

Introduction to Literary Studies II

Course number: ENK.02221UB · **First session:** March 10, 2017

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

Lecturer: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stefan L. 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 May 12); **final paper of 5-6 pages** (due July 14). (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 14, 2017, in digital and printed form (together with declaration of honesty). There is no extension to this deadline!

Please send digital versions to Viola Moisesbichler at viola.moisesbichler@uni-graz.at. Printed versions should be sent to the Dept. of American Studies, KFU, Attems-gasse 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

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| 10 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). |
| 17 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). |
| 24 March | 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). |
| 31 March | 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).

7 April

POSTMODERNISM & MINORITY LITERATURES

Main text (required):
Sherman Alexie, "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven" (1993) (see Moodle).
Additional texts (recommended):
Definitions of "Ethnicity" (Bennett/Grossberg 2005; Brooker 2017) (see Moodle).

28 April

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).

05 May

Independent Study Unit- Write 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.

12 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).

Deadline
Research Proposal TODAY!

19 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).

26 May

DRAMA II and CLOSING DISCUSSION

Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1949) (please purchase book).
Nünning book, ch. 4 (see Moodle).

02 June

FINAL EXAM – Terminology and Guided Interpretation

09 June

ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH I

Finding a Topic; Steps of Research; Time Management; Online Databases.

23 June

ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH II and DISCUSSION of FINAL EXAM

Structure of a Final Paper; Cardinal Sins of Paper Writing.

Bring 2 library books to
TODAY's session!

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

30 June

ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH III

Close Reading; Grading.

FINAL PAPER DUE ON JULY 14 (with Declaration of Honesty)

Don't forget to check out books from our Department Library and use them!

