

Course Booklet

Spring Semester 2017

20 February – 2 June 2017



Beaches, islands and ports – Investigate the spaces where water meets land from the perspectives of language, linguistics, literary and cultural studies.

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Cover photo taken by Prof. Dr. Thomas Claviez, on the Greek island Rhodes.

Table of Contents

Introduction	6-7
Important Information	8-9
Who To Ask	10
Academic Staff	11
Administrative Staff	12

BACHELOR STUDIES	13
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Language Foundation Module	13
Modern English Grammar II	13
Writing Skills II	14
Focus Module: Language and Literature on the Waterfront	15
Lecture: On the Waterfront	15
Seminar: A Sociolinguistics of Islands	16
Seminar: Beach Cultures and Ethnographic Methods: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology	17-18
Seminar: 'Water-lands' – Islands in Medieval Literature	19
Seminar: Britannia Rules the Waves? Exploration, Domination and Resistance in (Post)Colonial Literature	20
Seminar: Victorian Waterfronts	21
Focus Module: The Sounds of English	22
Lecture: Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology	22
Seminar: Sound Variation in British English	23
Seminar: Shifts and Mergers in American English	24
Seminar: Phonology in Context	25
Focus Module: Popular Cultures	26
Lecture: Popular Culture: Theories, Media, and Case Studies	26
Seminar: "To be continued...": The Serialized Narrative	27
Seminar: Criminal Imagination: Crime Fiction in American Literature and Culture	28
Seminar: "Bound Together by Our Mutual Distaste for Everything Else": A Seminar in (Anti-)Pop-Culture	29
Other Courses	30
Workshop: Reading Film	30
Workshop: Reading the Romantics	31
Workshop: Reading (some of) Shakespeare's Greatest Plays	32
Workshop: Creative Writing	33
Workshop: Page to Stage	34
Workshop: Miracles, Mystics and Monasteries: Religion and Literature in Medieval England	35

Lecture / Wahlbereich Lecture: BMZ: Materialität – Immaterialität. Objekte und ihre Bedeutung / Materiality – Immateriality. Objects and their Significance	36-37
Wahlbereich Lecture: Collegium Generale: Visionen	38-39
Bachelor Colloquia	40
Bachelor Colloquium: Linguistics	40
Bachelor Colloquium: North American Literature	41
Bachelor Colloquium: Medieval and Modern English Literature	42
ARL Oral Exam	43
Advanced Reading List in Linguistics and Literature	43
MASTER STUDIES	44
Specialisation Linguistics	44
Lecture: On the Waterfront	44
Lecture: Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology	45
Seminar: Discovering Gibraltar English	46-47
Seminar: Elite Discourse: Language, Class, Privilege	48-49
Seminar: Language Attitudes	50
Specialisation Literature	51
Lecture: Conceptualizing Cosmopolitanism and World Literature	51
Lecture: On the Waterfront	52
Lecture: Popular Culture: Theories, Media, and Case Studies	53
Lecture: BMZ: Materialität – Immaterialität. Objekte und ihre Bedeutung / Materiality – Immateriality. Objects and their Significance	54-55
Seminar: Ethics and Justice in U.S.-American Literature and Film	56
Seminar: The Shelley-Byron Circle in Switzerland	57
Seminar: Blood, Wounds, Scars – The Inscribed Body in Medieval and Early Modern Literature	58
Seminar: Reading Medieval Books: The Case of London, British Library MS Harley 2253	59
Seminar: Contemporary South Asian Novel in English	60
Seminar: Gender and Text: Toward Liberation	61
Other Courses	62
Workshop: Exploring Microfiction	62
Workshop: Reading Victorian Literature	63
Workshop: Miracles, Mystics and Monasteries: Religion and Literature in Medieval England	64
Workshop: Walking in the City: Literary Imaginings of London, 1700-2000	65
Master Forums	66
Master Forum: Linguistics	66
Master Forum: North American Literature	67

DOCTORAL STUDIES**69****PhD Colloquia****69**

PhD and Research Colloquium: Language Variation

69

PhD and Research Colloquium: Language and Communication

69

PhD and Research Colloquium: Key Issues in American Studies

70

PhD and Research Colloquium: Literature

70

PhD and Research Colloquium: Modern English Literature

71

PhD and Research Colloquium: Medieval Studies

71

Staff Research Interests and Professional Activities

72-74

Students' Committee

75

List of E-Mails of Staff Members

76

Timetable Spring Semester 2017

77

Introduction

Dear students,

Many of us are probably still under the influence of the election night last November, and it seems as if Obama's (over-?)optimistic „Yes we can!“ has, for some of us, been replaced by a somber “Hope he won't” as regards his successor. But Plato reminded us that democracy can be compared to drawing straws. We'll see what the US has drawn.

À propos winning and losing: We are welcoming some new staff members, as well as having to say good-bye to others. We very much regret that Nadja Gernalzick decided to leave us, as she brought a new portfolio of research interests and teaching topics into the institute. We are happy, however, to welcome Julia Straub, a long-standing member of our institute and experienced teacher, in her new position as lecturer. Someone to also have left us is Nia Stephens-Metcalf, who was the directors' assistant. She will be replaced by Bettina Müller in this responsible position. Christina Cavedon, my long-time assistant and project coordinator, leaves us for the greener pastures of the University of Lucerne, where she is now coordinating the Graduate Program in the humanities. Waylon Weber has also left us, and is being replaced by Ryan Kopaitich as study counsellor. Irmi Huber received an early postdoc mobility grant and will be leaving us for Cambridge in January, as will/have our post-doc assistant Kellie Gonçalves (Down Under is beckoning!) and the Ph.D. students Chris Neuenschwander and Laura Tresch.

We welcome back Ursula Kluwick Kälin, who will return from her MHV Grant and maternity leave and will take up her new post as Oberassistentin with Virginia Richter. Viola Marchi will be a new assistant with Gabriele Rippl starting this term, while Sarah Grossenbacher has taken up an assistantship with Dave Britain.

In addition, we welcome Stephanie Hoppeler, Margaret Mace-Tessler, Frank Michael and Ravi Vidya, replacing Gabriele Rippl, who will be on leave due to a Morphomata scholarship she was granted. We also say hello to the new tutors Lobsang Gammeter, Danielle Tod and Francesca Ribolini.

We are proud to inform you that Zoë Lehmann received the renowned Marie Heim-Vögtlin Prize, and congratulations also go to Marijke Denger, who successfully submitted and defended her Ph.D thesis on "Caring for Community: Towards a New Ethics of Responsibility in Contemporary Postcolonial Novels" last semester. She is now an assistant with Virginia Richter. Moreover, the research platform "Original und Kopie: Ästhetiken und Techniken von Reproduzierbarkeit," organized by Gabriele Rippl, has also been prolonged for one semester, while the SNF will sponsor Annette Kern-Stähler's international exploratory workshop "Past and present," scheduled for October 2017.

It is also a testimony to the growing reputation of the institute that we are the first humanities institute in Switzerland to attract a scholar who has been rewarded a prestigious ERC-grant. Dr. Nidesh Lawtoo will pursue his project, "Homo Mimeticus: Theory and Criticism", in close collaboration with my Literary Theory section. Dr. Lawtoo will also be a welcome addition to our teaching portfolio starting AS 2017.

The picture above, needless to say, refers to our Focus Module “Languages and Literatures on the Waterfront,” which, for the first time, will feature a lecture co-taught by four of the institute’s directors, accompanied by seminars devoted to islands and beach cultures, Victorian and other, but also to the darker side of the attempts to “rule the waves, as in Marijke Denger’s seminar on “Exploration, Domination and Resistance in (Post)Colonial Literature.” Another eye catcher in our schedule is the Focus Module on Popular Culture, the seminars of which address facets as diverse as crime fiction, serialized narratives, and Anti-Popculture. As an antidote, Crispin Thurlow’s MA-seminar on “Elite Discourse” might offer you a look on the other side of the popular/high divide, while Nicole Nyffenegger’s MA seminar on “Blood, Wounds and Scars – The Inscribed Body in Medieval and Early Modern Literature” brings us back to the nitty-gritty that literature has such a penchant to consider.

There are also two MA Seminars on offer that include excursions: Dave Britain’s “Discovering Gibraltar English,” and Annette Kern-Stähler’s “Literature and Religion in Medieval England,” which she will co-teach with Prof. Christian Hesse from the History department, which includes a 2-day colloquium in February and 7-day study trip to the North of England in May 2017.

There are also other interesting activities on offer this semester: Dave Britain’s Micronesia SNF project will be hosting an international conference 9-10 March 2017 with the enticing title “Studies of Paradise: Where language meets culture in the Pacific.” Moreover, our Linguistics section will be hosts to the Swiss Work in English Language and Linguistics (SWELL) conference on 31 March 2017. Although a bit in the future still, I would also alert you to the upcoming CUSO workshop “The Materialities of American Culture”, co-organized by Gabriele Rippl, Julia Straub and Sofie Behluli, to take place 15 - 16 September 2017. Finally, the DLS will feature the renowned philosopher Slavoj Žižek in May, and although he won’t offer the usual workshop to go with the lecture, he is certainly someone to see and listen to.

This introduction is also one of my last duties as Head of Department, as I am passing the torch to the capable hands of Crispin Thurlow 1 February 2017. There have been some rough and challenging times in the last two years, and some mistakes were made, but all in all I am very happy that we managed to get both the new study plan, as well as the rather voluminous evaluation report that goes with it, approved by the faculty and the university rectorate. I would urge you to follow the information that will be made available online soon in order to decide whether you want to stick to the old study plan or change into the new one that will take effect starting with the AS 2017, as there are deadlines to consider. As one other achievement, I would like to point out that we were able to have Monika Iseli, one of our rocks in the stormy seas of administration, promoted, and justly so. Here’s a heartfelt thanks to her for her unfailing commitment to the institute.

Thus I can only invite you to taste some of the items that our academic buffet has on offer, and let’s hope that the waterfronts become accessible again soon in nicer weather.

All best,

Prof. Thomas Claviez

Important Information

KSL

Register for courses on KSL. If you register to take a course, you will be assessed. **If you do not want to be assessed, you must deregister from the course before the deadline.** This also means that if a course does not have an ungraded option (e.g. the Propädeutikum courses), then the course registration deadline is also the exam registration deadline.

All registration in KSL is now modular: that means you must register separately for seminar papers and graded exams in courses that are also offered as ungraded courses. To register for a Focus Module, you would register for

- Lecture (3 ECTS Points)
- Seminar (4 ECTS)
- Seminar Paper/Additional Graded Work¹ (3 ECTS).

To register for an MA Seminar you would register for

- Seminar (4 ECTS)
- Seminar Paper/Additional Graded Work (3 ECTS).

The MA Foundation lectures both have an optional graded exam component as well, but, as it is a lecture, the deadline for lectures applies to the graded component as well.

The deadlines for course registration and seminar papers/additional graded work are not the same. The deadline for course registration and deregistration is **15 October** for the autumn semester, **15 March** for the spring semester. The registration dates for

seminar papers and additional graded work are **8 December** for the autumn semester and **15 May** for the spring semester. This change is intended to give students more time to decide whether or not to write a seminar paper.

For the BA Colloquium, register for the 1 ECTS **COURSE** the first time you take it. The second time you take the BA Colloquium, register for the **COURSE AND BA Colloquium: Second Semester Presentation** (1 ECTS).

You must also register for tutorials on KSL if you would like to receive ECTS credit. Just search for “tutorial” in KSL and choose the correct class. To receive credit, you must attend the tutorial regularly. If you would like to visit a tutorial occasionally, as desired to supplement your course attendance, you are welcome to do so. You do not need to register for that. If you have questions, please contact Sarah Zürcher.

Once you register for a course on KSL, you will automatically be registered for that course on ILIAS.

For general advice on how the signing-up process works on KSL, please watch the video tutorial KSL provides on their website [<http://kslvideos.unibe.ch/?l=de>]

Exceptions to KSL Registration

The following courses and module do not require registration on KSL: BA and MA theses, stay abroad module, independent studies. ALL other courses DO REQUIRE REGISTRATION (including the BA colloquium and the MA forum)!

¹ “Additional Graded Work” is the denotation for seminars that do not require seminar papers for a grade, but require some other form of work. This is most common in Linguistics courses. To know whether a course offers

a seminar paper or additional graded work, see its description in the course booklet.

BA THESIS REGISTRATION

Students who will be submitting their theses in **Spring 2017** have a two-step registration process:

1. Students must have had their supervisors sign their thesis registration forms by Tuesday, **November 15**
2. Students must have their study counsellors sign their thesis registration forms, showing that all necessary credits have been fulfilled, and turn in the form to the secretariat by **March 1, 2017**.

Registration for the BA Thesis becomes binding after the second deadline. The registration form must be turned in to the secretariat by **March 1, 2017**.

- Thesis Supervisor Deadline: Tuesday, November 15, 2016
- Study Counsellor & Secretariat Deadline: Wednesday, March 1, 2017
- Spring 2017 Thesis Submission Deadline: Friday, June 2, 2017

The new deadlines for the autumn semester will be **April 30** for the initial signature and **September 30** for the second signature and turning in to the secretariat. The submission deadline will be the last day of term.

- Thesis Supervisor Deadline: Monday, May 1, 2017²
- Study Counsellor & Secretariat Deadline: Monday, October 2, 2017

- Autumn 2017 Thesis Submission Deadline: Friday, December 22, 2017

PH STAY ABROAD

The PH Bern 2015 Study Plan for modern languages requires all students to study abroad for six months. For additional information, please visit the PH website:
<https://www.phbern.ch>.

ARL: THE READING LIST EXAM

Majors who began their studies in English in autumn 2014 or later are required to pass the ARL exam. You must register on KSL in the semester in which you want to take the exam with the same registration and deregistration dates as other courses, though ILIAS access is not linked to registration³. The exam will be offered in the penultimate week of each semester. For more information, see the Studies section of the website.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. If you miss a class, you must write to your instructor to apologise for your absence and explain why it was unavoidable. Students who miss more than 2 sessions of a lecture or seminar and more than 1 session of a Forum or Colloquium will FAIL the course in question.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE SECRETARIAT

When you email the secretariat, please include your matriculation number.

² The deadlines will be later in Spring 2017 because April and September 30 fall on the weekend.

³ Some reading materials for the ARL can be found on ILIAS. Contact the ARL Coordinator to join the list.

Who to Ask – Spring Semester 2017

Study Counselling for BA Students

Students with surnames A-K

Dr. des. Marijke Denger
031 631 33 95 / B 263
marijke.denger@ens.unibe.ch

Students with surnames L-Z

Ryan Kopaitich
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Study Counselling for MA Students

Students with surnames A-K

Hannah Hedegard
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Students with surnames L-Z

Dr. Ursula Kluwick
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International and Exchange Coordinator / Practical Module Coordinator

Students with surnames A-K

Joseph Comer
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Students with surnames L-Z

Dr. Rory Critten
031 631 55 15 / B 267
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Independent Studies Proposals

Contact any member of teaching staff

Independent Studies Coordinator

Anja Thiel
031 631 37 57 / B 266
anja.thiel@ens.unibe.ch

Assessment of Courses and Information about your Results

Individual course instructors and Notice
Boards

KSL Enquiries

Sarah Zürcher
031 631 82 45 / D 201
sarah.zuercher@ens.unibe.ch

Bettina Müller
031 631 37 56 / D 202
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Diploma Supplements BA / MA (Studienleitung)

Dr. des. Marijke Denger
031 631 33 95 / B 263
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Enrolment for Theses and Exams

Sarah Zürcher
031 631 82 45 / D 201
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Library Enquiries

Nina Müller
031 631 83 72 / B 271
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For information about staff consultation times please consult the departmental website.

Academic Staff

Professors

Prof. Dr. Thomas Claviez*
Literary Theory & World Literature/American Studies, Head of Department

Prof. Dr. David Britain*
Modern English Linguistics

Prof. Dr. Annette Kern-Stähler*
Medieval English Studies

Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter*
Modern English Literature

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rippl
Literatures in English/North American Studies

Prof. Dr. Crispin Thurlow*
Language and Communication

Lecturers

Dr. Franz Andres Morrissey*
Language and Linguistics

Dr. Sue Fox *
Language and Linguistics

Dr. Margaret Mace-Tessler*
English Languages and Literature

Dr. Nicole Nyffenegger*
Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture

PD Dr. Julia Straub*
Literatures in English/North American Studies

Dr. Stephanie Hoppeler*
Literatures in English/North American Studies

PD Dr. Michael Frank*
Literatures in English/North American Studies

Dr. Vidya Ravi*
Literatures in English/North American Studies

Senior/Post-Doc Assistants

Dr. Rory Critten*
Medieval English Studies

Dr. des. Marijke Denger*
Modern English Literature

Dr. Ursula Kluwick*
Modern English Literature

Dr. Zoë Lehmann*
Modern English Literature

Dr. Kathrin Scheuchzer*
Medieval English Studies

Assistants/Doctoral Researchers

Ms Sofie Behluli, M.A.
Literatures in English/North American Studies

Mr Matthias Berger, M.A.
Medieval English Studies

Ms Maida Bilkic, M.A.
Language and Communication

Ms Claudine Bollinger, M.A.
Modern English Literature

Ms Dominique Bürki, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics

Mr Joseph Comer, M. Soc. Sci.
Language and Communication

Ms Sarah Grossenbacher, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics

Ms Hannah Hedegard, M.A.*
Modern English Linguistics

Ms Vanessa Jaroski, M.A.
Language and Communication

Mr Ryan Kopaitich, M.A.*
Literary Theory

Mr Tobias Leonhardt, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics

Ms Sara Lynch, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics

Ms Gwynne Mapes, M.A.*
Language and Communication

Ms Viola Marchi, M.A.*
Literary Theory

Ms Jakhan Pirhulyieva, M.A.
Modern English Literature

Ms Anja Thiel, M.A.
Modern English Linguistics

* *Teaching this semester*

Administrative Staff

Secretaries

Sarah Zürcher	Monday	9-10, 13:45-15:15
	Wednesday	9-10
	Thursday	9-10, 13:45-15:15

Monika Iseli-Felder	Tuesday	9-10, 13:45-15:15
	Wednesday	9-10

Directors' Assistant

Bettina Müller	By appointment
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IT Coordinator & Web Administrator

Fayaz Ali Khan	By appointment
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Librarian

Nina Müller	Monday-Thursday
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Information is subject to change. Please consult the notice boards and the departmental website regularly.

BACHELOR STUDIES

Language Foundation Module

Course Type: Language Course

Title: Modern English Grammar II

Instructor: Franz Andres Morrissey

Time: Wednesday 8-10

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This is the second part of a two-semester module which will provide an overview of Modern English Grammar. In this part we will conclude the tour of English verb forms and extend the discussion to clause constructions.

The focus will be on exploring practical examples and then trying to deduce the grammatical rules that underlie them; in other words, a descriptive rather than a prescriptive approach. The ultimate goal is to develop an overview of Modern English Grammar that will serve as a reference for future work, be it in the study of language, in teaching, which some students will later be involved with, and in a more detailed understanding of the subtleties and nuances of the language that have an impact on the understanding of literary texts.

It is highly recommended that students attend the course sessions, but it is clear that as the course is offered only in one time slot, this may create a timetabling problem for minor students. For this reason, the entire course is also podcasted and the solutions to the practical exercises are available online (link on www.morrissey.unibe.ch). Furthermore, we offer tutorial sessions to help students work with the materials.

Texts: Useful textbooks include *Rediscover Grammar* by David Crystal, and McCarthy and Carter's *Cambridge Grammar of English* (CUP).

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work.

Grade Requirement: Final module exam (the exam will be held in the first week of the term break).

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: End of Spring Semester 2017

Course Type: Language Course

Title: Writing Skills II

Instructor: Margaret Mace-Tessler / Nicole Nyffenegger / Julia Straub

Time: Monday 10-12 or 12-14; Tuesday 10-12 or 14-16;
Thursday 10-12 (two sections)

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This is the second part of the two-semester Writing Skills course. The emphasis this semester continues to be on acquiring and practising the skills required for academic writing, with a particular focus on incorporating secondary sources in the formulation and support of an academic argument. Students should expect to write each week, to rewrite, to work in groups, and to read each other's work critically.

Texts: The Writing Skills II booklet will be available for purchase at the Bugeno at the beginning of the semester. Some material may also be posted on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: a) to introduce specific skills needed in academic writing and to provide practice in those skills; b) to apply those skills to a paper which requires both critical analysis and the evaluation and acknowledgment of the analyses others have carried out in secondary sources.

Evaluation (pass/fail): The course must be taken for a grade.

Grade Requirement: Evaluation of written work

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout the term. The final paper must be submitted by 9 June 2017.

Focus Module: Language and Literature on the Waterfront
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Course Type: Focus Module Lecture (and MA Lecture)

Title: On the Waterfront

Instructors: David Britain / Annette Kern-Stähler /
Virginia Richter / Crispin Thurlow

Time: Wednesday 10-12

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This lecture series introduces a range of themes within language, linguistics, literary and cultural studies which are informed by an examination of the spaces where water meets land – beaches, islands, ports, riverbanks, dockyards, pools, fountains, bogs, drains, and so on. From the medieval period to the present day, these liminal spaces have been used, transformed and evaluated and have served a variety of artistic, bureaucratic and social functions. We examine waterfronts as, for example, spaces/places of contact, conflict, discovery, crusade and colonialism, on the one hand, and desire, eroticism, luxury and relationship, on the other. We will discover how drunken beachbums and mutineers diffused not only syphilis but also new languages across the Pacific as well as how studies of remote, barely inhabited islands have contributed to our understanding of language change. We will look at the littoral as an aesthetically productive topography that spans the extremes from horror, mortal danger and isolation, for instance in literary descriptions of shipwrecks, to sensual enjoyment and liberation in contemporary leisure culture. We will consider how waterfronts are spaces *of* communication as well as resources *for* communicating; specifically, we will examine the beach as a site of intercultural/touristic exchange, and how “infinity pools” function as a marker of elite status.

Texts: Readings will be uploaded onto ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: To explore the waterfront in its many manifestations as a salient site for literary and linguistic enquiry.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Exam on 17 May 2017

Resit date: 31 May 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 17 May 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar
Title: A Sociolinguistics of Islands
Instructor: Hannah Hedegard / David Britain
Time: Tuesday 14-16
Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: Researchers of language change within the sociolinguistic tradition have long been interested in what studies of islands can tell us. Sociolinguistic dialectology indeed began with Labov's investigation of Martha's Vineyard in the US in the early 1960s, a study that embraced themes of contact, belonging, lifestyle and 'invasion' from the mainland in understanding the progression of phonological change there. Islands have provided the sites for a range of these and other themes in sociolinguistic research on change more generally. Some islands are relatively isolated, and have developed highly distinctive dialects as a result (and some *appear* to be isolated but are, for socio-historical reasons, not). Others are emerging from isolation and their dialects now show signs of influence from mainstream linguistic norms. Some islands' varieties are the result of colonial incursions and tell us about how new dialects are formed, sometimes but not always in contact with other languages.

In this course we explore what we can learn from island dialects in two ways: firstly, we hear about a range of different islands and the sociolinguistic lessons they teach us, for example, Bermuda, Tristan da Cunha, and the Falkland Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, Mersea and the Scilly Isles off the coast of the UK, Smith Island and Ocracoke off the US east coast, Palmerston, Pitcairn and Sapuahfik and the many islands of Micronesia in the Pacific – during the course we will have a number of guest lecturers presenting about islands they have studied sociolinguistically. Secondly, we will learn how to conduct some empirical analysis of a never-before studied island dialect of English, that of the Cocos Keeling Islands in the Eastern Indian Ocean.

Texts: Will be provided on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: (i) To tackle a range of socio-historical factors influencing linguistic change through an investigation of *islands* as especially informative sites; (ii) to analyse a previously unexplored variety of English, learning how to analyse real language data from an island dialect of English.

Ungraded Requirement: Attendance, participation, short comparative report on 4 different islands (1500 words long)

Graded Requirement: Attendance, participation, transcription, analysis of spoken data from Cocos Islands, in-class conference presentation of analysis, short written report based on conference presentation (2000 words long)

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 19 June 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Beach Cultures and Ethnographic Methods:
An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

Instructor: Gwynne Mapes / Crispin Thurlow

Time: Monday 14-16

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This methods-oriented seminar offers students an introduction to the core theoretical and methodological principles of Linguistic Anthropology. The special applied focus will be on the ethnographic analysis of beaches, and the representations and communicative practices that give these quintessential waterfronts their cultural meaning. In the first half of the course, students will be introduced to foundational topics such as language acquisition and socialization; speech communities and communities of practice; linguistic performativity; literacy; and language ideology. We will also cover contemporary studies of cultural identity. In this part of the course we will rely predominantly on instructive, theoretical texts and foundational literature. The second half of the course is devoted to application, and students will be introduced to the principles and practices of ethnography, the defining method in linguistic anthropology. Here, each week's class will center around a case-study ethnography of beach culture (or some other waterfront culture) and students will work on their own ethnographic projects.

Texts: The course will rely on a series of core theory and case study readings made available on ILIAS. You will be expected to complete these readings independently, guided by 'signpost' assessments (e.g. quizzes) and in-class discussion throughout the semester.

Learning Outcomes: The learning goals for this seminar are:

- to have a broad grasp of the field of linguistic anthropology and its relation to discourse studies more generally;
- to understand the importance of ethnography as a methodological approach to studying language in different contexts;
- to be able to apply ethnography in your own investigations of language and communication;
- to have a good critical awareness of the role language plays in the ongoing organization and maintenance of cultural beliefs and practices.

Evaluation (pass/fail): In order to fulfil the basic requirements for this seminar (i.e. earning 4 ECTS), students will be expected to participate regularly and actively in seminar discussions, complete all required reading (e.g. submitting responses or pre-lecture questions), achieve an average of at least 75% in case-study reading quizzes, and achieve at least 60% in a mid-term exam.

Grade Requirement: If students are completing this seminar as part of the "On the Waterfront" focus module (i.e. for 7 ECTS), they will need a grade; in which case, they will also be expected to complete the group project: an ethnographic study of a local "waterfront" site. This project will be conducted during the second part of the seminar (i.e. after the Spring break, between Weeks 9 and 14).

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: All course material must be completed by the last class day of the seminar: 29 May 2017.

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: 'Water-lands' – Islands in Medieval Literature

Instructor: Nicole Nyffenegger

Time: Wednesday 14-16

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: In an age when cartography was mostly concerned with inscribing salvation history onto the known world, islands could be almost anywhere and anything: they could be moving around or disappear, or they could simply be the elusive "next island" onto which the religious poet projected divine miracles, the travel writer yet another fascinating population, the love poet the absent lover. They could be a space of seclusion as well as one of cultural contact, could be heaven, hell or (as critics have suggested in the case of the seafaring Saint Brendan) America. As a place that was conceptualised as neither fully water nor fully land (the Old English term *éaland* means "water-land"), islands invited imaginative explorations of fluidity and hybridity: King Arthur who is buried on Avalon but not dead, an island that turns out to be a whale, monstrous inhabitants that are strangely familiar, are just a few of many examples.

In this course, we will explore literary representations of islands in a wide range of Old and Middle English texts across the genres of religious writing, travel narrative, poetry, historiography, and Arthurian romance. We will put a focus on careful textual analysis and on developing independent arguments that form the basis for a paper.

Texts: All the relevant primary and secondary texts will be uploaded on Ilias.

Learning Outcomes: To engage with the diversity of literary representations of islands; in conversation with the waterfronts discussed in the lecture: to focus on one (long!) period and one spatial concept; to practice careful textual analysis and the steps from the first reading of a text to the writing of a paper.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Thorough preparation of set texts, active participation in class discussions, regular attendance, one presentation (format depending on student numbers), paper project presentation.

Grade Requirement: All of the above. In addition, a paper of 3000-4000 words.

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 July 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Britannia Rules the Waves? Exploration, Domination and Resistance in (Post)Colonial Literature

Instructor: Marijke Denger

Time: Monday 14-16

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: In this seminar, we will explore the manifold representations and functions of different settings on, off and by the water in a variety of colonial and postcolonial (literary) texts. While waterways are crucial for the expansion of Empire, they are also sites of exchange and resistance that can prove highly problematic for any project of imperialism. Throughout the course, we will examine the stories and discourses of different narratives related to the (British) colonial era and its aftermath. What, for example, are the experiences of a young boy boarding a steamer from Ceylon to England in the 1950s and what implications does his childlike perspective have for his narrative? How is the nearing end of the British Empire reflected by a set of crumbling interpersonal relationships in the archipelago of colonial Malaya? And what can a (fictional) migrant's relocation from the island of Zanzibar to a British coastal town tell us about the challenges faced by numerous individuals around the world today? By asking questions such as these, we will investigate the impact of different water-related contact zones on individuals' lives, their communities and the ways in which these are represented in literary and non-literary texts.

Texts: Amitav Ghosh, *Sea of Poppies*; Abdulrazak Gurnah, *By the Sea*; Michael Ondaatje, *The Cat's Table*. These novels will be available at the Bugeno. Students are strongly advised to have read them by the beginning of the semester. Shorter texts will be made available on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: To explore the use and function of different water-related settings in a variety of primary and secondary texts, to introduce students to the field of postcolonial literature, to familiarise students with some of the key concepts and concerns of postcolonial theory, to develop different techniques for analysing literary and theoretical texts.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance and active participation, group work during the individual sessions, cumulative course work, oral presentation during one of the sessions, 1'000 word-analysis of passage of primary literature (to be discussed in advance with instructor).

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance and active participation, group work during the individual sessions, cumulative course work, oral presentation during one of the sessions, seminar paper of 4'000 words (to be discussed in advance with instructor).

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 16 July 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Victorian Waterfronts

Instructor: Ursula Kluwick

Time: Friday 10-12

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This course examines various waterfronts (the coast and the seaside, the lakeshore, the riverbank, the marshes, etc.) in order to explore the different functions of these spaces in Victorian literature and culture. Victorian water worlds are extraordinarily rich and varied, and we will attempt to make sense of the myriad meanings of water by considering significant water-related events in Victorian public life in relation to the role of water in literary texts. Thus the course attempts to connect material aspects of aquatic space with the literary function of water.

Texts: Please note that, given the nature of Victorian novels, this will be a rather reading-intensive seminar. Students will be expected to read three novels (*Armada* by Wilkie Collins, *Our Mutual Friend* by Charles Dickens, and *The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot,) in their entirety. In addition, we will draw on passages from other novels (such as Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Charles Kingsley's *The Water-Babies*, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*), as well as historical and secondary material (all of which will be available on ILIAS).

Learning Outcomes: We will reflect on the significance of place in literature, and on the role of specific aquatic spaces and regions; analyse the polyvalence and aesthetic specificity of literary texts in relation to other text types; and explore various methodological toolkits available for the discussion of literature and the environment.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Thorough preparation of set texts, active participation in class, regular attendance, one presentation.

Grade Requirement: Thorough preparation of set texts, active participation in class, regular attendance, one presentation, a seminar paper of approx. 3000-4000 words.

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 31 July 2017

Focus Module: The Sounds of English
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Course Type: Focus Module Lecture (and MA Lecture)

Title: Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology

Instructor: Franz Andres Morrissey

Time: Tuesday 8-10

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This lecture deals with the sound system of English, supplemented with the analysis of sounds in other languages which students may be familiar with. It is meant to further the understanding of the insights developed in the lectures on speech sounds in Introduction to linguistics and to supply students with the tools to analyse phenomena relating to the sounds of English(es), and for higher semester students to refresh their understanding.

In a first part we will explore how speech sounds are produced and how they can be described systematically. This part will also include some transcription practice and the terminology related to it, which will be a crucial basis for a variety of analytical tasks in the second half. In the second part, using the descriptions of speech sounds, with which we have familiarised ourselves so far, we will focus on the sound system of English. We will explore the ways in which sounds influence each other in spoken language, how fluent speech affects pronunciation and what effect this has on possible combinations of speech sounds in English words. We will then go beyond individual sounds and consider the nature of syllable formation in English, of rhythm and intonation. In a final part we will look at applications of phonetics and phonology in practical research, particularly in the reconstruction of older forms of the language and in determining dialects of English, for which we will consider examples from various speakers and the way in which they adopt features of the reference dialects in order to fit in with a group they want or consider themselves to be part of.

Texts: Handouts presented in class; background literature will be recommended during the course for the preparation of the exam.

Learning Outcomes: To develop skills in transcription, to explore relationships between speech sounds and their effect on each other, to gain an insight into the sound structure of English phrases and to consider applications of phonological phenomena.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Quiz

Grade Requirement: Students need to get a satisfactory grade in the test.

Resit date: 13 September 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 July 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar
Title: Sound Variation in British English
Instructor: Sue Fox
Time: Thursday 10-12
Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: In this course we will examine phonological variation in various British varieties. Tracing the historical development of different phonological features, we will discover why we find different forms in different places and how and why they are geographically distributed in the way that they are. We will look at work both within traditional dialectology and within modern sociolinguistic research, moving from a rural, geographic approach to studies which focus on urban varieties where social factors such as age, sex, ethnicity, social class and network, as well as speaking style, have been shown to influence phonological variation. We will be looking at the phonological differences of some of the best-known varieties in Britain including Scottish English, Northern Irish English, Welsh English and some northern and southern English varieties.

Texts: Relevant readings will be uploaded to ILIAS. Wells, J. (1982). *Accents of English*. Vol. 1 & 2. Cambridge: CUP will be placed on the Presence Shelf.

Learning Outcomes: Students successfully completing this course should have acquired a good understanding of the historical reasons for sound variation in modern day British varieties. They should be able to identify and describe phonological features and be able to recognize how and why these features differ in the major British varieties. They will also have acquired detailed knowledge about one particular variety of British English and should be able to describe this variety using appropriate linguistic terminology. Students should also be able to appraise and respond to the views and presentations of others as found in published texts as well as in class.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation during class activities and discussions, completion of a class task.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation in class, completion of a class task and a written paper of approximately 4000 words.

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Friday, 16 June 2017, 17:00

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Mergers and Shifts in American English

Instructor: Anja Thiel

Time: Mo, 24.4. 8-12, Fr, 28.4. 12-4, Fr, 05.5. 12-4,
Mo, 08.5. 8-12, Fr, 12.5. 12-4, Mo 15.5. 8-12,
Fr, 19.5. 12-4

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: The English language and its many varieties are constantly undergoing change – whether it be lexical, grammatical or phonological. In this seminar we will focus two types of changes that can occur in the phonetic system of the English language: vowel mergers and vowel shifts. We will begin the seminar with a theoretical introduction to mergers and shifts in general, the different kinds of shifts and mergers that have been observed in American English, as well as the different mechanisms that drive these changes. We will then shift our focus to more practical work and apply the knowledge we have gained to recently collected speech data from Upstate New York. We will analyze this data for two present-day changes in this particular variety of English: The Northern Cities Shift (NCS) and the low back merger (cot-caught).

Texts: Readings will be made available on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: Students should gain a good understanding of the vowel system of American English and the phonetic changes that have been, and currently can be observed in its many varieties. They will also be familiarized with different techniques of analyzing these changes, focusing on acoustic analysis with the software PRAAT.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation, in class presentation of the results of their analyses.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation, in class presentation of the results of their analyses and a written project report to be handed in at the end of the semester.

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 2 June 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar
Title: Phonology in Context
Instructor: Franz Andres Morrissey
Time: Tuesday 10-12
Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This course aims to put into practice the aspects discussed in the lecture to give students more confidence in their work with the sound system of English. In this sense it will provide students with opportunities to gain experience in applying phonetic and phonological insights. We will explore practical data, also from languages the students are not familiar with to allow for an approach to analysing data without preconceived notions based on the languages they know. In addition we will also explore data from a variety of language uses with a view of broadening our understanding of sounds systems in particular of language varieties and look at practical applications of insights developed in the lecture and elsewhere in the seminar. What participants will ideally develop is heightened sensitivity for phonological phenomena and also a more acute perception of speech sounds.

Texts: These will be made available online (www.morrissey.unibe.ch) before the sessions in question.

Learning Outcomes: To gain more practical experience in using the insights and methodologies of phonetics and phonology and to sharpen perception of phonological phenomena.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Active participation, short reports on assignments

Grade Requirement: Seminar paper or a podcast on a specific phonetic/phonological issue

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 July 2017

Focus Module: Popular Culture

Course Type: Focus Module Lecture (and MA Lecture)

Title: Popular Culture: Theories, Media, and Case Studies

Instructor: Julia Straub

Time: Thursday 12-14

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: “Culture is ordinary,” Marxist critic Raymond Williams claimed in an essay from 1958. At the time when Williams made this statement, he challenged the common perception of ‘culture’ as, by and large, shorthand for ‘high culture.’ Against such elitism and “-centrism” in a broader sense, popular culture has over the last couple of decades emancipated itself as a subject of academic interest, reflecting a social shift towards an understanding of ‘culture’ which flattens hierarchies between e.g., ‘high’ and ‘low-brow.’ If culture is ordinary, it is also ubiquitous. Popular culture is omnipresent in our daily lives. We are surrounded by advertising, popular music, media icons, films and TV series, best-selling novels and self-help books. Yet not all of the questions a critical engagement with it raises are straightforward: popular culture and consumerism, but also the complex ways in which issues of class, race, ethnicity, and gender, for example, are shaped by popular culture are up to debate. In this lecture we will follow a cultural studies approach towards popular culture, based on selected case studies from literature and film, a reading of key theoretical texts, and a discussion of the media on which popular culture depends. While the focus of the lecture will be on contemporary North America, examples will be chosen from earlier periods and the Anglophone world more generally.

Texts: Reading material will be uploaded on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of the lecture, students can

- Apply various theoretical concepts to popular culture phenomena
- Identify important narratives and modes of representation that popular culture engages with and their connection to socio-political issues
- Relate popular culture phenomena to cultural studies approaches and concepts such as intermediality, adaptation and canon formation.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance and written test

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance and written test

Resit date: Thursday, 1 June 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Thursday, 18 May 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar
Title: “To be continued...”: The Serialized Narrative
Instructor: Stephanie Hoppeler
Time: Monday 12-14
Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: Serialized narratives have captured audiences since the “Iliad”, “Beowulf” and *Arabian Nights*. The temporal postponement of a story’s continuation has since lost none of its appeal: Readers, listeners and viewers have been following – and still follow – serialized narratives all over the globe, at various times, in numerous media. In this seminar, students will be familiarized with theory on the serialized narrative; the many ways in which a narrative can be serially produced, transmitted and received; the manifold approaches different cultures – among them fan culture – have taken to the serialized narrative and the idiosyncrasies this has led to with regard to storytelling. We will do so considering different media – short stories, comic books/graphic novels, TV series, etc., in different eras.

Texts: Shorter texts will be uploaded on ILIAS. Longer texts will be made available at the Bugeno. Securing access to film material, i.e., television series is the responsibility of the individual student.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to elaborate on the theory and the history of the serial narrative, and they will be able to do so for serial narratives from various media. They will consider different approaches to seriality, in different medial contexts. They will be able to convincingly describe the characteristic features of more traditional serial narratives and distinguish them from more recently developed practices of serializing texts.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation and one interactive presentation.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation, one interactive presentation and a written paper of approximately 4000 words.

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 week after last session

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Criminal Imagination: Crime Fiction in American Literature and Culture

Instructor: Viola Marchi

Time: Wednesday 12-14

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: The course follows the development of crime fiction in the U.S. from its Gothic beginnings, to the rise of the “hard boiled” and “noir” genres in the 20s and 30s, up to its most contemporary declensions in literature, film, and TV series. The seminar focuses on three interrelated questions: the relation of crime fiction to the study of narratives (the “rules” and formal aspects of the genre, its modes of narration and typologies of characters), the positioning of crime fiction between “pop” and “high” culture and its significance in American literary history, and the impact and role of the “criminal imagination” in American society and culture, especially in relation to issues of racial politics as well as processes of criminalization.

Texts: The shorter texts, as well as a complete list of titles, will be made available on ILIAS before the beginning of the semester.

Learning Outcomes: To develop the students’ skills of analysis and interpretation by addressing the formal characteristics of the specific genre of crime fiction and to offer them a literary-historical overview of its deployment on the border between “pop” and “high” culture.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation and oral presentation in the seminar.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation, oral presentation and final seminar paper (4000 words).

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 31 July 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Seminar

Title: Bound Together by Our Mutual Distaste of Everything Else: A Seminar in Anti-Pop-Culture

Instructor: Ryan Kopaitich

Time: Tuesday 12-14

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This seminar positions itself within the focus module as a theoretical and historical counterpart to the primary lecture. As such, we will explore the nature of historical countercultures and how such movements intertwine with pop-culture phenomena. To do this, we will look at a variety of texts and movements that locate their roots and indeed much of their meaning in being outside or even against the sphere of “pop.” The investigation will incorporate examples of “anti-pop-culture” in literature, music and film. The various primary texts will be accompanied by a theoretical investigation, allowing us to synthesize and discuss our observations. Through all of this, we will seek to disentangle the various terms “counterculture,” “pop-culture,” and “anti-pop-culture,” along with their oft-accompanying concepts such as the “subversive,” and the “authentic” in order to delve into the political and social ramifications of the concepts under investigation. In the course of these discussions, it will be our goal to have set out a terrain for thinking the nature of “anti-pop” as a substantive and viable (or, perhaps, even futile) cultural field.

Texts: The texts will be distributed at the beginning of the course via ILIAS. There will be a short preliminary reading to be read prior to the first course, which will be attainable on ILIAS 2 weeks before the beginning of the semester (an e-mail will be sent to participants).

Learning Outcomes: This course is meant to enrich theoretical understanding of cultural artifacts and their analysis by accessing the broad thematic scope of the focus module. By interrogating art and culture through this lens of counterculture, students will acquire the tools to examine cultural phenomena within a broader field as well as see and implement this analysis with specific primary sources.

Evaluation (pass/fail): To achieve a passing grade, each student will be required to actively participate in the seminar, and give a presentation during the semester. The format will be discussed on the first day of the course.

Grade Requirement: In order to receive a grade, students must, in addition to the above requirements, submit a term paper.

Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 August 2017

Other Courses

Course Type: BA Workshop
Title: Reading Film
Instructor: Margaret Mace-Tessler
Time: Thursday 14-16
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: To write and speak about films with authority requires many of the same skills as literary analysis. This course provides the opportunity to exercise those skills of observation and analysis while watching some of the great works of the cinema. In order to learn to “read” films such as *Citizen Kane*, *His Girl Friday*, *Rear Window*, *American Beauty*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, and *Do the Right Thing*, we will study how each film is an interlocking system of techniques. We will use the terminology of film studies, examine how narratives are shaped and presented in films, examine mise-en-scène, cinematography, continuity, and sound in the films. We will consider how genres shape and are shaped by individual films, and we will look at the ways in which each film has its own style. A film will be introduced and shown during class one week, and the following week students will be expected to give oral presentations on an aspect of the film or to report on the critical reception of the film.

Texts: The films themselves. Written texts will be supplied in class or on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: To develop a working vocabulary of film terminology; to hone skills of close analysis and oral presentation; to develop a sense of the film as a complex work of art.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 9 June 2017 (for the journal entries)

Course Type: BA Workshop
Title: Reading the Romantics
Instructor: Zoë Lehmann Imfeld
Time: Tuesday 14-16
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: Would you rather spend a weekend in the Lakes with Wordsworth and Coleridge, or a weekend by Lake Geneva with Byron and Shelley? This course will help you decide, as we tackle works by the major British Romantic poets, as well as some under-appreciated poets, such as Charlotte Smith and Felicia Hemans. The course is not intended as a survey of Romanticism, but will focus specifically on close readings of representative poems, to tease out the myriad voices within the Romantic poetic tradition.

Texts: These will be provided on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: Students will practice close-reading skills, and develop a familiarity with the salient features and themes in the work of particular Romantic poets.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Seminar attendance and active participation, including short presentations where applicable.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Course Type: BA Workshop

Title: Reading (some of) Shakespeare's Greatest Plays

Instructor: Nicole Nyffenegger

Time: Friday, 14-18 (bi-weekly), First session on 24 February: only two hours

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: In this workshop we will read and discuss a selection of Shakespeare's greatest plays: *Othello*, *King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry V*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, in bi-weekly 4-hours meetings (one play/meeting). This course goes for breadth rather than depth and aims at getting students acquainted with several of Shakespeare's greatest plays from across the genres in relatively short time. It will be run in conjunction with Franz Andres Morrissey's Page to Stage workshop, which will be engaging with the same works. We hope to provide students with an exciting opportunity to explore the plays from different perspectives.

Texts: Please buy all the plays in the latest Arden edition and read the whole text for the respective session.

Learning Outcomes: To introduce students to some of Shakespeare's greatest plays, to provide them with the tools and strategies to tackle further plays; to spark students' interest for Shakespeare.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Thorough preparation of the set texts, active participation in the 4-hour sessions, regular presence (no more than 1 block session missed).

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Course Type: BA Workshop
Title: Creative Writing
Instructor: Franz Andres Morrissey
Time: Thursday 12:30-14:00 (note: no break)
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: The topic this semester will be on poetry. The workshop is run on two levels. On the one hand, a variety of activities are explored to “get the creative juices flowing” so there will be some *in situ* text production. These range from preparatory brainstorming and assembling of ideas and elements to be made into a text to the actual production of first drafts. As, in the words Ernest Hemmingway, “the first draft of everything is sh*t”, much of the work will also involve rewriting and redrafting. This can be done in groups of creative writers who all examine and critique each other’s work. Students are encouraged to this outside the class but there will be two sessions devoted to this in the course. Depending on the number of students in the group this will be done by readings in class, e.g. in the form of feedback discussions, or, as is more likely, in so-called post-it sessions.

Anybody is welcome to attend the workshop. As some participants come to the workshop for more than one semester, there are those whose work may be rather impressive. New participants should not be discouraged by this because with experience, one’s writing changes and often improves as a result of peer group feedback and learning how to edit. This means that all participants must be prepared to rewrite their work repeatedly, taking this into account. Writing is perhaps best summed up by Horace’s “Often you must turn your stylus to erase, if you hope to write anything worth a second reading.”

Texts: That’s what you will produce...

Learning Outcomes: To tap the creative potential in students and to explore the ways along which an open mind may lead us; to improve control of language through greater precision in expressing one’s thoughts and feelings; and, finally, greater awareness of the way poems, both written by students and published writers, work (or fail to).

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work; you will be required to submit a dossier of edited work reflecting the activities covered in the workshop, which needs to be handed in as a hard copy no later than four weeks after the end of the semester.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded; no grades can be given for this workshop

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 July 2017

Remarks: Priority for places in this workshop is given to students of the English Department

Course Type: BA Workshop
Title: Page to Stage
Instructor: Franz Andres Morrissey
Time: Thursday 16:15-17:45 (note: no break)
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This semester's workshop we will focus on Shakespeare and will be run in conjunction with Nicole Nyffenegger's BA Workshop "Reading (some of) Shakespeare's Greatest Plays". The intention is to make the transition from text study to what could be called speech embodiment, i.e. to consider how to perform what in reading sounds like highly complex, possibly over-stylised language. We will explore techniques of working with speeches and dialogues based on the work of Cicely Berry, voice coach of the RSC, but also with insights from directors like Peter Hall and theorists of acting including Stanislavski. This will mean concentrated work with the text excerpts, but also a thorough familiarity with the plays we will be working with. A benefit from the course, apart from insights into acting out the plays, will be to develop our skills in voice control, presentation and performance in public in general.

Participants are expected to engage actively in the course, to learn passages by heart, but also to 'get into character', i.e. to explore concrete questions as to posture, forms of delivery, position on stage in relation to other actors, etc. In order to facilitate efficient work in the workshop and in the smaller ensemble groups, participants are expected to be extra conscientious as far as attendance and extracurricular work (individual rehearsal preparations, group work on scenes, etc.) are concerned.

Texts: The materials needed for this course will be made available online (www.morrissey.unibe.ch).

Learning Outcomes: To develop an understanding for Shakespeare's texts as oral performance, to develop techniques that will be useful for presentation and/or public speaking, including learning to speak freely and with minimal preparation.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work (see Remarks).

Grade Requirement: Ungraded (no grades can be awarded for this course)

Remarks: Priority for places in this workshop is given to students of the English Department. Please also note that all participants, in order to obtain credits, need to give a performance of a text/texts, which is to be discussed in advance with the instructor.

Course Type: BA Workshop / MA Workshop

Title: Miracles, Mystics and Monasteries: Religion and Literature in Medieval England

Instructor: Annette Kern-Stähler / Christian Hesse

Time: Colloquium: 23 Feb (am), 24 Feb (pm), Study trip: 14-20 May. Preliminary meeting: 1 Dec 2016

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This workshop with study trip to the UK is in collaboration with the Department of History (Prof. Christian Hesse). Exploring some of the most exciting historical sights in Norfolk, the Midlands and Yorkshire, we will focus on the relations between religion/religiosity and literature in the Middle Ages. Among the places we are going to visit are King's Lynn, Lincoln, York, Rievaulx Abbey and Mount Grace Priory. We will look at each of these sights from a historian's and a literary scholar's point of view. Students of the Department of English will pay special attention to the medieval texts associated with the places we are going to visit. These include the *York Plays* (selection), *The Book of Margery Kempe*, *The Meditations on the Life of Christ* and Chaucer's *Prioress's Tale*. The study trip is scheduled for 14-20 May 2017.

Texts: These will be uploaded onto ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: To gain (further) expertise in reading medieval material culture, to understand the role of religion in medieval culture and to explore texts in their historical and geographical contexts.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance (colloquium), presentations, study trip (full attendance)

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: First presentation: 23 February, second presentation: early May.

Course Type: Lecture / Wahlbereich Lecture

Title: Materialität – Immaterialität. Objekte und ihre Bedeutung /
Materiality – Immateriality. Objects and their Significance

Instructor: Medievalists of the University of Bern and guest speakers

Time: Thursday 17:15-18:45

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

BMZ: Das Berner Mittelalter Zentrum (BMZ) hat als interdisziplinäres und Synergien stiftendes Forum an der Universität Bern die Aufgabe, Forschung und Lehre sowie Öffentlichkeitsarbeit auf dem Gesamtgebiet der mittelalterlichen Geschichte und Kultur zu fördern und zu koordinieren. Dies geschieht durch gemeinsame Lehrveranstaltungen, Forschungsprojekte, Publikationen, Sprachkurse, Tagungen und Exkursionen sowie durch Gastvorträge von in- und ausländischen Gelehrten.

Course Description: Zahlreich sind die Situationen, in denen Gegenstände einer „materiellen Kultur“ nicht-materielle Wirkungen hervorbringen: Die Verwendung von Gold in gemalten, gestickten oder mosaizierten Darstellungen wird durch Licht, namentlich durch wechselnde Beleuchtungen, aktiviert und zu lebendigen Bildeffekten gebracht. Glocken, mit hohem technischem Aufwand gegossen, sind nicht nur eindrucksvolle Objekte – sie können auch an ihrem Klang erkannt werden und signalisieren die Zeiten des Tages wie auch besondere Ereignisse. Räuchergefäße sind oft mit ornamentalem und figurativem Dekor versehen – sie appellieren aber nicht nur an den Sehsinn, sondern vor allem an die Wahrnehmung aromatischer Düfte. Zugleich wird hier über das Auslösen von Sinneseindrücke hinaus auf andere immaterielle Wirkungen gezielt, sollen doch diese Sinneseindrücke auf überirdische Sphären verweisen oder gar einen Zugang zu diesen eröffnen. In mittelalterlichen Handschriften stehen Schrift und ihre oft bilderreiche Ausstattung in produktiver Spannung gegenüber den textlich vermittelten sakralen und profanen Inhalten. Diesseitige, materielle, und jenseitige, immaterielle Welten sind in vielfältiger Weise miteinander verklammert, so wenn durch Schenkungen und Stiftungen Vorsorge für das Leben nach dem Tode getroffen werden soll, und zugleich die Gaben sicht- und erfahrbare Zeugnis für die Mildtätigkeit (aber auch die Leistungsfähigkeit) des Schenkers oder Stifters ablegen.

Interdependenzen von Materialität und Immaterialität werden aber nicht allein im Kontext von Spiritualität und Religiosität wirksam. Sie sind auch erkennbar, wenn es – ganz irdisch – auch nur darum geht, räumliche oder zeitliche Distanzen zu überbrücken, sei es für das Übermitteln von Texten oder auch von Klangvorstellungen durch Notationen, sei es für den Handel mit Waren und die Ausführung von Zahlungen im überregionalen Verkehr.

Die BMZ-Vorlesung des Frühjahrssemesters 2017 wird die Realisierungen von Materialität und deren immaterielle Korrelate im Mittelalter untersuchen und dabei auch die Bezugsrahmen, in denen die beiden Ebenen aufeinander verweisen, in den Blick nehmen.

Ort: Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4, Raum 220

Evaluation (pass/fail):

- **As BA and MA lecture English (graded or ungraded):** Besuch aller BMZ-Vorträge und der obligatorischen Vorbesprechung, Besuch der drei Kolloquiumssitzungen, Anfertigung eines Essays, das mit einer Leitfrage drei frei wählbarer Vorträge der BMZ-Ringvorlesung thematisch miteinander verbindet (2800 Wörter, deadline: 31.Juli 2017)

Datum der Vorbesprechung: 23.2.2017, 16.45 (unmittelbar vor der ersten Vorlesung) – wir treffen uns im kleinen Seminarraum, Raum 217, 2. OG, gleich neben dem Hörsaal 220. Bitte melden Sie sich bei Interesse an dieser Veranstaltung bei Prof. Annette Kern-Stähler (kern-staehler@ens.unibe.ch) und Dr. Rory Critten (rory.critten@ens.unibe.ch).

- **As Wahlbereich lecture (graded):** Gemäss den Vorgaben der BMZ-Direktorin Prof. Dr. Birgitt Borkopp-Restle (<http://www.bmz.unibe.ch/index.html>)
-

Course Type: Wahlbereich Lecture

Title: Visionen

Instructors: Collegium Generale

Time: Wednesday 18:15-19:45

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Collegium Generale: Das Collegium Generale der Universität Bern ist die älteste eigenständige interdisziplinäre Institution der Universität. Es hat die Aufgabe, den fächerübergreifenden Dialog und die inter- und transdisziplinäre Vernetzung innerhalb der Universität durch Veranstaltungen für Lehrende, Nachwuchsforschende und Studierende aller Fakultäten zu fördern. In Veröffentlichungen und allgemeinbildenden Veranstaltungen vermittelt das Collegium Generale Beispiele dieser Arbeit einer breiteren Öffentlichkeit.

Course Description: Visionen prägen das Geschick der Welt, der Gesellschaften, der Wissenschaften, der Religionen, der Kunst wie das einzelner Individuen. Die Reichweite der populären Einschätzungen zu Visionen ist weit, sie reicht von „Wer Visionen hat, sollte zum Arzt gehen“, so der 2015 verstorbene Helmut Schmidt, bis zu „I have a dream“ von Martin Luther King – hinter beiden Einschätzungen verbergen sich Weltbilder. Die Vorlesungsreihe des Collegium generale möchte die Kraft der Visionen, ihre Leistungsfähigkeit und ihre Begrenzungen, ihr Weltdeutungs- und -veränderungspotenzial erkunden. Mit Wahn, Traum und Wirklichkeit stehen Themen der Wahrnehmung, der induzierten Visionen und der pathologischen Verzerrungen auf dem Programm. In Malerei, in Prophetien und Politik spielten und spielen Visionen verheissungsvolle Rollen, denen wir nachgehen. Andere Beiträge wenden sich dem Denkbereich der Zukunft zu. Hier interessiert vor allem, wie die Gegenwart unter dem Einfluss von Visionen wahrgenommen wird und wie Utopien und Idealvorstellungen die Welt verändern wollen.

Location: Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4, Raum 110

Programme:

22.02.2017 **Prof. Dr. Andreas Wagner, Institut für Bibelwissenschaft, Universität Bern**
Einführung ins Thema

Dr. Bernd Kersten, Institut für Psychologie, Universität Bern
Visualisierung von Visionen in der Bildenden Kunst

01.03.2017 **PD Dr. Andreas Altorfer, Schweizerisches Psychiatrie-Museum, Bern**
Induzierte Illusionen und Halluzinationen

08.03.2017 **Prof. Dr. Daniela Hubl, Universitätsklinik für Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie, Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste, Bern**
Visionen: Erscheinungen und andere Halluzinationen

- 15.03.2017 **Dr. Hans Rudolf Herren, Biovision, Stiftung für ökologische Entwicklung, Zürich**
Visionen für das Ernährungssystem der Zukunft: Gedruckt oder Gekocht?
- 22.03.2017 **Prof. Dr. Martina Hessler, Helmut-Schmidt-Universität, Universität der Bundeswehr Hamburg**
Glanz und Schrecken der Technisierten Zukunft. Visionen und Dystopien im 20. Jahrhundert
- 29.03.2017 **Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Publizist, Frankfurt**
Vision Europa
- 05.04.2017 **Prof. Dr. Andreas Wagner, Institut für Bibelwissenschaft, Universität Bern**
Alttestamentliche Propheten: Zukunftsgerichtete Visionen?
- 12.04.2017 **Prof. Dr. Daniel Loss, Departement Physik, Universität Basel**
Quantencomputer
- 19.04.2017 keine Vorlesung, Frühlingsferien
- 26.04.2017 **Prof. Manuel Herz, Urban Studies, Universität Basel**
Die Ideale, und die Nicht-So-Ideale Stadt: Stadt-Utopien, Transformation und Migration
- 03.05.2017 **Dr. Simon Spiegel, Seminar für Filmwissenschaft, Universität Zürich**
“We’ll meet again some sunny day.” Apokalypse und Klimawandel im Science-Fiction-Film
- 10.05.2017 **Prof. em. Dr. Bianca Kühnel, Institut für Kunstgeschichte, Hebräische Universität Jerusalem**
Himmlische Visionen – Irdische Grundlagen: Jerusalem
- 17.05.2017 **Prof. Dr. Heidrun Becker, Gesundheit, Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften**
Robotik und Digitalisierung: Visionen für die Gesundheitsverordnung 4.0?
- 31.05.2017 **Dr. Stefan Fischer, Kunstgeschichte, Bertha-von-Suttner-Gymnasium, Andernach**
Visionen als Thema der Malerei bei Hieronymus Bosch

Evaluation (pass/fail): Der Besuch der Vorlesungsreihe wird Studierenden, deren Studienplan dies zulässt, nach bestandenem Leistungsnachweis mit 3 Kreditpunkten als freie Leistung angerechnet. Please contact your study counsellor for further information.

Bachelor Colloquia

Course Type: Bachelor Colloquium

Title: Language and Linguistics

Instructor: David Britain / Crispin Thurlow

Time: Monday 16-18

Sessions: 20 February, 13 March, All-day conference: 19 May

Credit Points: 1 ECTS (first attendance), 2 ECTS (second attendance)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: The Research Colloquium will give students who are either planning to write or are already in the process of writing their BA theses the chance to present their work and to get feedback on their ideas both from professors and from peers. In addition, key theoretical and methodological approaches will be discussed where they prove relevant for students' work.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Students will present, in conference format, their BA research to the rest of the group at a Forum conference towards the end of the semester. The award of ECTS points for the Colloquium is linked to the presentation at this conference, as well as participation through the semester.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Forum conference towards end of semester.

Course Type: Bachelor Colloquium
Title: North American Literature
Instructors: Thomas Claviez / Julia Straub
Time: Thursday 10-12
Sessions: 23.2 / 9.3 / 23.3 / 6.4 / 27.4 / 4.5
Credit Points: 1 ECTS (first attendance), 2 ECTS (second attendance)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: The Research Colloquium will give students who are either planning to write or are already in the process of writing their BA theses the chance to present their work and to get feedback on their ideas both from professors and from peers. In addition, key theoretical and methodological approaches will be discussed where they prove relevant for students' work. **Students should attend the colloquium with the professor with whom they are writing their theses with.**

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout semester

Course Type: Bachelor Colloquium
Title: Medieval and Modern English Literature
Instructors: Annette Kern-Stähler / Virginia Richter
Time: Thursday 10-12 (fortnightly)
First Session/Sessions: 23 February 2017
Credit Points: 1 ECTS (first attendance), 2 ECTS (second attendance)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: The Research Colloquium will give students who are in the process of writing their BA thesis the chance to present their work and to get feedback on their ideas both from professors and from peers. In addition, key theoretical and methodological approaches will be discussed where they prove relevant for students' work. **Students should attend the colloquium with the professor with whom they are writing their theses with.**

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout semester

Course Type: ARL Oral Exam
Title: Advanced Readings in Linguistics and Literature
Supervisor: Julia Straub
Dates: 22-26 May (exact dates and times tbc)
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Exam Description: The Advanced Reading List exam will cover a core list and one other specialist list chosen by the student. Students must pass the exam before registering for their BA theses. The oral exam is offered twice a year in the penultimate week of the semester. It is advisable to take the ARL Exam at the end of the fourth semester of study.

The exam is ten minutes long, with two examiners, one from linguistics and one from literary studies.

Texts: The core reading list will have three parts: 1. Four texts from North American Studies (one novel, one play, one short story, one set of poetry); 2. Four texts from Medieval and Modern English Literature (one novel, one play, one piece of short fiction, one set of poetry); 3. Four texts from Linguistics. The student will also choose a specialist list from one of the three domains above with an additional 8 texts.

Please consult the Reading List on the Department Webpage.

Learning Outcomes: Students shall demonstrate their general knowledge and comprehension of the texts.

Evaluation (pass/fail): pass/fail

Required for English Majors Beginning Their Studies in or after Autumn 2014

MASTER STUDIES

Specialisation Linguistics

Course Type: MA Lecture
Title: On the Waterfront
Instructors: David Britain / Annette Kern-Stähler /
Virginia Richter / Crispin Thurlow
Time: Wednesday 10-12
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This lecture series introduces a range of themes within language, linguistics, literary and cultural studies which are informed by an examination of the spaces where water meets land – beaches, islands, ports, riverbanks, dockyards, pools, fountains, bogs, drains, and so on. From the medieval period to the present day, these liminal spaces have been used, transformed and evaluated and have served a variety of artistic, bureaucratic and social functions. We examine waterfronts as, for example, spaces/places of contact, conflict, discovery, crusade and colonialism, on the one hand, and desire, eroticism, luxury and relationship, on the other. We will discover how drunken beachbums and mutineers diffused not only syphilis but also new languages across the Pacific as well as how studies of remote, barely inhabited islands have contributed to our understanding of language change. We will look at the littoral as an aesthetically productive topography that spans the extremes from horror, mortal danger and isolation, for instance in literary descriptions of shipwrecks, to sensual enjoyment and liberation in contemporary leisure culture. We will consider how waterfronts are spaces *of* communication as well as resources *for* communicating; specifically, we will examine the beach as a site of intercultural/touristic exchange, and how “infinity pools” function as a marker of elite status.

Texts: Readings will be uploaded onto ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: To explore the waterfront in its many manifestations as a salient site for literary and linguistic enquiry.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Exam on 17 May 2017

Resit date: 31 May 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 17 May 2017

Course Type: Focus Module Lecture (and MA Lecture)

Title: Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology

Instructor: Franz Andres Morrissey

Time: Tuesday 8-10

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This lecture deals with the sound system of English, supplemented with the analysis of sounds in other languages which students may be familiar with. It is meant to further the understanding of the insights developed in the lectures on speech sounds in Introduction to linguistics and to supply students with the tools to analyse phenomena relating to the sounds of English(es), and for higher semester students to refresh their understanding.

In a first part we will explore how speech sounds are produced and how they can be described systematically. This part will also include some transcription practice and the terminology related to it, which will be a crucial basis for a variety of analytical tasks in the second half. In the second part, using the descriptions of speech sounds, with which we have familiarised ourselves so far, we will focus on the sound system of English. We will explore the ways in which sounds influence each other in spoken language, how fluent speech affects pronunciation and what effect this has on possible combinations of speech sounds in English words. We will then go beyond individual sounds and consider the nature of syllable formation in English, of rhythm and intonation. In a final part we will look at applications of phonetics and phonology in practical research, particularly in the reconstruction of older forms of the language and in determining dialects of English, for which we will consider examples from various speakers and the way in which they adopt features of the reference dialects in order to fit in with a group they want or consider themselves to be part of.

Texts: Handouts presented in class; background literature will be recommended during the course for the preparation of the exam.

Learning Outcomes: To develop skills in transcription, to explore relationships between speech sounds and their effect on each other, to gain an insight into the sound structure of English phrases and to consider applications of phonological phenomena.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Quiz

Grade Requirement: Students need to get a satisfactory grade in the test.

Resit date: 13 September 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 July 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Discovering Gibraltar English
Instructor:	David Britain
Time:	Classes: Monday 14-16 on Feb 20, 27, Mar 6, 13, 20, 27 Excursion: 3 April 2017 at 10 to 7 April 2017 at 10 Conference Day: 29 May: 8-18 (exact times depends on numbers of students)
First Session:	20 February 2017
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: This course prepares students for a 5-day research excursion to Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory located at the far south of the Iberian peninsula. Gibraltar has a fascinating history of cultural and language contact – along with the Spanish and British, Jewish, Arab, Italian, Maltese and many other peoples who made their homes there, with interesting linguistic consequences. Gibraltar is a multilingual territory, characterised today by its strong allegiance to the UK *and* the EU, but ongoing political tension with Spain. The course will begin with a number of preparation classes that will introduce many relevant language contact themes – e.g. borrowing, code-switching, English dialect formation and structure in a contact setting, language policy and planning, language attitudes, linguistic landscape, etc. - thereby arming students with the background to explore them in greater depth by conducting small research projects during our stay there (April 3rd to 7th 2017), and eventually to give a conference presentation (May 29th 2017) and write a short paper based on their research. The Dekanat provides some funds to support students' participation in the excursion: CHF 50 per day. Students are advised to contact Prof Britain as soon as they have decided to take the course, and to book flights and accommodation as soon as possible. A practical information leaflet is available outside of Prof Britain's office door.

We will travel with a parallel seminar group from the Department of Spanish, led by Prof. Dr Yvette Bürki, who will be investigating the sociolinguistics of Gibraltarian Spanish there. Dr Daniel Weston, a sociolinguist at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and an expert in the sociolinguistics of Gibraltar, has agreed to join us in Gibraltar for part of our stay to give us a talk, advice and show us around.

Texts: Will be provided on ILIAS

Learning Outcomes: To explore the linguistic consequences of linguistic and cultural contact, through empirical research in a specific setting.

Ungraded: Attendance and participation during the preparation stage; short presentation during the preparation stage; short written paper (max. 2000 words) on an aspect of the Gibraltarian sociolinguistics of English.

Graded: Attendance and participation during the preparation stage; participation in the excursion; short presentation during the preparation stage; 20-minute conference presentation alone or in group of two on an aspect of the Gibraltarian sociolinguistics of English at the course conference on 29 May; short written version of the conference paper (max. 2500 words).

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 12 June 2017

Course Type: MA Seminar
Title: Elite Discourse: Language, Class, Privilege
Instructor: Crispin Thurlow
Time: Tuesday 10-12

Note: In Week 6, there is a reading week in which you are expected to start preparing your independent research projects/presentations where applicable.

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description:

“To understand class we need to understand the processes of classification: exploitation, domination, dispossession and devaluation, and their legitimation.”

This seminar addresses the relationship between language and class. Once a core topic in sociolinguistics and discourse studies, scholars across the humanities and social sciences have only fairly recently begun to think again about issues of social status and structural, economic inequality. Our fickle commitment to studying class seems strange given the central role language and communication play in the production, organization and maintenance of class. As well-known sociologist Beverly Skeggs (2015: 205) notes in the quote above, and as Pierre Bourdieu (1984, 1991) made quite clear in his classic works, class hinges on a constant process of classification and legitimation – all of which are achieved discursively in, for example, everyday conversations, advertising, movies, political speeches and university seminars. One important organizing principle of this seminar is its focus on “elite discourse”; this means addressing – and problematizing – those people or institutions that actively generate and materially benefit from inequality. As Niall Cunningham and Mike Savage (2015: 322) put it, “construct[ing] a narrative solely around the characteristics and problems of the most disadvantaged people and places does not address how the power and privileges of the advantaged are organized”. By focusing on those at the more privileged end of the so called class spectrum, this seminar invites you also to think about your own class status and your role in local, regional and global class formations.

Following an initial framing session, the seminar is grounded in three weeks of foundational theory organized around guided readings, quizzes and in-class discussions (Weeks 2, 3 and 9). In the last two weeks of the seminar, we will have presentations from those students undertaking a small, independent, data-driven project which will also culminate in a short summary report. The rest of our time and intellectual energies will be devoted to hearing from seven invited scholars, each of whom examines the intersection of language/communication and social class in their work from a different perspective. To accompany these talks, you will be expected to read a sample of the speakers’ own research or some other reading which they recommend, and then prepare a short response statement. You will of course, be expected to engage actively/attentively in each of these invited talks.

Learning Outcomes:

- raising awareness about contemporary class formations;
- examining the discursive underpinnings of class status/inequality;

- introducing foundational social theory on class and elite distinction;
- exploring a range of approaches to language and class;
- increasing understanding of how power is exercised through discourse;
- applying theoretical/analytical frameworks to first-hand discourse data.

Texts: There is no core text for this class. Readings for the class (articles and chapters posted on ILIAS) will comprise foundational theory material selected by Professor Thurlow and the material set/recommended by the seven invited speakers.

Evaluation (pass/fail): To meet the educational objectives of this seminar, you will be expected to:

- participate actively/attentively in all sessions (usual absence rules apply);
- complete an in-class exercise on the first day of the seminar;
- pass (min. 75% average) three foundational theory reading quizzes;
- complete six out of seven response statements following the invited talks;
- participate actively in the student presentations in Weeks 13 and 14.

Grade Requirement: If you are taking this seminar for 7 ECTS, you will be expected to undertake a small, independent, data-driven project. Professor Thurlow may assign everyone the same topic (and/or dataset) or he may allow you to select your own topic. You may be allowed to work individually or in pairs. This project must entail the collection and analysis of primary “elite discourse” data. In the last two weeks of term you will be expected to deliver a short, engaging presentation of your analysis and major interpretations, as well as submit a short summary report (or handout) and electronic copies of your data.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: This seminar will be assessed on the basis of your research presentation/report (where applicable); the contribution you make to other people’s presentations; your engagement with and response to all guest lectures; the initial in-class exercise (Week 1), and on the average grade you receive for the three foundational reading quizzes. As such, the ultimate deadline for the completion of assessed work is **Tuesday 30 May**.

Course Type: MA Seminar
Title: Language Attitudes
Instructor: Sue Fox
Time: Thursday 8-10
Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes

Course Description: This course will examine key issues in the domain of language attitudes research. We will focus on the ways in which speakers use language both to construct their own social identities as well as the manner in which speakers draw inferences about the social identities of others based purely on the way that those others use language. The course will cover language attitude theory, social identity theory, methodological approaches to language attitudes research and will consider topics such as: language as a social process; attitudes as a determinant of language variation; the role of attitudes in second language learning; the role of attitudes in language maintenance and language shift; perceptual dialectology.

Texts: Readings will be placed on ILIAS for each session.

Learning Outcomes: Students successfully completing the course will have a good understanding of language attitude theory and the ways in which language attitudes impact on many areas of linguistic research. They should also be able to demonstrate an awareness of the practical implications of research in this domain – that is, how the outcomes of such research can be applied in order to understand and solve real-life problems.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Active participation, oral presentation

Grade Requirement: Written assignment

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Friday, 30 June 2017, 17:00

Specialisation Literature

Course Type:	Lecture
Title:	Conceptualizing Cosmopolitanism and World Literature
Instructor:	Thomas Claviez
Time:	Tuesday 14-16
Credit Points:	3 ECTS

Course Description: The lecture will cover theoretical approaches to cosmopolitanism and world literature from Erich Auerbach, Martha Nussbaum, Jacques Derrida, David Damrosch, Franco Moretti, Pascale Casanova, Homi Bhabha, Pheng Cheah, and others, in order to sketch the trajectory of these two concepts from their inception to the most recent approaches. It will ask how the function of literature changes according to different conceptualizations of “the world,” and will address closely connected questions of canonization, imperialism and universalism.

Texts: The texts will be collected in a reader that can be obtained at the Copy Shop.

Learning Outcomes: The aim of the lecture is to provide an overview of the highly heterogeneous approaches to the concepts, to gauge their explanatory and analytical potentials, and to familiarize students critically with the normative and aesthetic implications of these terms.

Evaluation: Cumulative Course Work, Lecture Notes

Grade Requirement: Written Exam

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 30 May 2017

Course Type: MA Lecture
Title: On the Waterfront
Instructors: David Britain / Annette Kern-Stähler /
Virginia Richter / Crispin Thurlow
Time: Wednesday 10-12
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This lecture series introduces a range of themes within language, linguistics, literary and cultural studies which are informed by an examination of the spaces where water meets land – beaches, islands, ports, riverbanks, dockyards, pools, fountains, bogs, drains, and so on. From the medieval period to the present day, these liminal spaces have been used, transformed and evaluated and have served a variety of artistic, bureaucratic and social functions. We examine waterfronts as, for example, spaces/places of contact, conflict, discovery, crusade and colonialism, on the one hand, and desire, eroticism, luxury and relationship, on the other. We will discover how drunken beachbums and mutineers diffused not only syphilis but also new languages across the Pacific as well as how studies of remote, barely inhabited islands have contributed to our understanding of language change. We will look at the littoral as an aesthetically productive topography that spans the extremes from horror, mortal danger and isolation, for instance in literary descriptions of shipwrecks, to sensual enjoyment and liberation in contemporary leisure culture. We will consider how waterfronts are spaces *of* communication as well as resources *for* communicating; specifically, we will examine the beach as a site of intercultural/touristic exchange, and how “infinity pools” function as a marker of elite status.

Texts: Readings will be uploaded onto ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: To explore the waterfront in its many manifestations as a salient site for literary and linguistic enquiry.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Exam on 17 May 2017

Resit date: 31 May 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 17 May 2017

Course Type: MA Lecture
Title: Popular Culture: Theories, Media, and Case Studies
Instructor: Julia Straub
Time: Thursday 12-14
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: “Culture is ordinary,” Marxist critic Raymond Williams claimed in an essay from 1958. At the time when Williams made this statement, he challenged the common perception of ‘culture’ as, by and large, shorthand for ‘high culture.’ Against such elitism and “-centrism” in a broader sense, popular culture has over the last couple of decades emancipated itself as a subject of academic interest, reflecting a social shift towards an understanding of ‘culture’ which flattens hierarchies between e.g., ‘high’ and ‘low-brow.’ If culture is ordinary, it is also ubiquitous. Popular culture is omnipresent in our daily lives. We are surrounded by advertising, popular music, media icons, films and TV series, best-selling novels and self-help books. Yet not all of the questions a critical engagement with it raises are straightforward: popular culture and consumerism, but also the complex ways in which issues of class, race, ethnicity, and gender, for example, are shaped by popular culture are up to debate. In this lecture we will follow a cultural studies approach towards popular culture, based on selected case studies from literature and film, a reading of key theoretical texts, and a discussion of the media on which popular culture depends. While the focus of the lecture will be on contemporary North America, examples will be chosen from earlier periods and the Anglophone world in more general.

Texts: Reading material will be uploaded on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of the lecture, students can

- Apply various theoretical concepts to popular culture phenomena
- Identify important narratives and modes of representation that popular culture engages with and their connection to socio-political issues
- Relate popular culture phenomena to cultural studies approaches and concepts such as intermediality, adaptation and canon formation.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance and written test

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance and written test

Resit date: Thursday, 1 June 2017

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Thursday, 18 May 2017

Course Type: Lecture / Wahlbereich Lecture

Title: Materialität – Immaterialität. Objekte und ihre Bedeutung /
Materiality – Immateriality. Objects and their Significance

Instructor: Medievalists of the University of Bern and guest speakers

Time: Thursday 17:15-18:45

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

BMZ: Das Berner Mittelalter Zentrum (BMZ) hat als interdisziplinäres und Synergien stiftendes Forum an der Universität Bern die Aufgabe, Forschung und Lehre sowie Öffentlichkeitsarbeit auf dem Gesamtgebiet der mittelalterlichen Geschichte und Kultur zu fördern und zu koordinieren. Dies geschieht durch gemeinsame Lehrveranstaltungen, Forschungsprojekte, Publikationen, Sprachkurse, Tagungen und Exkursionen sowie durch Gastvorträge von in- und ausländischen Gelehrten.

Course Description: Zahlreich sind die Situationen, in denen Gegenstände einer „materiellen Kultur“ nicht-materielle Wirkungen hervorbringen: Die Verwendung von Gold in gemalten, gestickten oder mosaizierten Darstellungen wird durch Licht, namentlich durch wechselnde Beleuchtungen, aktiviert und zu lebendigen Bildeffekten gebracht. Glocken, mit hohem technischem Aufwand gegossen, sind nicht nur eindrucksvolle Objekte – sie können auch an ihrem Klang erkannt werden und signalisieren die Zeiten des Tages wie auch besondere Ereignisse. Räuchergefäße sind oft mit ornamentalem und figurativem Dekor versehen – sie appellieren aber nicht nur an den Sehsinn, sondern vor allem an die Wahrnehmung aromatischer Düfte. Zugleich wird hier über das Auslösen von Sinneseindrücke hinaus auf andere immaterielle Wirkungen gezielt, sollen doch diese Sinneseindrücke auf überirdische Sphären verweisen oder gar einen Zugang zu diesen eröffnen. In mittelalterlichen Handschriften stehen Schrift und ihre oft bilderreiche Ausstattung in produktiver Spannung gegenüber den textlich vermittelten sakralen und profanen Inhalten. Diesseitige, materielle, und jenseitige, immaterielle Welten sind in vielfältiger Weise miteinander verklammert, so wenn durch Schenkungen und Stiftungen Vorsorge für das Leben nach dem Tode getroffen werden soll, und zugleich die Gaben sicht- und erfahrbare Zeugnis für die Mildtätigkeit (aber auch die Leistungsfähigkeit) des Schenkers oder Stifters ablegen.

Interdependenzen von Materialität und Immaterialität werden aber nicht allein im Kontext von Spiritualität und Religiosität wirksam. Sie sind auch erkennbar, wenn es – ganz irdisch – auch nur darum geht, räumliche oder zeitliche Distanzen zu überbrücken, sei es für das Übermitteln von Texten oder auch von Klangvorstellungen durch Notationen, sei es für den Handel mit Waren und die Ausführung von Zahlungen im überregionalen Verkehr.

Die BMZ-Vorlesung des Frühjahrssemesters 2017 wird die Realisierungen von Materialität und deren immaterielle Korrelate im Mittelalter untersuchen und dabei auch die Bezugsrahmen, in denen die beiden Ebenen aufeinander verweisen, in den Blick nehmen.

Ort: Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4, Raum 220

Evaluation (pass/fail):

- **As BA and MA lecture (graded or ungraded):** Regular presence, three follow-up sessions (dates tba). Please contact Dr. Nicole Nyffenegger (nicole.nyffenegger@ens.unibe.ch) in the first week of term for details on these sessions and on the paper that will have to be submitted by the end of the term (2800 words, deadline: 31 July 2017).

Datum der Vorbesprechung: 23. Februar 2017, 16.45 (unmittelbar vor der ersten Vorlesung) – wir treffen uns im kleinen Seminarraum neben Hörsaal 220. Bitte melden Sie sich bei Interesse an dieser Veranstaltung bei Prof. Annette Kern-Stähler (kern-staehler@ens.unibe.ch) und Dr. Rory Critten (rory.critten@ens.unibe.ch)

- **As Wahlbereich lecture (graded):** Under the supervision of BMZ director Prof. Dr. Christian Hesse. Please check: http://www.bmz.unibe.ch/pdf/Anforderungen_Wahlbereich.pdf
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Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Ethics and Justice in U.S.-American Literature and Film
Instructor:	Thomas Claviez
Time:	Wednesday 16-18
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: The seminar will cover central, theoretical and moral-philosophical texts about ethics and justice, as well as analyze important novelistic and filmic negotiations of these topics in US literature and Hollywood movies. The most important concepts to be addressed are alterity, difference and empathy, as they constitute the main “bones of contention” within the debates around ethics. The seminar will also feature screenings of the most important movies, which spells extra time.

Texts: Among the literary texts to be discussed are Herman Melville’s *Billy Budd*, Richard Wright’s *Native Son*, and Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. For those interested in sneak-previewing the movies: We will watch, among others, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *A Time To Kill*, and *A Simple Plan*.

Learning Outcomes: The aim of the seminar is to familiarize students with some central, theoretical and moral-philosophical texts, as well as to enable them to critically apply the concepts developed in them to the changing tides that ethics has gone through in US-American culture.

Evaluation (graded): Presentation in the seminar (1/3), seminar paper (2/3).

Evaluation (ungraded; pass/fail): Presentation in seminar

Grade Requirement: Presentation + seminar paper (7000 words)

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 August 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	The Shelley-Byron Circle in Switzerland
Instructor:	Virginia Richter
Time:	Wednesday 8-10
First Session:	22 February 2017
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: In 1816, Mary Shelley, Percy Bysshe Shelley and Lord Byron spent several months in Switzerland. Right after the end of the Napoleonic wars and the Congress of Vienna, this year marked the beginning of a politically restorative era in Europe, but for the Shelleys and Byron 1816 – the ‘year without a summer’, a climactic abnormality caused by the eruption of Mount Tambora in the Dutch East Indies – proved a very productive period. Inspired by their shared readings – of Milton, Rousseau, German ghost stories – and by the experience of the Swiss mountain regions, this group of British expats produced some of the most enduring works of English Romantic literature.

The seminar will focus in particular on the three writers’ political engagement, especially their exploration of tyranny and rebellion, on their conceptualisation of the Swiss Alps as a sublime landscape, and their ideas of creativity and the imagination. We will discuss texts from a variety of genres, including fiction, drama and poetry.

Texts: Please purchase and read Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus* (in the 1818 version!) before the beginning of the semester. Please use the following edition which will be ordered at the BUGENO (main building): Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*. Ed. by J. Paul Hunter. Second Norton Critical Edition. New York, London: W.W. Norton, 2012. This edition contains other primary texts which will also be discussed in class, such as P.B. Shelley’s poem “Mont Blanc”. Further reading will be provided on ILIAS; this will include P.B. Shelley’s closet drama *The Cenci*, a selection of his poems, Byron’s verse drama *Manfred* (set in the Bernese Oberland!) and other poems, and one of M. Shelley’s lesser-known tales (“The Swiss Peasant”).

Learning Outcomes: To enhance students’ competence in textual analysis; to give them insight into an important literary period (Romanticism)

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance and active participation in class, as well as a thorough preparation of the set texts for discussion are expected; one oral presentation

Grade Requirement: See pass/fail requirement; in addition, a written paper of 5000-6000 words

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 17 July 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Blood, Wounds, Scars – The Inscribed Body in Medieval and Early Modern Literature
Instructor:	Nicole Nyffenegger
Time:	Friday 10-12
First Session:	24 February 2017
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: Bodies are always already pre-inscribed by their cultural construction, critics such as Judith Butler claim, but inherent in the concept of bodily inscription is the possibility of re-inscription, voluntary and counter-strategic in some cases. Such re-inscription adds new layers of meaning in much the same way in which the medieval palimpsest does. In this course, we will engage with medieval and early modern representations of bodies that are marked in some way (e.g., by blood, wounds, or scars) and are consequently conceptualised as having acquired new or additional meaning. We will be engaging with a wide range of texts, including the Old English *Beowulf* and the Anglo-Saxon battle poems, Middle English Saints' Lives and the Book of Margery Kempe, the early modern poems of John Donne and excerpts from several Shakespeare plays. Our readings of these primary texts will be informed by theoretical approaches to the inscribed body by Judith Butler, Michel Foucault, Elizabeth Grosz, and Karmen McKendrick among others.

Texts: The primary and secondary texts will be uploaded on Ilias.

Learning Outcomes: To explore the literary representations of the human body from one specific perspective; to practice the tools and methods necessary to bring students' careful textual analysis of primary texts into conversation with the relevant theoretical texts.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Thorough preparation of set texts, active participation in class discussions, presentation (format depending on student numbers), paper project presentation.

Grade Requirement: All of the above plus a paper of 5000-6000 words.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 July 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Reading Medieval Books: The Case of London, British Library MS Harley 2253
Instructor:	Rory Critten
Time:	Wednesday 14-16
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: The reading lists compiled for many seminars in literary studies collect and organize texts around thematic or generic categories that may not have been available to their earliest audiences. Such reading lists are useful because they help us to think creatively about points of overlap and disjunction between current and past perspectives on a range of hot topics (gender, race and nationality, and place, for example). Nevertheless, it remains legitimate to enquire how historical literature might have been collected, organized, and interpreted by its first readers. This seminar sets out to do just that, taking as its focus a mid-fourteenth-century anthology of prose and poetry, now London, British Library MS Harley 2253.

The Harley Manuscript affords a unique perspective on the trilingual culture of fourteenth-century England, transmitting texts in English, French, and Latin that belong to a broad variety of genres, including secular love lyrics, a romance, saints lives, and a wealth of satires, comedies, debates, interludes, conduct literature, dream interpretations, pilgrim guides, and fabliaux (the four fabliaux in the book are so obscene as to make Chaucer's later contributions to the genre look decidedly tame...). We will read the entire manuscript; the set edition has parallel Modern English translations of all the items in the book, which will facilitate our perusal of it. In consequence, students will be able to get a sense of the dynamics of Harley 2253 as a compilation. We will read the book for evidence of the interests, tastes, and priorities of its scribes and their audience. At the same time, students will be exposed to a range of understudied, multilingual, pre-Chaucerian texts.

Texts: Harley 2253 has been edited in its entirety (3 vols). It can be consulted online (pdfs of individual texts can be downloaded). See:

- <<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/publication/fein-harley2253-volume-1>>
- <<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/publication/fein-harley2253-volume-2>>
- <<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/publication/fein-harley2253-volume-3>>

We will also be making full use of the online digital facsimile of Harley 2253:

- <http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?index=2&ref=Harley_MS_2253>.

Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete the seminar will have an enhanced appreciation of the material conditions of textual transmission in the Middle Ages, of the implications of the trilingual context in which fourteenth-century literature was composed and consumed, and of the mechanisms via which the medieval reception of medieval literature might be reconstructed.

Evaluation (pass/fail): A presentation

Grade Requirement: A presentation (30%) and a paper (70%)

Deadline for Submission of Paper: 31 August 2017, to rory.critten@ens.unibe.ch, as pdf.

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Contemporary South Asian Novel in English
Instructor:	Vidya Ravi
Time:	Thursday 14-16
First Session:	23 February 2017
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: This seminar will study some of the key issues, trends, and tropes in the contemporary South Asian novel in English. The last two decades of the twentieth century was a key period for South Asian writing, and especially so for the South Asian novel. Basking in the glow (or perhaps persisting in the shadows) of Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* (1981), South Asian writing of the nineties and the noughties has arguably shaped the literary landscape of the postcolonial world.

While we study these novels for their narrative and stylistic innovations to the genre, we also keep in mind that they are archives of key historical moments and periods of social unrest, from the independence of India and Pakistan and the partition, the civil war in Sri Lanka, the liberation of Bangladesh, to the realities of the caste system. Paying attention to questions of authenticity, ownership, and appropriation, we will also consider the material contexts under which these books were produced and how they continue to be received, especially by a Western audience. By peppering our reading with relevant essays and articles by critics and writers, including Amit Chaudhuri, Pankaj Mishra, and Amitava Kumar, we hope to read South Asian literature in its material context and as part of a wider process in the decolonisation of literature.

Texts: Bapsi Sidhwa, *Cracking India*. Minneapolis: Milkweed, 1991.
 Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*. London: HarperCollins, 1997.
 Shyam Selvadurai, *Funny Boy*. New York: William Morrow, 1994.
 Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide*. London: HarperCollins, 2004.

You are welcome to order the books through Amazon or Book Depository. Try to acquire the editions suggested here and do try to get a head start with the reading during the winter break.

Learning Outcomes: To introduce South Asian literature in English to students

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance and reading, active participation, presentation

Grade Requirement: As above plus a seminar paper (4000-5000 words)

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 1 August 2017

Course Type:	MA Seminar
Title:	Gender and Text: Toward Liberation
Instructor:	Margaret Mace-Tessler
Time:	Monday 10-12
First Session:	20 February 2017
Credit Points:	7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: This seminar will examine the ways American women authors, from the mid-19th century to the present day, have depicted women and the worlds in which those women live in. From Harriet Beecher Stowe, Louisa May Alcott, Emily Dickinson, Willa Cather, and Edith Wharton, to Ruth Gordon, Marilynne Robinson, and Maggie Nelson, women have written texts which explore the interplay between the expectations of how a woman should behave and a woman's own desires. A concentration on the role of domesticity in these texts allows an examination of the ways in which involvement in the home and engagement in society have been presented as dichotomous, symbiotic, or both.

A wide selection of critical texts will assist seminar participants in building an overview of feminist and gender critical theory. Each author's text(s) will be approached through the lens of a different aspect of critical theory.

During the vacation, an email outlining the assignment for the first session of the course will be sent to all participants who have signed up on KSL.

Texts: The novels *Little Women*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *O Pioneers!*, *The House of Mirth*, *Housekeeping*, and the autobiography *The Argonauts* will be available at the Bugeno. It would be very wise to use those editions for the seminar, and to have read them before the term begins. The Dickinson poems, selected criticism, the film script of *Adam's Rib*, and other brief texts will be available on Ilias.

Learning Outcomes: To examine the concerns and techniques of women writers as well as those of feminist and gender criticism

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work, an oral presentation, a brief paper

Grade Requirement: Cumulative course work, an oral presentation, a 3000 word paper

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 30 June 2017

Other Courses

Course Type:	MA Workshop
Title:	Exploring Microfiction
Instructor:	Julia Straub
Time:	Monday 16-18
First Session:	20 February 2017
Credit Points:	3 ECTS

Course Description: Microfiction, sometimes also called nanofiction, flash fiction or short short fiction, has established itself as a productive subgenre. Very often, these stories do not contain more than 300 words. Concise and to the point, their perfect medium seems to be the screen of a smartphone. However, while its relation to digital culture is obvious, microfiction, some of whose well-known practitioners are e.g., Jennifer Egan, Lydia Davis, David Gaffney, and Curtis Sittenfeld, bears important connections to older traditions of writing short pieces of fiction. In this workshop we will jointly work towards a poetics of microfiction, discussing forms and rules of this genre. We will also relate microfiction to other kinds of short narratives. As a next step, students will compile an anthology of central representative texts.

We will meet on Monday, 20 February, Monday, 27 February, Monday, 13 March, Monday, 20 March, Monday, 27 March, Monday, 3 April, Monday, 24 April and for a half-day session on Friday, 12 May, 10-16. There will be contact time in small groups to discuss the progress of the group projects.

Texts: Reading material will be made available on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of the workshop, students can

- Identify and name characteristic properties of different short fiction genres
- Identify and name relevant literary themes, stylistic devices, and motifs in microfiction
- Apply aspects of media history to their reading of microfiction
- Give persuasive accounts of canon formation both orally and in writing.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance (obligatory on Friday, 12 May), contribution towards the anthology as part of the group work.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance (obligatory on Friday, 12 May), contribution towards the anthology as part of the group work; short essay based on the anthology contribution.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 15 June 2017

Course Type:	MA Workshop
Title:	Reading Victorian Literature
Instructor:	Ursula Kluwick
Time:	Friday 12-14
First Session:	24 February 2017
Credit Points:	3 ECTS

Course Description: This workshop wants to provide a forum for the analysis of Victorian literature in relation to other nineteenth-century texts and objects. We will ask questions such as the following: What significance do non-literary texts have for us as literary scholars, and how can we read them in relation to literature? How can we avoid talking about “influence” and “context”? On what methodologies can we draw in order to construct a stimulating conversation between literature, non-literary texts, and historical objects?

Texts: Charles Dickens, *Bleak House* and George Eliot, *Daniel Deronda*. In addition, we will be reading a variety of non-literary texts which will be provided on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: Students will learn to work with different kinds of texts and historical artefacts and train their methodological skills for the analysis of these various “texts”. We will also practice the close textual analysis of literary texts and discuss the specific aesthetic strategies of (Victorian) literature.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Thorough preparation of the required reading and active participation in class.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: End of term.

Course Type: MA Workshop / BA Workshop

Title: Miracles, Mystics and Monasteries: Religion and Literature in Medieval England

Instructor: Annette Kern-Stähler / Christian Hesse

Time: Colloquium: 23 Feb (am), 24 Feb (pm), Study trip: 14-20 May. Preliminary meeting: 1 Dec 2016

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: This workshop with study trip to the UK is in collaboration with the Department of History (Prof. Christian Hesse). Exploring some of the most exciting historical sights in Norfolk, the Midlands and Yorkshire, we will focus on the relations between religion/religiosity and literature in the Middle Ages. Among the places we are going to visit are King's Lynn, Lincoln, York, Rievaulx Abbey and Mount Grace Priory. We will look at each of these sights from a historian's and a literary scholar's point of view. Students of the Department of English will pay special attention to the medieval texts associated with the places we are going to visit. These include the *York Plays* (selection), *The Book of Margery Kempe*, *The Meditations on the Life of Christ* and Chaucer's *Prioress's Tale*. The study trip is scheduled for 14-20 May 2017.

Texts: These will be uploaded onto ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: To gain (further) expertise in reading medieval material culture, to understand the role of religion in medieval culture and to explore texts in their historical and geographical contexts.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance (colloquium), presentations, study trip (full attendance)

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: First presentation: 23 February, second presentation: early May.

Course Type:	MA Workshop
Title:	Walking in the City: Literary Imaginings of London, 1700-2000
Instructor:	Michael Frank
Time:	Preliminary meeting: Thursday, 23 February, 14-16; Block sessions: Thursday and Friday 23 and 24 March, 9-18
First Session:	23 February 2016
Credit Points:	3 ECTS

Course Description: According to recent theories in the field of urban studies, cities like London are not simply “out there,” where we have direct access to them. Rather, our perception and experience of cities are always mediated by our images and imaginations of them, which are themselves based on previous representations. On that premise, this course will explore how writers from different periods have portrayed the act of walking through London – and thereby provided “mappings” of the city. In a series of close and contextual readings, we will examine how each vision and version of London reflects the developments and preoccupations of its respective era while it simultaneously draws on earlier texts. The result will be a (necessarily selective) literary history of London from the eighteenth century to the postcolonial present. Our first two examples will be John Gay’s satirical depiction of Augustan London in his poem “Trivia, or The Art of Walking the Streets of London” (1716) and Book VII of William Wordsworth’s romantic epic, *The Prelude* (1805). From here, we will move on to the Victorian London of Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Man of the Crowd” (1840) and the early Sherlock Holmes stories of Arthur Conan Doyle (beginning of 1890s). The second section of the course will be devoted to modernist and postcolonial representations of London, which – surprisingly – have much in common; texts to be discussed in this section include T. S. Eliot’s poem of urban alienation, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (1915), Virginia Woolf’s essay “Street Haunting: A London Adventure” (1930), Sam Selvon’s *The Lonely Londoners* (1956), as well as the short stories “The Mapmakers of Spitalfields” by Manzurul Islam (1997) and “Mrs da Silva’s Carnival” by Pauline Melville (1998). Our readings will be informed by theoretical writings by, among others, Walter Benjamin and Michel de Certeau.

Texts: Please purchase Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners* (Penguin Modern Classics, 2006), ISBN: 978-0141188416. All other course reading (poems, essays, short stories, excerpts from novels) will be made available on ILIAS.

Learning Outcomes: To familiarize students with theoretical readings of the city as image/text in order to analyse London writings from various key periods against this theoretical backdrop.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Ungraded

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation and a short oral presentation

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: End of the semester

Master Forums

Course Type:	Master Forum
Title:	Language and Linguistics
Instructor:	David Britain / Crispin Thurlow
Times:	Monday 16-18
Sessions:	20 February, 13 March, All-day conference: 12 May
Credit Points:	4 ECTS

Course Description: The Master Forum is a problem-oriented research colloquium in which students will have the chance to talk about their work and their problems and discuss theories and methodologies. We will meet regularly to discuss the structure and writing of a thesis as well as to hear students' presentations of their own research work.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Students in first semester of Master Forum: class participation; students not in the first semester of the Forum will be required to give a presentation of their MA research, in whatever stage of development, to the rest of the group.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Presentations will take place throughout the semester

Course Type:	Master Forum
Title:	North American Literature
Instructors:	Thomas Claviez / Julia Straub
Time:	Thursday 10-12
Sessions:	2.3 / 16.3 / 30.3 / 11.5 / 18.5 / 1.6
Credit Points:	4 ECTS

Course Description: The Master Forum is a continual course over the duration of three semesters. Students can choose in which semester to attend the forum; it is recommended that they take the opportunity to present their MA thesis in their final term. The Forum is a problem-oriented research colloquium in which students will have the chance to talk about their work, discuss theories and methodologies and peer-review their written work and presentation skills. **Students should attend the colloquium with the professor with whom they are writing their theses.**

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative coursework

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout semester

Course Type:	Master Forum
Title:	Medieval and Modern English Literature
Instructors:	Annette Kern-Stähler / Virginia Richter
Time:	Thursday 10-12 (fortnightly)
First Session/Sessions:	2 March 2017
Credit Points:	4 ECTS

Course Description: The Master Forum is a continual course over the duration of three semesters. Students can choose in which semester to attend the forum; it is recommended that they take the opportunity to present their MA thesis in their final term. The Forum is a problem-oriented research colloquium in which students will have the chance to talk about their work, discuss theories and methodologies and peer-review their written work and presentation skills. **Students should attend the colloquium with the professor with whom they are writing their theses.**

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative coursework

Grade Requirement: Ungraded

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout semester

PHD

PhD Colloquia

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Language Variation

Instructor: David Britain

Time: Tuesday 10-12

Course Description: This colloquium is for students preparing for and/or writing a PhD thesis. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as important recent theoretical publications. The workshop is also open to advanced MA scholars intending to work on a PhD related to a currently running project. Contact Prof. Britain for further details.

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Language and Communication

Instructor: Crispin Thurlow

Time: Monday 10-12

Course Description: This colloquium is for students working on their doctoral research in Language and Communication. We meet weekly to discuss core theoretical readings and each person's current work-in-progress. From time to time our discussions centre around core methodologies and other foundational academic discourse practices.

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Key Issues in American Studies

Instructor: Gabriele Rippl

Time: Block course

Course Description: This colloquium is for PhD students, post-doc researchers and other advanced students and researchers who are working on a paper, a PhD thesis, their second book (Habilitation), etc. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as recent theoretical publications.

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Literature

Instructor: Thomas Claviez

Time: Monday 14-18

Course Description: This colloquium is for PhD students, post-doc researchers and other advanced students and researchers who are working on a paper, a PhD thesis, their second book (Habilitation), etc. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as recent theoretical publications.

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Modern English Literature

Instructor: Virginia Richter

Time: Block seminar

Sessions: By appointment

Course Description: This colloquium is for PhD students, post-doc researchers and other advanced students and researchers who are working on a paper, a PhD thesis, their second book (Habilitation), etc. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as recent theoretical publications.

Course Type: PhD and Research Colloquium

Title: Medieval Studies

Instructor: Annette Kern-Stähler

Course Description: This colloquium is for PhD students, post-doc researchers and other advanced students and researchers who are working on a paper, a PhD thesis, their second book (Habilitation), etc. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as recent theoretical publications.

STAFF RESEARCH INTERESTS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Franz Andres Morrissey: Creative writing, performing poetry, dialects in rock vocals, minority languages; Member of NAWA (National Association of Writers in Education) and EFL consultant for Cambridge University Press.

Sofie Behluli: Anglophone literature from 1900 to the present, the contemporary North American novel, postmodernism and post-postmodernism, intermediality, materiality, aura.

Matthias Berger: Medieval English literature, medievalism, adaptation, film and representations of the past, cultural memory, national identity constructions, ideology critique.

Maida Bilic: discourses of (genocide) remembrance, historical traumas, linguistic violence, meta-language, symbolic violence.

Claudine Bollinger: Fictionality, literature and science, storyworlds and possible world theory, epistemology and ontology in and of literature, aural media and literature.

David Britain: Language variation and change, English dialectology (esp. of Southern England, East Anglia and the Anglophone Southern Hemisphere), sociophonology, dialect contact, new dialect formation and second dialect acquisition, language and dialect obsolescence, the emergent dialects of diaspora communities, and the interface between dialectology and human geography; Associate Editor of the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*.

Dominique Bürki: Language variation and change, grammaticalisation, corpus linguistics and studies of contact languages, especially English as a lingua franca.

Thomas Claviez: Literary theory, aesthetics and ethics, 19th and 20th century American literature, American film, ecocriticism, native American literature, American history of ideas, postcolonial theory, representations of cosmopolitanism, hospitality and otherness.

Joe Comer: Sociolinguistics of globalisation; global studies; language ideologies; language policy and planning; participatory and community development, discourses of the global periphery and global South; language documentation and revitalisation; intercultural communication; language and sexuality, and language, culture and cognition.

Rory Critten: Late Medieval Literature in English and French, translation studies, manuscript studies, history of reading, autobiography.

Marijke Denger: Contemporary postcolonial literatures, postcolonial theory, ritual, hauntology, concepts of time, concepts of space, concepts of community, concepts of identity (construction), post-modern narrative strategies.

Sue Fox: Language variation and change, urban multicultural dialectology and linguistic change, the language of adolescents from a variationist perspective, some areas of second language learning and teaching. Preferred methods: analysis of spoken corpora (pre-existing or self-collected) within the variationist paradigm or analysis of self-collected data (for second language learning and teaching).

Hannah Hedegard: Forensic phonetics and sociolinguistics, socio-Phonetics, second language acquisition, World Englishes, language, mobility and globalisation.

Vanessa Jaroski: Sociolinguistics, language contact, discourse analysis, language ideologies, media discourse.

Annette Kern-Stähler: Medieval literature and culture; concepts of space; concepts of authorship; text and image; gender studies; interrelations between science and literature and between bioethics and literature; fundamentalism and literature; Victorian literature; postmodern literature; British-German relations.

Ryan Kopaitich: Literary theory, analytic/continental philosophy, philosophy of language, contemporary literature, Anglophone and continental (post)modernism, narratology.

Zoë Lehmann: literature and theology, Victorian literature, the long nineteenth century and literature and philosophy.

Tobias Leonhardt: Articulatory, acoustic and auditory phonetics; phonology; language variation and change; second language acquisition

Sara Lynch: Socio-pragmatics; politeness; second language acquisition; second language teaching and learning, Global Englishes; lesser known varieties of English, Irish English, language variation and change.

Margaret Mace-Tessler: Twentieth century literature written in English, comparative literature, narrative structure, film and film adaptations, ethics in literature.

Gwynne Mapes: Media discourse; language ideology; class and elitist discourse; food studies; consumption studies; preferred method: critical discourse analysis of written and/or spoken language.

Viola Marchi: Literary theory, contemporary American literature, native American literature, ethics and literature, postmodern fiction and aesthetics.

Nicole Nyffenegger: Medieval and early modern literature and culture; discourses of the human body; constructions and performativity of gender and identity; animals in literature; concepts of authorship. Gender studies, human-animal studies, literary theory.

Jakhan Pirhulyieva: English literature of the 19th century, Contemporary English literature, space and spatiality, literature and science, travel, mobility, the problem of identity, postcolonial studies.

Virginia Richter: British literature and culture in the Restoration and the Long Eighteenth Century; Victorianism; modernity; contemporary literature and film; literary and cultural theory; gender studies; postcolonial studies/cosmopolitanism; literature and science, especially Darwinism; literary representations of animals; literature and the environment, in particular the beach as an in-between space.

Gabriele Rippl: Intermediality (text-image relations, ekphrasis in particular), graphic novels, cultural studies, literary theory, interculturality and postcolonialism, cosmopolitanism, transculturalism, history and anthropology of the media, literature and anthropology, early modernity (frühe Neuzeit), 19th

and 20th century women writers in English, semiotics, autobiography research, feminist literary theory, transculturalism.

Kathrin Scheuchzer: Medieval and early modern literature, especially Reformation and post-Reformation literature, Protestant martyrology, hagiography, early modern print culture, concepts of author and readership, gender studies.

Julia Straub: Victorian literature, literature and photography, literature and philosophy, autobiography, contemporary British and American fiction.

Anja Thiel: Sociophonetics, acoustic phonetics, English in the United States, and L2 varieties of English.

Crispin Thurlow: Critical discourse studies, critical intercultural studies, sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, meta-language, language ideology, multimodality (e.g. visuality, space/place, material culture), language and globalization, language and new media, youth and adolescent communication, sex/uality, class inequality.

Students' Committee

Website: www.facebook.com/Studentscommittee (no Facebook account required)

E-mail: fsanglistik@sub.unibe.ch

The Students' Committee is a group of students within the English Department acting as the students' representatives at a departmental level. We maintain regular contact with the staff and professors, as well as other university departments and the SUB, communicating the voice of the student body to the department.

Among other things, we call General Assemblies once each semester. This is when all the students of English are asked to meet and discuss topics of general concern, and to provide feedback about past activities and other matters.

It is our responsibility to assist you in study matters and, therefore, we organize information meetings about various topics – such as your stay abroad – to give you the opportunity to gather information. Check the notice boards as well as our website for announcements. However, you can always contact us if you need any kind of assistance concerning your English studies.

We meet regularly to keep up to date with what is going on. If you have any suggestions or complaints, talk to one of us or feel free to e-mail us.

Feel free to join the Committee, or if you are interested in finding out what the Students' Committee is all about, contact one of the current members and/or join in at one of our meetings.

Check our Facebook page regularly!

Staff Address List Autumn Semester 2016

Office and telephone numbers are subject to change. Please consult the notice-boards and departmental website regularly.

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Thurlow, Crispin	crispin.thurlow@ens.unibe.ch
Zürcher, Sarah	sarah.zuercher@ens.unibe.ch

TIMETABLE SPRING SEMESTER 2017

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
08-10		Morrissey: Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology (FM The Sounds of English Lecture and MA Lecture)	Morrissey: Modern English Grammar II (Language Foundation Module) Richter: The Shelley-Byron Circle in Switzerland (MA Seminar)	Fox: Language Attitudes (MA Seminar) Kern-Stähler/Hesse: Miracles, Mystics and Monasteries: Religion and Literature in Medieval England (BA Workshop and MA Workshop)	
10-12	Writing Skills II (Language Foundation Module) Mace-Tessler: Gender and Text: Toward Liberation (MA Seminar) <i>Thurlow: Language and Communication (PhD and Research Colloquium)</i>	Morrissey: Phonology in Context (FM The Sounds of English Seminar) Writing Skills II (Language Foundation Module) Thurlow: Elite Discourse: Language, Class, Privilege (MA Seminar) <i>Britain: Language Variation (PhD and Research Colloquium)</i>	Britain/Kern-Stähler/Richter/Thurlow et al: On the Waterfront (FM Language and Literature on the Waterfront Lecture and MA Lecture)	Writing Skills II (Language Foundation Module) Writing Skills II (Language Foundation Module) Fox: Sound Variation in British English (FM The Sounds of English Seminar) Kern-Stähler/Richter: Bachelor Colloquium Medieval and Modern English Literature Claviez/Straub: Bachelor Colloquium North American Literature Kern-Stähler/Richter: Master Forum Medieval and Modern English Literature Claviez/Straub: Master Forum North American Literature	Nyffenegger: Blood, Wounds, Scars – The Inscribed Body in Medieval and Early Modern Literature (MA Seminar) Kluwick: Victorian Waterfronts (FM Language and Literature on the Waterfront Seminar)
12-14	Writing Skills II (Language Foundation Module) Hoppeler: "To be continued...": The Serialized Narrative (FM Popular Cultures Seminar)	Kopaitich: "Bound Together by Our Mutual Distaste for Everything Else": A Seminar in (Anti-)Pop-Culture (FM Popular Cultures Seminar)	Marchi: Criminal Imagination: Crime Fiction in American Literature and Culture (FM Popular Cultures Seminar)	Straub: Popular Culture: Theories, Media, and Case Studies (FM Popular Cultures Lecture and MA Lecture) Morrissey: Creative Writing (BA Workshop)	Kluwick: Reading Victorian Literature (MA Workshop)
14-16	Britain: Discovering Gibraltar English (MA Seminar) Mapes/ Thurlow: Beach Cultures and Ethnographic Methods: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology (FM Language and Literature on the Waterfront Seminar) Denger: Britannia Rules the Waves? Exploration, Domination and Resistance in (Post)Colonial Literature (FM Language and Literature on the Waterfront Seminar) <i>14-18: Claviez: Literature (PhD and Research Colloquium)</i>	Writing Skills II (Language Foundation Module) Hedegard/Britain et al: A Sociolinguistics of Islands (FM Language and Literature on the Waterfront Seminar) Lehmann: Reading the Romantics (BA Workshop) Claviez: Conceptualizing Cosmopolitanism and World Literature (MA Lecture)	Nyffenegger: Water-lands' – Islands in Medieval Literature (FM Language and Literature on the Waterfront Seminar) Critten: Reading Medieval Books: The Case of London, British Library MS Harley 2253 (MA Seminar)	Mace-Tessler: Reading Film (BA Workshop) Ravi: Contemporary South Asian Novel in English (MA Seminar) Frank: Walking in the City: Literary Imaginings of London, 1700-2000 (MA Workshop)	14-18: Nyffenegger: Reading (some of) Shakespeare's Greatest Plays
16-18	Britain/Thurlow: Bachelor Colloquium Language and Linguistics* Britain/Thurlow: Master Forum Language and Linguistics* Straub: Exploring Microfiction (MA Workshop)		Claviez: Ethics and Justice in U.S.-American Literature and Film (MA Seminar)	17-19: BMZ: Materiality – Immateriality. Objects and their Significance (BA Wahlbereich Lecture and MA Lecture) Morrissey: Page to Stage (BA Workshop)	
18-20			Collegium Generale: Visionen (BA Wahlbereich Lecture)		

Key:

Classes in **Bold** are for Master Students

Classes in *Italics* are for Doctoral Students

Language Foundation Modules:

Writing Skills & Modern English Grammar

Focus Modules:

Linguistics and Literature FM:

Language and Literature on the Waterfront

Linguistics FM: The Sounds of English

Literature FM: Popular Cultures

Block Workshops, Seminars and Study Trips (see Course Booklet for more Information):

Thiel: Shifts and Mergers in American English (FM The Sounds of English Seminar):

Mo, 24.4., 8-12; Fr, 28.4., 12-4; Fr, 05.5., 12-4; Mo, 08.5., 8-12;

Fr, 12.5., 12-4; Mo 15.5., 8-12; Fr, 19.5., 12-4

*Britain/Thurlow: Bachelor Colloquium Language and Linguistics/**MA Forum Language and Linguistics:**

Additional dates: Fr, 12.5., 9-18; Fr, 19.5., 9-18

Hesse/Kern-Stähler: Miracles, Mystics and Monasteries: Literature and Religion in Medieval England (MA Workshop)

2-day colloquium in February and 7-day study trip to the North of England May 2017

Frank: Walking in the City: Literary Imaginings of London, 1700-2000 (MA Workshop)

Preliminary meeting: Thursday, 23 February, 14-16; Block sessions: Thursday and

Friday 23 and 24 March, 9-18

Rippl: Key Issues in American Studies (PhD and Research Colloquium)

Block course, by appointment

Richter: Modern English Literature (PhD and Research Colloquium)

Block course, by appointment

Kern-Stähler: Medieval Studies (PhD and Research Colloquium)

Block course, by appointment