

B.A. Courses English Studies, 2nd Semester

English Literatures and Cultures: Basics

Dr. Indrani Karmakar

S: Theories and Methods

271432-202

Content

This course provides an accessible introduction to the theories and methods in literary studies and its four pillars: author, text, reader, and context. We will engage in critical investigations of five influential theoretical approaches in our field: Marxism, Psychoanalysis, Gender and Queer Theory, New Criticism and Formalism, and Postcolonial Studies. For each of these five areas, there will be a discussion of a seminal theoretical text in the first week, followed by a hands-on session in the second week, in which we will use the theoretical/methodological framework to analyse a given literary text (a poem or a short story). In addition, the seminar will provide students with useful tools and methods to analyse literary texts.

Objectives

Like all scientists, scholars of literature need methods in order to engage with their objects of study (i.e. literary texts). The methods and theories presented in this seminar will enable students to study literature from different perspectives and with greater precision than before. In other words, we will put the "Wissenschaft" into "Literaturwissenschaft".

Prerequisites

Successful completion of the lecture *Introduction to the Study of Literatures in English*.

Requirements for credits

Active participation in every session of the class is expected (there will be regular in class reading quizzes). PL (for B_AA__2): Term paper (10-12 pages) (see Studienordnung, p. 291), PL (for SELAEn6, B_Pä__4).

Set texts

A reader with seminal material will be made available at the beginning of the semester.

Registration

Please register via email (indrani.karmakar@phil.tu-chemnitz.de) with your name, matriculation number, study programme, semester and the title of this seminar by **28 March**.

English Literatures and Cultures: Contexts

Prof. Dr. Cecile Sandten

V: History of Literatures in English: From Romanticism to the Present 271432-201

B_AA__2, SELAEn6, B_Ge__2, B_Ge__4, SGPhiISS, ERASMUS

Content

This lecture course provides an overview of literary history primarily in Great Britain. It covers literary movements such as Romanticism, Victorianism, Edwardianism, Modernism, Postmodernism, and Postcolonialism. The lecture course will focus on selected texts that represent each historical period, and the literary movement associated with this time period. In addition, the course will introduce students to the governing principles of English literature that shaped its literary heritage and history.

Objectives

Prior to introducing the key figures of the literary movements, each period will be situated in its historical and cultural contexts. As such, the lectures will move beyond mere factual introductions to both contextualise and characterise the socio-political predicaments of the respective literary figures and genres.

Prerequisites: History of Literatures in English I (except ERASMUS and students not enrolled

in English Studies)

Requirements for credits/Type of module exam

As part of the credit points, regular participation is strongly recommended. In addition, students are expected to read the assigned texts for the lecture course. For the successful completion of this course, students must give an oral presentation scheduled during the exam period (PL: BA_AA_2; ERASMUS (Prüfungsnummer: 71337). SELAEn6 students must write three lecture minutes from three lectures of their choice (processing time: three weeks after the end of the lecture period).

Required Textbook

Poplawski, Paul (ed.) (2017): *English Literature in Contexts*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

A reader with primary texts will be made available at the beginning of the semester in a reader (via OPAL).

Registration:

Please register for this course on OPAL till **3 April 2025**:
<https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/opal/auth/RepositoryEntry/48046833667>

B.A. Courses English Studies, 4th Semester

English Literatures and Cultures in Practice: English Literatures and Cultures

Dr. Indrani Karmakar

S: Postcolonial Rewrites: Intertextuality and Writing Back

271432-203

B_AA_4, SELAEn4, B_Ko_4, B_Pä_4, SGPhilSS, Erasmus

Content:

One of the key concerns within postcolonial literary criticism has been to examine how writers from formerly colonised countries have written back to the canonical texts of English literature – a literary act aptly captured by the title of the book *The Empire Writes Back* by Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin. Building on the knowledge of adaptation from the previous semester, this seminar examines the concept of 'postcolonial writing back' across the genres of the novel, drama and poetry. Through an in-depth study of two pairs of texts – Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* as well as Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and David Dabydeen's Miranda poems from *Coolie Odyssey* – this seminar analyzes how these literary texts connect to each other and what implications these connections have in terms of literary forms, aesthetics and politics.

Objectives:

Students will develop an understanding of the crucial tenets of postcolonial criticism. Examining the historical and literary framework these narratives reflect and represent, students will be able to address not only the concept of intertextuality but also its application in the context of migration, postcolonialism and gender.

Prerequisites

Students must have successfully completed the modules *English Literatures and Cultures: Basics* and *English Literatures and Cultures: Contexts* (does not apply to visiting students).

Set Texts (These texts need to be purchased)

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

William Shakespeare, *Tempest*

David Dabydeen's *Coolie Odyssey*

Registration

Please register via email (indrani.karmakar@phil.tu-chemnitz.de) with your name, matriculation number, study programme, semester and the title of this seminar by **28 March**.

Advanced English Literatures and Cultures: Research Seminar / English Literatures and Cultures: Research Seminar [ALT]

Dr. Mandy Beck

BA_AA_4, BA_AA_6, SELAEn6, KEIN Erasmus

Seminar: Graphic Novels

(271432-206)

Contents

The graphic novel, despite of being a relatively new category and originating only in the late 1980s, has by now become one of the most popular forms of sequential art in book-length form. As such, it is often grouped together with comic strips, comic books and related art forms, because it shares many physical and aesthetic characteristics with them. At the same time, the graphic novel is often more complex, offering a bounded narrative, with a story arc that has a beginning, middle and end. Indeed, it is a format that encompasses very diverse genres – mystery and crime, science fiction and fantasy, romance, historical fiction, war and politics, contemporary realism, mythology and religion, etc. – and including fictional as well as nonfictional works. Like many other sequential art narratives, the graphic novel presents itself through the combined forces of image and word, where images are not merely illustrations that repeat the text, but rather carry information that is not revealed verbally. Similarly, the verbal content provides information not presented in the image.

In this seminar, we want to explore the different forms and genres of the graphic novel, by discussing major works and authors (e.g. Daniel Clowes, Nail Garman, Frank Miller, Art Spiegelman), besides looking at examples from other countries (e.g. Jeff Lemire, Istvan Banyai, Pascal Blanchet or Shaun Tan). We will also discuss how to “read” graphic novels by exercising multiple literacies, i.e. verbal and nonverbal decoding.

Objectives

Students will be made familiar with the origins, development, form and conventions of graphic novels – and sequential art in general. They will learn to apply traditional textual decoding skills as well as understanding images by interpreting facial and body language, the use of white space and shading, the flow of panels and the way a fluid narrative is constructed via images that are actually static (compared to film). In addition, the seminar enables students to choose from a wide range of graphic novels that also vary with regard to their target readership.

Prerequisites:

BA 4: none

BA 6: In order to participate, students of English and American Studies need to have completed the *Kernmodul 2.3 English Literatures and Cultures I* and *2.4 English Literatures and Cultures II* successfully.

Requirements for Credit:

General: Active participation in every session of the class based on students’ close readings of the selected texts is required.

BA 6: For the PVL, each student can either do an oral presentation (approx. 20 minutes) or complete a written task (1500-2000 words). The module will be completed with an oral exam of 30 minutes (one topic from this seminar and one topic from the research colloquium).

SELAEn6: Students need to choose a topic for an oral presentation (15 minutes) with a poster.

Set Texts

A reading list will be announced at the beginning of the seminar. A selection of readings will be made available via OPAL.

Registration

Please register via OPAL by **4 April**:

<https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/opal/auth/RepositoryEntry/48611262472>

B.A. Courses English Studies, 6th Semester

Spezialisierungsmodul 5.2 [ALT]

Prof. Dr. Cecile Sandten

K: Examenskolloquium Anglistische Literaturwissenschaft 271432-208

B_AA__6, SELAEn8

Content

The Research Colloquium is open to students who are preparing for their final oral and written exams. It is intended to give students a platform to present their projects and to raise questions and/or difficulties they may be facing at an early stage of their research. Further, students are encouraged to engage in critical discussions and gain feedback from their peers concerning their research projects. We will also discuss a wide range of general topics and individual topics as well as theoretical and primary texts required for final exams.

Requirements for credits

The format of this seminar consists of a close reading of theoretical and primary texts, of discussions and presentations of students' own writings (e.g. title, abstract, introduction). Each student will present an oral report about their thesis (approx. 15 minutes).

Set Texts/Required Reading

A reader with seminal material will be made available in due course.

Registration

Please register for this course on OPAL till **3 April 2025**:
<https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/opal/auth/RepositoryEntry/43617124364>

M.A. Courses English Studies, 2nd Semester

Cultural Skills: Cultural Representations in/and Practice

Prof. Dr. Cecile Sandten

S: Tales of Transformation: Fictions of the South Asian City 271432-204

M_AA__2, M_GI__2, SGPhilSS

Content

This seminar explores the role of narrative in shaping urban identities, with a focus on cities undergoing significant transformation. Using South Asian urban poetry and (graphic) fiction as a lens, students will examine how literature engages with historical shifts, socio-political struggles, and processes of reimagination in postcolonial metropolises like Delhi or Kolkata. The seminar, however, is part of a broader academic initiative linked to the special exhibition "Tales of Transformation" at the Industriemuseum Chemnitz (25 April – 16 November 2025). In collaboration with Daniela Zupan's (Bauhaus University Weimar) seminar on "Tales of Transformation: Post-Socialist Eastern European Cities", we will investigate urban transformation in a wider geographic context through workshops, lectures, site visits, museum tours, and creative research projects.

Objectives

The seminar will first focus on theoretical approaches to urban studies (e.g. heterotopias, flâneur, "wandersmann", thirdspace, or city planning), to contribute to urban studies, and in a second step examine the ways literature engages with historical shifts, socio-political struggles, urban reimaginings and literary representations. A key focus will be on the comparison of transformation processes in postcolonial and (in conjunction with the Weimar students) post-socialist urban contexts, allowing for a broader understanding of urban change across different historical and cultural settings. As part of the seminar programme, participants will take part

in two workshops, the first one in Weimar and the second one in Chemnitz, where they will attend expert lectures, museum tours, a film presentation and discussions, as well as student presentations. The workshops/excursions are scheduled as follows:

Bauhaus University Weimar: 8 – 9 May 2025

TU Chemnitz: 5 – 6 June 2025 (Industriemuseum Chemnitz)

Final organisational aspects will follow as soon as possible.

Prerequisites

Students must have completed the first part of the module “Cultural Encounters”.

Requirements for credits/Type of module exam

Active participation in every session of the class is expected. Group work is part of the PL assessment. A final group presentation is scheduled for 6 June 2025.

Set Texts/Required Reading

Banerjee, Sarnath: *Corridor: A Graphic Novel*. New Delhi: Penguin Global, 2004.

Chaudhuri, Amit: *A New World: A Novel*. New York: Vintage Books, 2000.

Desai, Anita: “The Rooftop Dwellers”. In: Desai, Anita. *Diamond and Dust and Other Stories*. London: Vintage, 2001 [2000], 160-207.

Seminal material will be made available in the OPAL course.

Registration

Please register for this course on OPAL till **3 April 2025**:

<https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/opal/auth/RepositoryEntry/48046833668>

English Literatures: Reading the Canon and Beyond

Dr. Mandy Beck

S: Experimental Poetry and Creative Writing

MA_AA_2, M_SM__2

Content

This seminar explores the fascinating world of experimental poetry from modernism to the contemporary, examining how poets have challenged conventional forms of expression, including forms of concrete poetry, visual poetry, abstract poetry, sound poetry and more. Alongside this literary exploration, students will probe their own creative potential through a strong focus on creative writing. The seminar includes a creative writing workshop with the British writer Julia Davis (in the week of 16-20 June, tba) offering students the unique opportunity to develop their own texts in a guided and inspiring environment. Julia Davis focuses strongly on material objects, using them as a trigger for creating and imagining poetic (past) situations. Additionally, the course features an exciting collaboration with the Art Academy Schneeberg, where we will work with the professor of textile art and textile design. This partnership will explore the intersection of “text” in literary studies and textile arts, focusing on the theme of “blackout” – a creative inquiry into what can be done when energy sources fail, from mechanical typewriters to mechanical weaving. Both foci will enhance students’ creative writing competence.

Objectives

By looking at texts by George Herbert, Edith Sitwell, Stevie Smith, T.S. Eliot, Bob Cobbing, Edwin Morgan, Anne Sexton and others, students will explore different forms of experimenting with the genre of poetry. They will develop creative writing skills through practice, peer feedback, and professional guidance. They will explore interdisciplinary connections between literary text and textile art and reflect on themes of creativity, sustainability, and adaptation in response to challenges like energy scarcity.

Prerequisites

Students have passed the module part “Postcolonial Theories and Methods”.

Requirements for Credit:

Active participation in every session of the class based on students’ close readings of the selected texts is required. Students must write a term paper of 15-20 pages to complete the

module part *Reading the Canon and Beyond*.

Set Texts

Most readings will be made available via OPAL.

Registration

Please register via OPAL by **4 April**:

<https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/opal/auth/RepositoryEntry/48611262473>

M.A. Courses English Studies, 4th Semester

Master Thesis: Research Colloquium English Literatures

Prof. Dr. Cecile Sandten

K: Examenskolloquium Anglistische Literaturwissenschaft 271432-208

M_AA__4

Content

The Research Colloquium is open to students who are preparing for their final oral and written exams. It is intended to give students a platform to present their projects and to raise questions and/or difficulties they may be facing at an early stage of their research. Further, students are encouraged to engage in critical discussions and gain feedback from their peers concerning their research projects. We will also discuss a wide range of general topics and individual topics as well as theoretical and primary texts required for final exams.

Requirements for credits

The format of this seminar consists of a close reading of theoretical and primary texts, of discussions and presentations of students' own writings (e.g. title, abstract, introduction). Each student will present an oral report about their thesis (approx. 15 minutes).

Set Texts/Required Reading

A reader with seminal material will be made available in due course.

Registration

Please register for this course on OPAL till **3 April 2025**:

<https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/opal/auth/RepositoryEntry/43617124364>

Other

Prof. Dr. Cecile Sandten

271432-D108

Doctoral Colloquium

4-tägiges Blockseminar jeweils, 9.00-16.30 Uhr

Meetings will be arranged individually.

Raum: RH 233 or 022 (and online)

Content:

This course aims to provide support for post-graduate students who are developing their dissertation ideas and first draft outlines. The focus of this seminar will be on research in English Literature (including close readings of secondary theoretical texts and primary texts, but also the students' own written work). Post-graduate candidates who engage in interdisciplinary approaches and topics beyond English Literature are most welcome to participate to enhance the group's interdisciplinary awareness.

Objectives:

This seminar will also offer special supervision through individual counseling. Moreover, the seminar will support doctoral and post-doctoral candidates on a professional level, especially with regard to topics such as scholarly writing for publication, pedagogic issues of teaching at university level, as well as information on how to apply for positions in the job market. In addition, support to present their work at (international) conferences will be given, as well as information on careers and funding support for scholarship applications and opportunities for gaining key supplementary qualifications.

Prerequisites:

Participants must have completed a Master or Doctoral thesis graded at least 2,0.