LITERARY THEORIES Main texts (required): Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1892). [primary text]. Peter Barry, “Feminist Criticism,” from: <i>Beginning Theory</i> (2009). [secondary text].

Additional texts (recommended):

Lois Tyson, "Overview" of literary theories, from: *Critical Theory Today* (2006).

Nünning book, ch. 5 (2009) & Lois Tyson, "Feminist Theory" (2011).

Keywords:

Communication Systems; Functions of Literary Texts; Feminist/Gender Theory; Gothic; New Criticism.

24 April

TRAVEL WRITING, TRANSNATIONAL STUDIES, POSTCOLONIAL THEORY – Guest Lecture

Saptarshi Mallick (North Bengal University, India): "Overcoming Cultural Distance Through Understanding: Travel Writing, Transnationality, and (Post)Colonialism"

8 May

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* (2011).

Keywords:

Ecocriticism; Marxist Criticism; New Historicism; Postcolonial Theory; Poststructuralism/Deconstruction; Psycho-Analytic Approach; Reader-Response Theory; Self-Referentiality; Structuralism.

15 May

THE NOVEL I: An Introduction – *The Great Gatsby*

Main texts (required):

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925) [primary text] (please purchase book).

Nünning book, chapter 5 [secondary text] (Analysis of Narrative Texts, esp. passages on the NOVEL).

Keywords:

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

29 May

THE NOVEL II – CONTINUED

Main text (required):

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925) [primary text] (please purchase book).

Additional texts (recommended):

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

Keywords:

Aesthetic Illusion; Intertextuality; Manipulation of the Reader; Metafiction; Mise en Abyme; Postmodernism.

5 June

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'.

Deadline
Research Proposal TODAY!

12 June

DRAMA II and CLOSING DISCUSSION

Main texts (required):

Same texts as for June 5.

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!

19 June

FINAL EXAM – Terminology and Guided Interpretation

26 June

ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH I and DISCUSSION of FINAL EXAM

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

FINAL PAPER DUE ON JULY 13 (with Declaration of Honesty)