

Introduction to Literary Studies II

Course number: 512.205 · **First session:** March 13, 2015

Room and time: Seminar Room (Attemsgasse 25, Top Floor), Friday, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Lecturer: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stefan Brandt

Office Hours: Friday, 4:30-6 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 participants need to purchase a course reader (to be picked up at the secretary's office at Attemsgasse 25/2nd floor). In addition, please purchase copies of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (1925) and Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesman* (1949). Relevant additional texts will be made available on **Moodle**.

Assessment:

- A. **Regular attendance** (*no more than two absences*); active in-class *participation*. (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 April 24); **½-page abstract** (due June 12); **final paper of 8-10 pages** (due July 10). (25% of final grade)
- D. **Final Exam** (Terminology, Guided Interpretation). (25% of final grade)

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

Deadline for Final Papers: Tuesday, July 10, 2015 in digital and printed form (together with declaration of honesty). Please send digital versions to Manuela Neuwirth at manuela.neuwirth@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

- 13 March** **INTRODUCTION: Literary Studies – A User-Friendly Guide**
Basic Texts (highly recommended):
Ansgar & V. Nünning, *An Introduction to the Study of English and American Literature*, Glossary (see Course Reader).
Lois Tyson, overview of literary theories, from: *Critical Theory Today* (to be distributed in class).
- 20 March** **NARRATIVE PROSE – Introduction, Narrative Composition**
Main text (required):
Ansgar & Vera Nünning, *An Introduction to the Study of English and American Literature*, ch. 5 (see Course Reader).
Additional text (recommended):
Michael Meyer, "Narrative," from: *English and American Literatures*, ch. 3 (see Moodle).
- 27 March** **INDEPENDENT STUDY UNIT – Research Proposal**
Stay at home and create a 2-page research proposal for a potential final paper (see document on Moodle) to be handed in on April 24.

- 24 April** **THE SHORT STORY – “The Yellow Wallpaper”**
 Main texts (required):
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1892) (see Course Reader).
 Peter Barry, “Feminist Criticism,” from: *Beginning Theory* (see Course Reader).
 Additional texts (recommended):
 Ch. 5 from Nünning text (see Course Reader, session on March 20).
 Lois Tyson, “Using Concepts from Feminist Theory to Understand Literature” (see Course Reader).
 → **DUE DATE Research Proposal!**
- 8 May** **LITERARY THEORIES – MARXISM**
 Main texts (required):
 Herman Melville, “Bartleby [the Scrivener]” (1853) (see Course Reader).
 Lois Tyson, “Using Concepts from Marxist Theory to Understand Literature” (see Course Reader).
 Additional text (recommended):
 Peter Barry, “Marxist Criticism,” from: *Beginning Theory* (see Course Reader).
- 15 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 Course Reader, session on March 20).
- 22 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).
- 29 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 Course Reader).
- 12 June** **DRAMA II and CLOSING DISCUSSION**
 → **DUE DATE PAPER ABSTRACT** (½-page)
 Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949) (please purchase book).
 Nünning book, ch. 4 (see Course Reader).
- 19 June** **FINAL EXAM – Terminology and Guided Interpretation**
- 26 June** **ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH I**
 Guidelines, Discussions, In-Class Work.
- 3 July** **ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH II and DISCUSSION of FINAL EXAM**
- 10 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!