

Introduction to Literary Studies II

Course number: ENK.02223UB · **First session:** March 11, 2016

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

Lecturer: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stefan Brandt

Office Hours: Thursday, 4:00-6:00 p.m. (Room DG-0036) - **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. It is the main target of the course to show how a literary text can be analyzed with regard to a.) its **composition** (the text's structural elements, narrative strategies, etc.), b.) its **socio-cultural background** (namely, the way the text is embedded into a literary, historical, and social context), and c.) its **aesthetics** (that is, the effect upon readers, its reception by literary critics, etc.). 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.

Course Materials: All materials will be available on **Moodle**. In addition, please purchase copies of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (1925) and Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesman* (1949).

Assessment:

- 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 are also giving a **10-minute presentation**. (25% of final grade)
- C. **2-page research proposal** (due June 10); **final paper of 5-6 pages** (due July 8). (25% of final grade)
- D. **Final Exam** (Terminology, Guided Interpretation). (25% of final grade)

Important note: You need to receive at least a 'D-' ('4-') **in all four sections** in order to pass this class.

Deadline for Final Papers: Friday, July 8, 2016, in digital and printed form (together with declaration of honesty). Please send digital versions to Elisabeth Schneider at elisabeth.schneider@uni-graz.at. Printed versions should be sent to the Dept. of American Studies, KFU, Attemsgasse 25/II, A-8010 Graz (or thrown in our *post box* at the entrance of Attemsgasse 25).

Syllabus

11 March	INTRODUCTION – Literary Studies: A User-Friendly Guide Basic Texts (highly recommended): Ansgar & V. Nünning, <i>An Introduction to the Study of English and American Literature</i> , Glossary (see Moodle). Lois Tyson, overview of literary theories, from: <i>Critical Theory Today</i> (to be distributed in class).
18 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 (see Moodle). Additional text (recommended): Michael Meyer, "Narrative," from: <i>English and American Literatures</i> , ch. 3 (see Moodle).
15 April	GUEST LECTURES – Science Fiction and the Fantastic Additional texts (recommended): Definitions "Science Fiction" & "Fantastic" (see Moodle).
22 April	THE SHORT STORY – "The Yellow Wallpaper" Main texts (required): Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892) (see Moodle). Peter Barry, "Feminist Criticism," from: <i>Beginning Theory</i> (see Moodle). Additional texts (recommended): Ch. 5 from Nünning text (see Moodle; session on March 18). Lois Tyson, "Using Concepts from Feminist Theory to Understand Literature" (see Moodle).

- 29 April** **LITERARY THEORIES – MARXISM**
 Main texts (required):
 Herman Melville, "Bartleby [the Scrivener]" (1853) (see Moodle).
 Lois Tyson, "Using Concepts from Marxist Theory to Understand Literature" (see Moodle).
 Additional text (recommended):
 Peter Barry, "Marxist Criticism," from: *Beginning Theory* (see Moodle).
- 6 May** **THE NOVEL I – A Brief Introduction**
 Main texts (required):
 F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925) (please purchase book).
 Nünning text, ch. 5 (passages on the NOVEL; see Moodle, session on March 18).
- 13 May** **THE NOVEL II – CONTINUED**
 Main text (required):
 F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925) (please purchase book).
 Additional texts (recommended):
 Lois Tyson, "Marxist Criticism"/"Psychoanalytic Criticism"/"Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Criticism" (see Moodle).
- 20 May** **DRAMA I – Historical Development, Types and Conventions, Key Elements**
 Main texts (required):
 Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949) (please purchase book).
 Ansgar & Vera Nünning, *An Introduction to the Study of English and American Literature*, ch. 4 (see Moodle).
- 3 June** **NO CLASS!**
 Join the International Conference "In-Between: Liminal Spaces in Canadian Literature and Culture"
- INDEPENDENT STUDY UNIT – Research Proposal**
 Create a 2-page research proposal at home for a potential final paper (see document on Moodle) to be handed in on June 10.
- 10 June** **DRAMA II and CLOSING DISCUSSION**
 → **DUE DATE of RESEARCH PROPOSAL** (2 pages)
 Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949) (please purchase book).
 Nünning book, ch. 4 (see Moodle).
- 17 June** **FINAL EXAM – Terminology and Guided Interpretation**
- 24 June** **ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH I**
 Guidelines, Discussions, In-Class Work.
- 1 July** **ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH II and DISCUSSION of FINAL EXAM**
- 8 July** **DUE DATE of FINAL PAPER** (with Declaration of Honesty) via **email** and in **printed form** (see remarks above)
 No late submissions will be accepted!

 Deadline
 Research Proposal TODAY!

 Deadline
 Final Paper TODAY!