

Literature Department Course Offerings Summer Term 2022

A. Bachelor Program

Orientation Module Literature:

Course	Title	Lecturer
S 32200-S22 (Introductory module on literary analysis)	Introduction to Literature II	Tobias Jochum Tue 14:00-12:06, R 201

This seminar is meant to complement “Introduction to Literature I” by further familiarizing students with modes and genres of literary production. We will read and analyze canonized and marginalized works of 19th to 21st-Century American literature, focusing on short fiction, literary nonfiction, graphic novels, oral traditions and political speech. Incorporating an intersectional framework among other methodological approaches, the seminar equips students with a toolbox to be used throughout their studies.

Advanced Module B—Literary Forms

Course	Title	Lecturer
VS 32201-S22	American Theatre	Birte Wege Wed 12-14, R 319

This seminar will offer an introduction to and overview of American Theatre in the twentieth century. We will combine theoretical readings from literary studies and theatre studies with a range of primary texts, juxtaposing canonical pieces with lesser-known, yet equally significant experimental works. We will explore the possibilities of the dramatic form in historical context and analyze how American theatre engaged and continues to engage with the dominant political issues of the day, operating, as Theresa Saxon observes, “as a platform for examining construction of racial, ethnic, gendered, national and ultimately human identities.” Playwrights to be discussed will include (but are not limited to) Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Lillian

Hellman, Edward Albee, Ntozake Shange, María Irene Fornés, and Tony Kushner.

VS 32202-S22	Unruly Bodies: Embodiment in Recent Short Fiction	Julie Dickson Mon 12-14, R 203
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Literature has always been concerned with matters of the flesh. In fact, its ability to bring together multiple and even conflicting discourses is one reason it can tell us so much about how we conceptualize the body at any given point in time. But recent years have been especially exciting in this regard. There has been an unprecedented (and long-needed!) increase in publication from and about marginalized perspectives, and that specifically situates these perspectives as embodied. This seminar will consider a range of such writing, including stories from BIPOC, queer and trans authors; writing that deals with disability, body size and with bodies that change through ageing, illness and maternity; and writing that imagines different and often posthuman bodies. Our selection will focus on fiction about "unruly bodies"--those that do not or will not conform to North American traditional norms. We will read two novels and several short stories, along with theoretical texts that can help us think through specific issues of representation. The aim is to first encounter this rich plurality and then to explore how we might approach it as scholars. Last but not least, we will consider the mode of representation itself--after all, there is no body in the text!--through close readings and creative assignments. What can we begin to say about how literature is representing bodies today?

VS 32202-S22	Echoes of the Jazz Age: Reading F. Scott Fitzgerald in 2022	Tobias Jochum Fri 12-14, Seminarraum 2, Villa
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The world in turmoil; a palpable shifting of paradigms. Technological innovations are reshaping the experience of space and time. A new stage of turbo capitalism has amassed an unprecedented concentration of wealth at the top, stretching thin the social contract in liberal democracies. Political polarization is reaching fever pitch: mobilizing around a perceived loss of inherent privilege, forces of white supremacy lash out violently. Entrenched gender roles and sexual mores evaporate into new liberties, while a culture war rages between voices of reason and progress and an invigorated reactionary right. A young generation is coming of age into a changed world. It is an anxious time of apocalyptic warnings. The days of decadence and carefree diversion seem numbered as economic depression and global calamity loom.

The new twenties of today bear more than a passing resemblance to the Jazz Age that F. Scott Fitzgerald so memorably chronicled. The role of literature

itself, on the other hand, has in the meantime changed dramatically. As we count the centennial of the full arrival of Anglo-American literary Modernism (*The Wasteland* and *Ulysses* headline the literary milestones published in 1922) this seminar revisits Fitzgerald's oeuvre, guided by the central question: In what way does Fitzgerald, an author tied to a particular era like few others, speak to our own time and predicaments today? The course will explore Fitzgerald's life and works in his own context first—against the social and cultural history of the interwar period—and then engage his novels and short fiction through a number of critical lenses and close readings, including Marxist and intersectional approaches (focussed on class, race and gender), ecocriticism and affect theory, along themes ranging from addiction and celebrity to masculinity and fascism.

B. Master Program

Course	Title	Lecturer
Module B (Literary Theory) HS/S 32210-S22	Theories	Ulla Haselstein Wed 10-12, R 319
<p>In this seminar, we will explore a wide range of theories and methods which have been relevant to twentieth-century literary and cultural studies. These include critical theory, formalism, structuralism, poststructuralism, new historicism, reception aesthetics, postcolonial studies, black studies, and gender studies, among others. The aim of this seminar is both to provide an overview of various critical practices and to foster a historically informed understanding of the methods and theories relevant to the study of literature and culture.</p>		
Module A/C (Literary History/ Textual Analysis) HS/S 32212-S22	Visions of Everyday Life	Ulla Haselstein Thu 14-16, R 201
<p>The rise of the novel as a modern genre is closely connected to the representation of everyday life and its routines. We will discuss some sociological works about the social construction of everyday life in the 20th century, and compare these analytic insights with novels such as "Manhattan Transfer", "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit", "Revolutionary Road", and</p>		

"Something Happens", which use a variety of stylistic devices to portray mundane spaces, rituals, activities and affects.

Module A/C HS 32215-S22 (Literary Theory/Textual Analysis)	Shakespeare in America	Birte Wege Wed 12-14, R 201
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No single author has shaped English-language literature as extensively as William Shakespeare; accordingly, familiarity with his work is essential for those pursuing literary studies. But what is his relevance for those studying American literature and culture in particular? This seminar is dedicated to answering this question. We will read and analyze a selection of Shakespeare's original plays (the likely list is Hamlet, The Tempest, Othello, Richard III, and The Taming of the Shrew). Using these works as starting points, we will examine their relevance for discussions in the American context of topics such as race and colonialism, gender roles, and structural power. We will look at the production history of select plays, connect them to current literary and cultural theories, and examine a range of works from American popular culture – from RomComs to cyberpunk novels – that are either adaptations or heavily influenced by themes in the originals.

Module A/C HS 32216-S22 (Literary Theory/Textual Analysis)	Frontera Fictions: Literature and the US- Mexico Borders	Tobias Jochum Tue 10-12, R 203
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This course will provide an overview of writing from and about the U.S.-Mexico border, considered in light of the region's transnational history of (neo)colonial subjugation and extraction, militarization and migration, and political resistance. Adopting a hemispheric approach, we will engage with a range of literatures and cultural productions from both sides of the line in order to gain a nuanced understanding of the real and imagined border as multiple and mutable, immersed in a continuous process of reinvention through (re)negotiations of space, class, gender, sexuality, and race. Our primary readings include pioneering works by Chicana authors (Oscar Zeta Acosta, Gloria Anzaldúa, Sandra Cisneros), a selection of short stories by canonical Mexican authors and contemporary border writers (Juan Rulfo, Rosario Sanmiguel, Benjamin Alire Sáenz), as well as celebrated recent novels by Roberto Bolaño, Yuri Herrera, and Valeria Luiselli. The narrative works will be supplemented with journalistic and academic interventions by, among others, Sandra Rodríguez Nieto, Oscar Martínez, Cristina Rivera Garza, Heriberto Yépez, Sayak Valencia, Rossana Reguillo, Dawn Paley, and Harsha Walia, as we grapple with the ethical demands for representation and

explore the complex ways in which the border speaks to our contemporary moment of global crisis.		
Interdisciplinary Studies 1/2 - Seminar 32115-S22	Graphic Narratives	Birte Wege/ Christina Meyer Thu 10-12, R 203
<p>As the recent uproar about the book-ban for Art Spiegelman’s Pulitzer Prize-winning work MAUS shows, comics remain a contentious topic. They are frequently derided as low-brow, kid’s stuff, a threat to literacy or even to moral values. Fans and scholars alike, meanwhile, see them as – often avant-garde – work that is uniquely situated to engage with political and social issues of their day, beyond what is available for other modes of expression. This seminar will provide an introduction and overview to the works of the broad category of ‘graphic narrative.’ We will combine theory readings from comics-, literary-, and cultural studies with key primary texts in each session, ranging from early comic strips and wordless novels to superheroes, underground comix, and the many iterations of the graphic novel genre produced in the last three decades. We will examine the work of, amongst others, George Herriman, Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster, R.Crumb, Art Spiegelman, The Hernandez Brothers, Alison Bechdel, Ho Che Anderson, and Lynda Barry.</p>		
Master Colloquium Literatur/Kultur 32214-S22	M.A. Colloquium Literature/Culture	Ulla Haselstein Tue 12-14, R 203
<p>This colloquium is primarily designed for M.A. students getting ready to write a thesis and complete the same within the next semester. If you are not ready to prepare yourself for this task, you should not yet sign up for this course.</p>		
Research Colloquium Culture/Literature 32616-S20	Research Colloquium Culture/Literature	Haselstein/Starre Wed 18:00-20:00
<p>Each summer semester, the Department of Culture and the Department of Literature organize a joint research colloquium with international speakers. This course is addressed chiefly to Ph.D. students, post-docs, visiting scholars, and faculty members, but it is open to B.A. and M.A. students and the general public as well. It cannot be taken for credit; it is not an “M.A.-Kolloquium.” For details, please see poster and program (online).</p>		

C. GSNAS

Lehrangebot der GSNAS V 32210	Literary Theory	Ulla Haselstein Thu 18:00-20:00
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This class is for members of the Graduate School of North American Studies and faculty only.		