

Summer Semester 2024

Oberseminar: Literatur- und Kulturtheorie

Prof. Dr. Claudia Lillge

Das Oberseminar richtet sich an fortgeschrittene Studierende in der Examensphase, Doktoranden und Postdoktoranden aus dem Bereich Anglistische Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft. Es bietet allen Teilnehmenden ein Forum für die Präsentation, Diskussion und Weiterentwicklung von Qualifikations- und Forschungsprojekten. Darüber hinaus dient es der kritischen Auseinandersetzung mit aktuellen Forschungsthemen und -texten, die in die gemeinsame Vorbereitung des "Researcher in Residence"-Formats einmünden (Gast: Prof. Dr Henk de Berg, University of Sheffield).

Hauptseminar: Cultures of Work in Literature, Film, and Photography

Prof. Dr. Claudia Lillge

Work has become central to most people's self-conception. We will ask how work and the British working class have been represented in the media in the second half of the 20th century, a period marked by the decline of the manual working class and the emergence of a largely service-based economy. In the 1990s the success of Mark Herman's *BRASSED OFF* (1996) and Peter Cattaeno's *THE FULL MONTY* (1997) shows how popular comedy can arise from painful social transformation, while in the 1960s the impact of Ken Loach's TV play *CATHY COME HOME* (1966) changed the law. We will focus on close readings and discussions of literary texts, (TV) films and photographs that depict the social organization of work, the subjective experience of work, the relationship between work and community, work and unemployment, and the divided spaces of household and workplace. We will also examine the ways in which fiction reflects, problematizes, and transforms social problems.

Hauptseminar: Introduction to Literary and Cultural Animal Studies

Prof. Dr. Claudia Lillge

Animals are central to our lives. They are domesticated and used for clothing and food, kept as pets, hunted for subsistence and sport, deified in religions, and exhibited in zoos and museums. Literary and Cultural Animal Studies explore and question these various human-animal relationships. Additionally, they reflect on the specific conditions and contexts in which animals are treated with sympathy, compassion, care, and violence. This seminar aims to introduce you to some key texts about human-animal encounters by John Berger, Bruno Latour, Jacques Derrida, and Donna Haraway. We will also focus on literature, documentaries, feature films, and photography, respectively, their aesthetic forms in order to ask how animals are represented and what relationships exist between real and imaginary animals. In these diverse contexts, we will examine how Literary and Cultural studies offer a unique set of perspectives for addressing pressing questions in a more than human world (such as animal rights and the ethical treatment of animals).

Proseminar: Anglophone Postcolonial Literatures

Dr. Dennis Hennebühl

This seminar aims to provide students with a first introduction to the large field of postcolonial literatures written in the English language. After a brief introduction to postcolonial studies as well as its key concepts and thinkers, the main focus of the seminar then lies on the analysis of selected literary

texts that will serve as case studies. A key focus of this course lies on the different textual strategies (rewriting/writing back, history writing, place writing, life writing) that are commonly employed in literature from this field. In addition, we will also employ key concepts from postcolonial studies to the texts discussed in class. Overall, the course attempts to capture the diversity and wide range of the field of postcolonial literatures which comprises texts written by authors with different geographical and cultural backgrounds (Caribbean, Indian, African, South East Asian, Irish, etc.) as well as different genres (we will mostly be looking at narrative fiction and poetry). Further identity categories such as gender, ethnicity, class, etc. will also be taken into consideration in our discussions.

Proseminar: A Journey Through Fantasy: *The Hobbit* and *Philosopher's Stone*

Alina Aulbur

Fantasy is a genre full of variety and surprises. It offers its readers countless different worlds that seemingly deviate widely from our known reality. Hence, the genre as a whole tends to be belittled as pure escapism of questionable literary worth. This seminar aims at doing away with such prejudices by treating two widely beloved classics of modern fantasy literature: J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. From structural questions – classical topoi of fantasy literature can be linked back to ancient myths and folktales – all the way up to environmentalist implications, we will study these works through a variety of lenses to highlight the multi-faceted nature of the genre.

Proseminar: Literary Representation of the Shoah (2)

Marlene Compton

Building on the course from the winter semester 2023/24, we will be deepening our understanding of the different ways the Shoah, the murder of the European Jewry, is represented in arts and culture in this class. Following the premise that literature alongside other artistic forms has an immense impact on our cultural memory, there is much to gain from analyzing works that deal with the atrocities and consequences of the rule of the Nazi Party. These types of analyses require approaches from the fields of ethics, history and philosophy in addition to our primary focus, literary and cultural studies. We will concentrate on the question of the aestheticization of the Shoah, genre conventions and considerations as well as what it means to engage with the past from today's point of view, where the influence of survivors, of direct testimonies, on our discourse and memorial practices, is decreasing significantly, and what art, specifically, can offer us in this regard. With a guided tour through Erlangen, we will enhance our sense of history of the Nazi era on a local level.

Proseminar: Queer Literature through the Ages

Marlene Compton

While we can trace textual evidence of same-sex desire back to antiquity, the idea of homosexuality or queerness as part of one's identity as opposed to limited to behavioral patterns and/or specific sexual acts is extremely recent by comparison, only about 150 years old. This, of course, raises a few questions when analyzing texts that are labeled as queer from before this conceptualization of queerness: What makes a text queer? Is the presence of queer characters sufficient? Does the author need to be (publicly, self-identified as) queer themselves? How do we deal with the anachronistic application of labels to texts and people? Using these questions to guide us, we will read texts by (British) authors that deal with queerness from Shakespeare through the Victorian Era to

contemporary works including various genres and approach them using the extensive toolkit provided by the field of Queer Studies for our analysis and discussions.

Examensseminar: Shakespeare

Dr. Christian Krug

Wir werden in diesem Seminar ausgewählte Szenen aus Shakespeares Historien, Komödien, Tragödien und Romanzen analysieren. Außerdem werden wir uns mit Dichtungs- und Dramentraditionen sowie mit theater- und ideengeschichtlichen Kontexten beschäftigen.

Kombiseminar: Textuality

Dr. Christian Krug

'Text' and 'textuality' are central concepts in both Linguistics and Cultural Studies. The analysis of 'texts' is the objective of both disciplines. But what *is* a 'text'? This seminar aims to find out whether Linguistics and Cultural Studies share the same assumptions about what constitutes 'texts', and why (not) – and how they attempt to make sense of them (approaches, methods, and terminology). Joint texts used in both parts of this seminar will be William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* as well as Ted Lewis' *Get Carter*. You should have read these texts before classes begin in mid-October.

Aufbauseminar: Literature

Dr. Christian Krug, Alina Aulbur

Building on the knowledge acquired in *Grundseminar Literature*, this class serves as an introduction to literary theory. We will discuss several approaches and methods in depth and critically analyze their potential and limits by applying them to exemplary primary texts. In doing so, we will also reflect on how these different approaches and methods impact our understanding of literature.

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Grundseminar: Culture

Dr. Christian Krug

This seminar provides a first insight into the field of contemporary Cultural Studies, with a special emphasis on definitions of culture and on the different approaches and methods of cultural analysis. The course also introduces students to special topics such as Media Studies, constructions of otherness, the role of myths in the production of social meaning, and Gender Studies.