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INTRODUCTION

Dear students, dear members of staff,

The cover of this term’s booklet shows a detail from Joe Sacco’s latest work, *The Great War* (2013). When unfolded, Sacco’s work is a 24-foot long panorama narrating the British forces’ experience of the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916, a day which saw nearly 60,000 casualties among British soldiers alone. Sacco is but one among a great number of creative artists who have shown a strong interest in the First World War in the years leading up to this year’s centenary of its outbreak. It seems fitting that the English department should offer a Focus Module this term which explores the manifold ways in which literature and art in general have responded to the First World War since the war poets like Robert Graves, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen first turned their experiences in the trenches into poems.

The ‘World War I and Modernism’ module is one of four focus modules to choose from. The wide range of courses offered this term attests to the varied research interests in our department, covering a broad range of periods, genres and research questions, from ‘*Beowulf*’ to ‘Autobiography in a Globalized World’, from the ‘Language of Oral Literature’ to language contact and questions of language and gender. And again, a study trip has materialised: this term, our destination is Paris, where the Medieval Studies Section has organised a joint workshop with staff and students from the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Various members of our department have achieved something particularly noteworthy in the recent months: Virginia Richter was elected Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities; Julia Straub successfully completed her *Habilitation* and was awarded the *venia legendi* for English and American literature; Dr. des. Irmtraud Huber was awarded the Martin Lehnert Award by the German Shakespeare Foundation for her PhD on “Reconstructive Dreams. A Pragmatic Fantastic after Postmodernism”, soon to be published by Palgrave, and was elected co-president of the MVUB; Ursula Kluwick was awarded one of the prestigious Marie Heim-Vögtlin scholarships (SNF), which will enable her to focus on her *Habilitation*. Congratulations to all of you!
A number of new publications are ready to be displayed in our glass bookcase. Please stop by and take a look once the display case is up on the (freshly-painted) wall. Speaking of renovation, thankfully, this is nearing completion. Our bright and shiny new Tea Corner is now fully operational for students and staff, complete with running water, and the library reference and presence shelves are back in their old home. Annie Cottier, Franz Andres Morrissey and Margaret Mace-Tessler are housed temporarily in room S103, Lerchenweg 36, but will finally move to Unitobler in the summer break. Then, for the first time in many years, all staff members of the English Department will be based at Unitobler. Thank you all for your patience during the period of disruption.

As usual, the new semester brings a series of goodbyes and welcomes. We say thank you and farewell to PD Dr. Sarah Chevalier (linguistics), to Bettina Müller (linguistics / Directors’ Assistant) and Simon Reber (Literatures in English), visiting lecturers Dr. Rory Critten, Dr. Mark Nixon (who will stay on at the IASH, however), Prof. Philipp Schweighauser, Prof. Therese Steffen and Dr. Shane Walshe, all of whom will be sorely missed. We welcome three new assistants, Dominique Bürki, Melanie Fanger and Tobias Leonhardt, as well as our new Directors’ Assistant Nia Stephens-Metcalfe. Many thanks to our departing tutors Livia Gerber and Daniel Suter, and welcome to Matthias Berger, Barbara Boss and Mara de Zanet as new tutors. Dr. Kellie Gonçalves is on maternity leave this semester.

Below you find the list of hard-working people who (along with Monika and Hilary in the secretariat) deal with your day-to-day concerns.

Now it only remains for me to wish you all an exciting and productive semester. Enjoy!

Prof. Annette Kern-Stähler
Head of Department
WHOM TO ASK

Study Counselling for BA Students
Students with surname A-M:
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International and Exchange Coordinator / Practical Module Coordinator
Please consult website for details of how to proceed

Independent Studies Proposals
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Independent Studies Coordinator
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Assessment of Courses and Information about your Results
Individual course instructors

KSL Enquiries
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   Head of Department
Medieval English Studies
Prof. Dr. David Britain
   Modern English Linguistics
Prof. Dr. Thomas Claviez
   Literary Theory
Prof. Dr. Virginia Richter
   Modern English Literature
Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rippl
   North American Literature and Culture

Senior Assistants
Dr. Nicole Nyffenegger
   Medieval English Studies
Dr. Julia Straub
   North American Literature and Culture

Lecturers
Dr. Franz Andres Morrissey
   Modern English Linguistics
Dr. des. Juliane Felder
   Modern English Literature
Dr. Matt Kimmich
   English Languages and Literatures
Dr. Margaret Mace-Tessler
   English Languages and Literatures
Dr. Jürg Strässler
   Modern English Linguistics
Dr. des. Nicole Studer-Joho
   Historical Linguistics
Dr. Dietmar J. Wetzel, Dipl.

Assistants
Dominique Bürki, M.A.
   Modern English Linguistics
Lic.phil. hist. Annie Cottier
   Postcolonial Studies
Melanie Fanger, M.A.
   Modern English Linguistics
Dr. Kellie Gonçalves
   Modern English Linguistics
Dr. des. Irmtraud Huber
   Modern English Literature
Dr. Ursula Kluwick
   Modern English Literature
Ryan Kopaitich, M.A.
   Literary Theory
Zoe Lehmann, M.A.
   Modern English Linguistics
Viola Marchi, M.A.
   Literary Theory
Kathrin Reist, M.A.
   Medieval English Studies

PhD Students (Projects funded by SNF)
Marijke Denger, M.A.
   Modern English Literature
Lukas Etter, M.A.
   North American Literature and Culture
Stephanie Hoppeler
   North American Literature and Culture
Ryan Kopaitich, M.A.
   Literary Theory
Zoe Lehmann, M.A.
   Modern English Literature
Viola Marchi, M.A.
   Literary Theory
Christoph Neuenschwander
   Modern English Linguistics
Laura Tresch
   Modern English Linguistics
For information about staff consultation times please consult the departmental website.

Secretaries
Hilary Sharp
- 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

Librarian
Nicole Bögli
- Monday-Thursday

Information is subject to change. Please consult the notice boards and the departmental website regularly.
Bachelor Studies

Language Foundation Module

Course Type: BA Language Course
Title: Modern English Grammar II
Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey
Time: Tuesday 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).

Course Type: BA Language Course
Title: Writing Skills II
Instructor: M. Mace-Tessler / M. Kimmich
Time: Monday 10-12, or Tuesday 10-12, or Thursday 10-12
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 materials needed for this course have been designed to meet the students’ needs and will be made available during the course. Some material will be posted on ILIAS.

Aims: 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 personal 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 semester. The final paper must be submitted by 6 June 2014.
Focus Module: Language Contact

Course Type: BA Focus Module Lecture
Title: Languages in Contact
Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey
Time: Thursday 8:30-10
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: In this lecture we will explore a variety of issues arising when languages come into contact with one another. This can be the case on the level of individuals who find themselves exposed to languages that are different from their own, but also in terms of linguistic groups in a given society or of language groups in a national setting existing side by side or competing with one another. On the level of individuals finding themselves in such contact situations we will also look at individual bilingualism in a multilingual setting, at communication strategies and at code-switching/mixing. On the societal level we will consider intergroup relations, language dominance, but also look at language maintenance and intergenerational transmission. On the level of national or transnational language contact situations these issues will cover societal bilingualism, language and educational politics, and the development of new languages from the language contact situation.

Texts: The texts will be made available in downloadable format (PDF) on www.morrissey.unibe.ch.

Aims: To gain an overview of the sociological, political, educational and psychological implications of language contact situations.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Lecture test.

Grade Requirement: Short oral exam. The grade for the whole Focus Module (lecture + one seminar) is acquired in the respective seminar.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: last week of semester.
Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar

Title: Language Contact in the History of English

Instructor: N. Studer-Joho

Time: Monday 12-14

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes  No

Course Description: The history of English is one of repeated contact with speakers of other languages. With a particular focus on Latin, Celtic, Scandinavian and French, we will explore the various contact scenarios that profoundly affected the English language from the Old English to the Early Modern English period. By applying the theoretical background acquired in the accompanying lecture and in reading assignments, we will investigate the socio-historical and linguistic factors which affected the English lexicon, phonology, morphology and syntax to various degrees.

Texts: Texts for each session will be available on ILIAS.

Aims: At the end of the course, students will be able to explain how and why the contact with different languages affected the development of English to various degrees.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative coursework.

Grade Requirement: 4000-word paper on a topic related to the seminar. Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar

Title: English as a Lingua Franca: A Language in Contact

Instructor: D. Bürki

Time: Wednesday 12-14

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? □ Yes □ No

Course Description: English as a lingua franca (ELF) is “the common language used by people of different language backgrounds to communicate with each other” (Kirkpatrick 2007: 155).¹ ELF emerged due to contact settings and therefore contact situations are always involved in analysing this specific function of English. Hence cultural aspects such as intercultural communication need to be taken into consideration for analysis.

In this seminar, we look at the on-going discussion about ELF and its connection to World Englishes and, furthermore, the influence of contact situations in ELF and their consequences will be analysed. The VOICE (Vienna-Oxford International Corpus of English) corpus provides the data for analysis. Different aspects will be focused on, such as phonology, grammar as well as pragmatics, especially in terms of successful communication in ELF settings.

Texts: Relevant texts will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: Students will be equipped with the necessary skills to use a corpus and analyse lingua franca English settings from different points of view.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Presentation and cumulative coursework.

Grade Requirement: Graded students are evaluated on their cumulative coursework and an approx. 4000-word paper. Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.


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Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar

Title: The Phonology of Second Language Acquisition

Instructor: T. Leonhardt

Time: Monday 14-16

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: Accents often indicate whether speakers are local or non-local, native or non-native. Moreover, they often allow conclusions about the speakers’ places of origin. Therefore, the accents of natives and non-natives must differ somehow.

This course equips students with the tools necessary to understand the phonology of accents. We will, among other things, analyse the sound repertoires of different languages and language-specific rules that govern the construction of syllables in order to find out what the differences between a native and a non-native speaker’s accents are. We will investigate the processes at work for the acquisition of English as a second language, which will then help us explain why these differences occur. For these purposes, we will have a detailed look at the speech of people from a variety of countries, pinpoint why their English accents sound foreign or not native-like, and also look at imitations of accents, for instance in TV shows, and judge whether they are accurate from a phonological point of view.

Texts: Relevant readings will be uploaded on ILIAS.

Aims: Students successfully completing this seminar will understand the nature of accents in general and be able to investigate the constituents of specific foreign accents.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative course work, an oral presentation.

Grade Requirement: Cumulative coursework, an oral presentation, and a seminar paper. Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Focus Module: Grammatical Analysis

Course Type: BA Focus Module Lecture (and MA Lecture)

Title: Grammar and Grammaticality

Instructor: J. Strässler

Time: Friday 10-12

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☑ Yes ☐ No

**Course Description:** In this FM lecture we will look at different grammars and their respective grammaticality. The term ‘grammar’ is multiply ambiguous. In linguistics it does not refer to a set of prescriptive rules users of a language have to follow but either to the underlying universal system or to a language-specific system. At the same time it refers to both the internal system of the language user and to the set of hypotheses the linguist puts forth to explain that system, in other words, it applies to internal, mental grammar as opposed to scientific grammar. Whereas internal grammars are inaccessible to direct research and operate on different levels at the same time, in scientific grammars all the rules have to be stated on their own and they can only operate one after the other. A scientific grammar aims at the definition of a restricted set of rules and regulations that account for the functioning of linguistic competence, i.e. the internal, mental grammar.

Grammaticality is defined as a judgement on the acceptability of a string of words within a given system. This system, however, is not syntax only. It can also incorporate semantics as well as pragmatics.

We will first look at traditional grammars but the main focus will lie on the main scientific grammars developed since the 1950s. The lecture will be accompanied by a tutorial and supplemented by the FM seminar “Formal grammars and their Implications”.

**Texts:** Texts will be made available on ILIAS.

**Aims:** To familiarise the students with the linguistic concept of “grammar” by looking at the development in the past 50 years.

**Evaluation (pass/fail):** Lecture test.

**Grade Requirement:** The grade for the whole Focus Module (lecture + one seminar) is acquired in the respective seminar.

**Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation:** tba.
Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar
Title: Formal Grammars and Their Implications
Instructor: J. Strässler
Time: Tuesday 12-14
Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes  ☐ No

Course Description: In this FM seminar we will look at the different formal grammars that will be introduced in the FM lecture “Grammar and Grammaticality” in more detail. Apart from doing and designing exercises we will discuss the implications and possible applications of the different theories. With the advent of formal grammars in the late 1950s, the view on first language acquisition has radically changed and new concepts of second language acquisition have been developed. Whereas traditional grammars just consisted of a set of (mainly) prescriptive rules users of a language have to follow, scientific grammars aim at the definition of a restricted set of rules and regulations that account for the functioning of linguistic competence, i.e. the internal, mental grammar. Modern grammars take this into consideration.

The purpose of this seminar is to help students to have an overall understanding of the theories and key concepts of formal grammars as well as the positive role they play in EFL contexts.

Texts: Texts will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: To familiarise students with the linguistic concepts of formal grammars and their implications with respect to first and second language acquisition.


Grade Requirement: Regular attendance (no more than 2 misses). Cumulative coursework. Oral presentation. 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.

Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar

Title: Grammar and How it is Taught

Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey

Time: Wednesday 8:30 – 10

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: In this course we will look at a number of language textbooks of various levels, Beginner to Advanced, and of various periods and of various origin, local textbooks aimed at a specific mother-tongue learner or textbooks produced by international publishers for an international market. We will analyse these textbooks in terms of how they structure grammar, what they focus on and in what sequence and, perhaps as importantly, what they leave out. Where possible we will also try to discover what models of linguistic analysis are used in the pedagogy and how well they work from a learner’s point view.

Texts: Various textbooks. These will be made available in PDF copies from www.morrissey.unibe.ch. Students are encouraged to bring along materials they have been confronted with in their own language learning.

Aims: To analyse critically how textbooks approach and deal with grammar, with a longer-term aim to become more aware of how grammar is and can be taught.

Evaluation (pass/fail): A detailed analysis of several grammar topics in one textbook or one topic in several textbooks. The focus can be on introduction of the grammar topic(s), exercises or the explanations of the grammar in itself.

Grade Requirement: Seminar paper or alternative option to be discussed in class. Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar

Title: Analysing Grammatical Variation and Change: British and American English

Instructor: D. Bürki / M. Fanger

Time: Monday 10-12

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: Two contemporary dialect corpora, one from a southern British English dialect and another from an American English dialect, will be analysed in terms of their grammar. Previous research on different variable grammatical features, such as the variation between possessive have, have got and got; must, have to, have got to and got to as forms of modal obligation and necessity, and different ways of negating auxiliary verbs (e.g. she hasn’t run, she’s not run, she ain’t run) will be discussed. Students will choose one grammatical feature and conduct their own study of it from the corpora. Current theoretical issues and established analytical techniques will be considered. Students will learn the steps to get to the final results of their own investigation, which include: preparation of the data (e.g. transcriptions), extraction of the relevant grammatical features, classification of examples and quantification of the grammatical feature. Students will then compare their findings with existing research from other varieties of English. In so doing, the results can be contextualised and students can contribute to the existing research literature of the chosen grammatical feature. In the last two sessions, students will present their findings in conference style.

Texts: Relevant texts will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: Students are trained in the necessary skills to be able to conduct corpus-based analysis on grammatical variation and change.

Evaluation (pass/fail): 4 ECTS (ungraded): short presentation on a relevant previously published empirical research project + transcription, extraction and analysis of data.

Grade Requirement: 7 ECTS (graded): short presentation on a relevant previously published empirical research project + transcription, extraction and analysis of data + conference presentation with handout.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Submission of research portfolio by 13 June 2014.
Focus Module: World War I and Modernism

Course Type: BA Focus Module Lecture
Title: Writing the Great War
Instructor: I. Huber / V. Richter
Time: Wednesday 10-12
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: The First World War changed the face of Europe, but it was more than a political and military event. The front experience, in particular the trench war and the mass destruction made possible by new technologies (airplanes, machine guns, poison gas), and the transformations on the home front (women's influx on the job market) affected the lives of individuals as well as the structures of modern society. Poets such as Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon responded immediately to the horrors of the trenches, while novels such as Remarque’s *All Quiet on the Western Front* and Hemingway’s *A Farewell to Arms* (both 1929) denounced the glorification of war in the following decade. Texts by authors who had no direct experience of the war, like Rebecca West’s *The Return of the Soldier*, or the poetry of H.D. attest to the gulf of incomprehension that opened between the theatres of war and life back home on the British Isles. In the lecture series, we will look at various dimensions of the war and post-war experience, such as the concept of trauma in literary, psychoanalytical and theoretical texts; aesthetic responses to a bloodshed defying description; coping strategies such as spiritualism; and theoretical reflections on the war in terms of apocalypse, cultural pessimism and the decline of cultures (Freud, Spengler). Historically, texts covered in the lecture will range from the immediate pre-war period to Pat Barker’s *Regeneration* trilogy (1991-95).

Texts: The lecture will cover a broad range of genres, from war poetry to memoirs and novels. A list of texts will be posted on ILIAS in January.

Aims: To give students insights into an important chapter of literary and cultural history, and to study it from a comparative perspective; to show how socio-historical and aesthetic aspects intersect; to familiarise students with various critical approaches.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Lecture test.

Grade Requirement: Review of secondary literature.

Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar

Title: Modern Moments: Concepts of Time in Modernity and Modernism

Instructor: I. Huber

Time: Tuesday 16-18

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich?  Yes  No

Course Description: In his book-length discussion of *Time and Western Man* (published 1927), Wyndham Lewis laments “a sort of mystical time-cult” which he sees spreading throughout Western culture. The list of his main adversaries, including Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, James Joyce and Charlie Chaplin, nowadays reads almost like a who is who of modernism. And indeed, the very definition of modernity is anchored in time. To be modern means to be always in and of the moment, implying constant flux and innovation.

Modernist writers certainly had much reason to be preoccupied by time. During their lifetime they saw unprecedented change and destruction, in which the convictions and securities of the past were utterly overthrown. New technologies like automobiles, telecommunication and the cinematograph radically changed daily life, rapid urbanisation moved more and more people to cosmopolitan metropolises in constant flux, Henri Bergson’s philosophical concerns with time became widely influential and Einstein’s relativity theory revolutionised the accepted truths of Newtonian physics. The unfathomable rupture of the Great War further contributed to a general sense of fragmentation, discontinuity and apocalypse. Responding to the challenge posed by these uncertain times, modernist literature discards literary conventions, responding to Ezra Pound’s famous call to “Make it new!”: Fragmentary, experimental and often hermetic, modernist literature is notorious for being difficult and challenging, accessible only to an elect elite. In this seminar, we will focus on modernist conceptions of time and use them as an entry point into a better understanding of main concerns of modernist aesthetics and as a key to unlock a set of literary texts that baffle most readers at first encounter.

From the visionary moments and discontinuous time frames of Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse* to the frozen time in the trenches of Ford Madox Ford’s *A Man Could Stand Up*; from T.S. Eliot’s repeated reminder to “HURRY UP PLEASE IT’S TIME” in *The Waste Land*, to Charlie Chaplin being mangled by the mechanised clock-work of modern factory labour in *Modern Times* – modernist struggles with time can be made to speak eloquently of a period in which European culture has arguably seen more radical social and cultural changes than ever before or since.

Texts: The following texts should have been read by the beginning of the semester and will be the subject of a quiz in the first session: Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*; T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*; Ford Madox Ford, *A Man Could Stand Up* (part III of the tetralogy *Parade’s End*).
Summaries of the first two parts can be found on Wikipedia. These texts are available at Bu- geno. Further texts, both primary and secondary, will be made available on ILIAS.

**Aims:** This course aims to encourage students to let themselves be challenged by complex narrative and poetic texts, delving beyond their frequently hermetic surface and gaining a better understanding of a pivotal aesthetic movement. Confronted with different concepts and usages of time, we will find occasion to investigate and reconsider our own assumptions about time and temporality and get some insight into a fascinating period of European culture which faced developments and problems that still reverberate nowadays.

**Evaluation (pass/fail):** Regular and active attendance (no more than 2 sessions may be missed), session minutes or presentation.

**Grade Requirement:** Abstract + seminar 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 May 2014 (Abstracts) + 30 June 2014 (Papers).
Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar

Title: “Hear the air screaming”: Death and Modernism in The Great War

Instructor: Z. Lehmann Imfeld

Time: Friday 14-16

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: This course will explore British modernist approaches to writing about death, and examine how these equipped writers to respond to the trauma of the First World War. Through a broad range of material, including novels, short stories, autobiography and poetry, we will see how modernist writers approached death through myth making, the grotesque and even humour. For the modernists provided a language for an era that not only faced physical death on a scale seldom seen, but the death of innocence and idealism.


Aims: To explore the way in which modernist techniques of the early twentieth century shaped and influenced discourse about death and mourning.


Grade Requirement: Seminar attendance and active participation. 4000-word essay. Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar

Title: Early Gothic Horror Cinema: Reflections on/of War

Instructor: J. Felder

Time: Block sessions, 9.00-13.00: 7 April, 14 April, 28 April, 5 May, 12 May, 19 May, 26 May

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes No

Course Description: From the beginning, Gothic fiction has frequently picked up on contemporary issues, and so has its offspring, the Gothic horror film. It thus comes as no surprise that in times of war Gothic literature and horror cinema have dealt with and reflected the horrors of war. In this seminar, we will focus on such reflections in the Gothic horror film of the period from the First until the Second World War. We will begin with the German Expressionist films of the Weimar Republic (e.g., The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, Nosferatu) and then turn to Hollywood horror (e.g., Dracula, Frankenstein), which was greatly influenced by the former. Besides analysing movies (some films will be screened in class), we will also look at related Gothic novels and a variety of relevant secondary texts.

Texts: Selected films and texts, which will be made available to students in class or on ILIAS. It would be expedient if students could read the two Gothic novels Frankenstein (Mary Shelley) and Dracula (Bram Stoker) before the beginning of the course.

Aims: To strengthen the skills necessary for the close-reading and analysis of literary and cinematic texts and to develop an understanding of Gothic horror fiction, the context of particular works as well as related theoretical concepts.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Presence and active participation; thorough preparation of set texts; preparation and presentation of a secondary text and discussion questions on one of the texts/topics discussed in the seminar.

Grade Requirement: Presence and active participation; thorough preparation of set texts; paper, which will provide the grade for the whole Focus Module (lecture + seminar); presentation (submission of hand-out/PowerPoint required). Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Focus Module: Discovering the Middle Ages

Course Type: BA Focus Module Lecture

Title: Medieval English Literature and Culture

Instructor: A. Kern-Stähler / N. Nyffenegger

Time: Wednesday 14-16

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes  No

Course Description:
Lovers as dreamers, kings as monsters, pilgrims as sinners, Christ as mother . . . medieval English literature abounds in motifs that may at first seem strange and unfamiliar. After all, they were inspired by cultures from which we are removed by up to 1200 years. Yet these Old and Middle English works speak, and appeal, to us today. In this lecture, we will introduce you to the interdisciplinary field of Medieval English Studies. Looking closely at some major Old and Middle English texts, we will familiarise you with the ways in which literature, as a cultural product, reflects on the societies that produced it.

Texts: The texts will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: To introduce students to medieval English literature and culture and to an interdisciplinary approach to medieval culture.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Lecture test.

Grade Requirement: Short oral exam. The grade for the whole Focus Module (lecture + one seminar) is acquired in the respective seminar.

Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar

Title: Where the Pepper Grows: Medieval Travel Writers and Their World

Instructor: K. Reist

Time: Tuesday 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 accompany a range of very different medieval writers on their travels around the world. We will begin our journey in classical antiquity and make our way to the late sixteenth century through a myriad of Latin, English, French, Arabic and Russian texts. We will explore how different medieval cartographers viewed their world(s) and tread in the footsteps of pilgrims, crusaders, merchants, discoverers and adventurers from all corners of the world, following them from their various homelands to faraway places, to Paradise and Hell, and all the way to where the pepper grows. We will meet genuine world travellers as well as imaginary voyagers who probably ventured no further than to the nearest library. As we shall see, both types of writers had a lot to say about how they experienced the world and gave voice to different ideologies that shaped the way they perceived themselves and others. Our reading of primary texts by authors like Margery Kempe, Sir John Mandeville, Ibn al-Atīr, Benjamin of Tudela, Marco Polo, Afanasiy Nikitin, Christopher Columbus or Sir Walter Raleigh will be complemented by a corpus of secondary material on classical and medieval cartography, Anglo-Saxon culture, the crusades, pilgrimage, travel and trade and the Age of Discovery. This is a reading intensive course and students are asked to be well prepared for each session in order to be able to participate in our discussion of the weekly reading assignments.

Texts: Will include excerpts from Strabo’s Geography, The Old English Letter of Alexander to Aristotle, The Wonders of the East, Bernard of Clairvaux’s De Laude Novae Militiae, The Book of Margery Kempe, The Travels of Marco Polo, Jordanus’s Mirabilia, The Travels of Sir John Mandeville, Nikitin’s Journey Beyond the Three Seas and Sir Walter Raleigh’s Discovery of Guiana. Please note that this selection is still subject to change. All texts will be provided in English translation where necessary and will be made available on ILIAS at the beginning of term.

Aims: To familiarise students with medieval travel literature as a genre and to set our reading of English texts in a wider geographical, historical, linguistic and literary context.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance and active participation in class.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation in class and a written 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: Written papers are to be handed in in electronic from by 4 July 2014.
Course Type: BA Focus Module Seminar
Title: Chaucer’s Women
Instructors: A. Kern-Stähler / N. Nyffenegger
Time: Wednesday 10-12
Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: Chaucer’s world is also a woman’s world: a world featuring women from all walks of life and, significantly, a world which is often seen through the eyes of a woman. Indeed, it has become a scholarly commonplace that Chaucer created the first psychologically viable women in English literature. But is Chaucer a woman’s friend or foe? For centuries, readers of Chaucer have been intrigued by this question. Reiterating antifeminist ideas in his poetry and at the same time challenging them, Chaucer remains, as always, morally ambivalent. It is not least this ambiguity which makes his poetry so appealing to us today. With its numerous, often conflicting, voices, Chaucer’s poetry lays open the tensions within medieval gender discourse. In this seminar we will explore the representation of Chaucer’s women in its cultural contexts, focusing on the complexity and instability of gender constructs.

Texts: To be purchased before the beginning of term: your own copy of the Riverside Chaucer. Please read Troilus and Criseyde before the beginning of term.

Aims: To introduce students to Chaucer’s major works and to gender roles and expectations in the Middle Ages; to familiarise them with an interdisciplinary approach to medieval culture; to practise the skills necessary for a critically informed close reading of (medieval) literature.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, preparation of set texts, active participation and short presentations.

Grade Requirement: Written paper of approx. 4000 words. Students who would like to acquire a grade for the Focus Module will also have to pass the lecture.

Other Courses

Course Type: BA Workshop
Title: Reading Film
Instructor: M. 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.

Aims: 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 coursework.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Throughout the term. The journal must be submitted by 6 June 2014.
Course Type: BA Workshop
Title: Practical Issues in Paper Writing
Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey
Time: Tuesday 14-16
Credit Points: 3 ECTS
Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☑ Yes  ☐ No

Course Description:
The course addresses problems of students of English writing in a language that is not their first. This will partly focus on language issues, in particular developing vocabulary, recognising and using collocations correctly, but also studying typical errors that tend to occur as “hardy perennials” in student writing. Furthermore, we will explore questions of a stylistic nature to become aware of the sort of registers that work or do not work in academic writing. Lastly, we will, depending on the number of students, look at work in progress, in particular at aspects like cohesion, structuring papers, abstract writing, etc.

Texts: Supplied by the instructor and the students.

Aims: To improve academic writing, in particular for students of linguistics (but literature students are also very welcome).

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation and a quiz.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded.
Course Type: BA Workshop
Title: Creative Writing
Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey
Time: Thursday 12-14
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? □ Yes □ No

Course Description: 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. On the other hand, we will discuss texts written by members of the group and make suggestions for editing and redrafting, which requires being constructively critical of one’s own and each other’s work. Depending on the number of students in the group this will be done in class, e.g. in the form of regular feedback discussions or in post-it sessions. With bigger groups we will also attempt to set up a virtual classroom where texts can be posted and discussed.

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...

Aims: 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 texts, 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.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: 24 January 2014

Remarks: Priority for places in this workshop is given to students of the English Department.
Course Type: BA Workshop

Title: Performing Text

Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey

Time: Thursday 16-18

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? □ Yes □ No

Course Description: In this course we will explore various texts, excerpts from plays, both classic and contemporary, poetry, oral literature and, if time allows, some speeches with a view to improving, firstly, the understanding of the textual material, including its translation into performance, and, secondly, to develop our skills in voice control, presentation and performance in public in general.

Participants are expected to engage actively in the course, at times also to supply their own textual inputs and, in some instances at least, to be prepared for spontaneous non-text bound production of speech.

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), or students will be asked to bring in their own material.

Aims: To develop an understanding for literary 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.

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

Title: Exploring Writing Processes: The Poetics of Imagery, Narrative and Drama in Practice

Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey / I. Huber

Dates: 14 - 16 March 2014

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☑️ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: The aim of this residential block workshop is to explore the interface between text production and the performance of texts. Students will spend two days and two evenings at the Kulturmühle Lützelflüh (www.kulturmuehle.ch) engaging in productive and creative work that is intended to yield insights into how texts are produced and how they are refined as a result of the interaction between the participants in processes that involve oral presentation, writing and enactment/performance. We will be looking at the development of characterisation, at the impact of figurative language, at performance technique and how it can shape texts, but also at the mutual interdependence of performer, text and audience and how this impacts on narratives or dramatic text material. Participants must be prepared to produce, present and discuss their own creative work. The approximate costs for travel and accommodation (2 nights) will be 50 CHF per person.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Active attendance.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded.

Course Type: BA Workshop
Title: Reading Beowulf: Text and Context
Instructor: K. Reist
Time: Monday 14-16
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Course Description: In 1936, when Beowulf made its first appearance on the public stage, J. R. R. Tolkien gave a now famous lecture in which he concluded that “there is not much poetry in the world like this; and though Beowulf may not be among the very greatest poems of our western world and its tradition, it has its own individual character, and peculiar solemnity” (“Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics”, Proceedings of the British Academy, 278). This workshop will be devoted to in-depth study of Beowulf, its “individual character” and the codex in which it is bound. While carefully reading and discussing the text over the course of the semester, we will familiarise ourselves with Beowulf scholarship, starting with Tolkien’s lecture and making our way to more recent publications in the field. We will explore its historical context, look at archaeological evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period and conduct our own palaeographical research, examining the manuscript and learning about how it was made. Towards the end of term, we will also look at modern representations of Grendel, his mother and, of course, the great hero himself in graphic novels and film and compare these to our reading of the original poem. By way of evaluation, students will be asked to present one aspect of the text, its background and/or the manuscript and to produce a research poster, which will be displayed in a mini-exhibition in the department at the end of term. In this exhibition, we want to show that Beowulf is more than an antiquated piece of literature and at the same time do away with some modern misconceptions, fostered by the Hollywood film industry and others.

Texts: Students should procure their own copy of Beowulf edited by Michael Swanton, which can be purchased at the Unitobler bookshop at the beginning of term. Secondary material will be made available on ILIAS in due course.

Aims: To explore different facets of a given literary text from a range of perspectives and to encourage students to do their own research and be creative in their choice of topic.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Students are asked to actively participate in this workshop and to complete the group assignment involving the production of a research poster to be displayed in the department at the end of term.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: last week of term.
Course Type: BA Workshop

Title: Postcolonial Travel Writing

Instructor: A. Cottier

Time: Tuesday 10-12

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? Yes □ No

Course Description: In this workshop, we will delve into studying the genre of travel writing by closely reading three travel accounts, From Heaven Lake (1983) by Vikram Seth, In An Antique Land by Amitav Ghosh (1992) and A Place Within. Rediscovering India (2008) by M.G. Vassanji. In these narratives, India, China, Egypt and the Indian Ocean are the spaces in which the writers travel and the travellers write. Space, place and time, histories, geographies, politics, the traveller and storytelling – these are just some of the topics that we will be discussing throughout the course.

Texts: From Heaven Lake (1983) by Vikram Seth, In An Antique Land by Amitav Ghosh (1992), A Place Within. Rediscovering India (2008) by M.G. Vassanji. You are expected to have read all the primary texts before the beginning of semester. The books will be available at the Bugenio.

Aims: The aim of this workshop is to become familiar with this particular genre, to practise close reading and the discussion of literary texts, and to practise the critical reading of secondary texts. You will be asked to write two responses to an article of your choice (approx. 2000 words). One of the responses will be handed in at mid-semester, and one at the end of semester.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Ungraded.

Grade Requirement: tba.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Tuesday, 15 April 2014, and Tuesday, 13 May 2014.
Course Type: BA / MA / Wahlbereich Lecture

Title: BMZ Ringvorlesung: “Migration im Mittelalter”

Instructor: A. Kern-Stähler, medievalists of Berne University and guest speakers

Time: Thursday 17-19

First Session: 27 February 2014

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Open to students from other departments as Wahlbereich? ☒ Yes ☐ No


Ort: Hauptgebäude Raum 220

Evaluation (pass/fail):

As BA and MA lecture (graded or ungraded): Regular presence, three follow-up sessions (dates tba, usually Friday morning). Please contact Dr Nicole Nyffenegger (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.

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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<td>27.2.2014</td>
<td>Völker auf Wanderschaft. Schriftliche, archäologische und klimatologische Evidenz zu den Motiven und zum Ablauf von Migrationsbewegungen während der Völkerwanderung</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Ch. Rohr, Bern</td>
<td>(Geschichte)</td>
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<td>06.3.2014</td>
<td>Mirabilia für den Khan: Europäische Kaufleute im mongolischen Yuan-Reich</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. K. Kollmar-Paulenz, Bern</td>
<td>(Religionswissenschaft)</td>
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<td>13.3.2014</td>
<td>Die mittelalterliche deutsche Ostsiedlung als Migrationsprozess aus archäologischer Perspektive (BMZ-f)</td>
<td>PD Dr. F. Biermann, Göttingen</td>
<td>(Ur- und Frühgeschichte)</td>
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<td>20.3.2014</td>
<td>Der wandernde König</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. R. C. Schwinges, Bern</td>
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<td>Fließende Übergänge – eine Maria Magdalena-Legende über- quert den Rhein... und andere Grenzen</td>
<td>M.A. R. Kirakosian, Oxford</td>
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<td>03.4.2014</td>
<td>Matthäus Ensinger: Ein wandernder Künstler zwischen Bern, Straßburg, Prag, Ulm und Thann</td>
<td>Dr. R. Nemec, Bern</td>
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<td>10.4.2014</td>
<td>„The best of islands“ - Eroberung und Migration in der mittelalterlichen englischen Literatur</td>
<td>Dr. N. Nyffenegger / K. Reist</td>
<td>Bern (Anglistik)</td>
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<td>01.5.2014</td>
<td>La migration du culte des saints laïcs italiens vers l’Allemagne du Sud et la Suisse au XVe- début du XVIe siècle (Bindschedler-Gastvortrag)</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. A. Vauchez, Paris</td>
<td>(Geschichte) Balzan-Preisträger 2013</td>
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<td>08.5.2014</td>
<td>Deutsche Zuwanderer in Venedig</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. U. Israel, Dresden</td>
<td>(Geschichte)</td>
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<td>15.5.2014</td>
<td>Die Wüste und das Meer - Mobilität im Mittelmeerraum (BMZ-f)</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. T. Dittelbach, Bern</td>
<td>(Kunstgeschichte) / Prof. Dr. H. Friese, Chemnitz (Sozialanthropologie)</td>
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<td>22.5.2014</td>
<td>Nomadische Mobilität freiwillig und erzwungen. Eroberungsarmee und Umsiedlungen zur Zeit Timurs</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. J. Paul, Halle</td>
<td>(Islamwissenschaft)</td>
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Alles hat seine Zeit: Konzepte der Zeit in Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft

Collegium Generale

Wednesday 18-20

3 ECTS

Yes


Grade Requirement: Die Studierenden verfassen von mindestens dreien der Einzelvorlesungen eine kritische Zusammenfassung und Stellungnahme à 1000 Wörter (2-3 Seiten) und einen schriftlichen Kommentar bezogen auf die Leitidee der gesamten Reihe à 1000 Wörter (2-3 Seiten). Jeder Text wird mit einer Note bewertet. Danach wird durch Mittelung und Rundung die Gesamtnote gebildet. Falls diese ungenügend ist, besteht die Möglichkeit, die Texte nachträglich noch einmal zu verbessern. 3 der eingereichten Texte müssen bestanden werden.

Grade: Bitte melden Sie sich in ILIAS für den Kurs an. Bitte für die Abfassung der Texte die dafür vorgesehene Formulare verwenden, sie sind auf der Lernplattform ILIAS beim entsprechenden Kurs abrufbar.

Abgabefrist für die Texte: Abgabefrist für die Texte wird noch angegeben. Sie können die Texte auch laufend während der Vorlesungsreihe einreichen. Korrigiert werden sie erst am
Schluss. Die Zusammenfassungen und der Kommentar sind in Einzelarbeit abzufassen (Kopieren/Abschreiben gilt nicht) und im WORD-Format einzureichen (keine PDF-Dateien).

Lecture Program:

19.2.2014 Zeitordnungen in der Geschichte - Zur Historizität von Zeit
Dr. Jakob Messerli, Direktor Historisches Museum, Bern

26.2.2014 Gedehnt und gemessen, erinnert und vergessen: Die Zeit aus physikalischer Sicht
Prof. Dr. Uwe-Jens Wiese, Universität Bern

05.3.2014 Machen wir die Zeit, oder macht sie uns? Kleine unzeitgemässe Bemerkungen zu einem grossen zeitlosen Problem
Prof. Dr. Walther Ch. Zimmerli, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin und Collegium Helveticum, Zürich

16.3.2014 Gedehnt und gemessen, erinnert und vergessen: Die Zeit aus physikalischer Sicht
Prof. Dr. Uwe-Jens Wiese, Universität Bern

26.3.2014 Machen wir die Zeit, oder macht sie uns? Kleine unzeitgemässe Bemerkungen zu einem grossen zeitlosen Problem
Prof. Dr. Walther Ch. Zimmerli, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin und Collegium Helveticum, Zürich

12.3.2014 Biologische Uhren - wie messen Mensch und Tier die Zeit?
Dr. Michaela Hau, Max-Planck-Institut für Ornithologie, Seewiesen

09.4.2014 Geologische Zeit = Ewigkeit?
Prof. Dr. Dieter Sauer, ISF München

23.4.2014 keine Vorlesung (Frühlingsferien)

30.4.2014 Das politische Wirken Albert Schweitzer
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Sarcinelli, Abteilung Politikwissenschaft, Universität Koblenz-Landau

15.05.2013 Keine Vorlesung

19.5.2014 Anfangen und Aufhören: Über Ursprung und Ende des Zeitlichen
Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Höhn, Universität zu Köln

05.06.2014 Probleme der Abbildung von Zeit in Informationssystemen
Prof. Dr. Thomas Myrach, Universität Bern
Bachelor Colloquia

Course Type: BA Colloquium

Title: Linguistics

Instructor: D. Britain

Sessions: 19 February 10-12 26 March 10-12 14 May 08-12

Credit Points: 2 ECTS

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.

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.

Course Type: BA Colloquium

Title: English Literature

Instructors: A. Kern-Stähler / V. Richter

Time: Thursday 10-12

Sessions:
- 20 February 10-12
- 6 March 10-12
- 3 April 9-12
- 17 April 10-12
- 24 April 10-12
- 22 May 10-12

Credit Points: 2 ECTS

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 choose to attend the BA literature colloquium in the section they are writing their thesis/appropriate to their area of interest.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative coursework.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type:</th>
<th>BA Colloquium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>North American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructors:</td>
<td>T. Claviez / G. Rippl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>Thursday 10-12 (fortnightly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Session:</td>
<td>20 February 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Points:</td>
<td>2 ECTS</td>
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</table>

**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 choose to attend the BA literature colloquium in the section they are writing their thesis/appropriate to their area of interest.

**Evaluation (pass/fail):** Cumulative coursework.

**Grade Requirement:** Ungraded.
Master Studies

Specialisation Linguistics

Course Type: MA Lecture
Title: Languages in Contact
Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey
Time: Thursday 8:30-10
Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Course Description: In this lecture we will explore a variety of issues arising when languages come into contact with one another. This can be the case on the level of individuals who find themselves exposed to languages that are different from their own, but also in terms of linguistic groups in a given society or of language groups in a national setting existing side by side or competing with one another. On the level of individuals finding themselves in such contact situations we will also look at individual bilingualism in a multilingual setting, at communication strategies and at code-switching/mixing. On the societal level we will consider intergroup relations, language dominance, but also look at language maintenance and intergenerational transmission. On the level of national or transnational language contact situations these issues will cover societal bilingualism, language and educational politics, and the development of new languages from the language contact situation.

Texts: The texts will be made available in downloadable format (PDF) on www.morrissey.unibe.ch.

Aims: To gain an overview of the sociological, political, educational and psychological implications of language contact situations.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Lecture test.

Grade Requirement: Short oral exam.

Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation: Last week of semester.
Course Type: MA Lecture

Title: Grammar and Grammaticality

Instructor: J. Strässler

Time: Friday 10-12

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Course Description: In this FM lecture we will look at different grammars and their respective grammaticalities. The term ‘grammar’ is multiply ambiguous. In linguistics it does not refer to a set of prescriptive rules users of a language have to follow but either to the underlying universal system or to a language-specific system. At the same time it refers to both the internal system of the language user and to the set of hypotheses the linguist puts forth to explain that system, in other words, it applies to internal, mental grammar as opposed to scientific grammar. Whereas internal grammars are inaccessible to direct research and operate on different levels at the same time, in scientific grammars all the rules have to be stated on their own and they can only operate one after the other. A scientific grammar aims at the definition of a restricted set of rules and regulations that account for the functioning of linguistic competence, i.e. the internal, mental grammar.

Grammaticality is defined as a judgement on the acceptability of a string of words within a given system. This system, however, is not syntax only. It can also incorporate semantics as well as pragmatics.

We will first look at traditional grammars but the main focus will lie on the main scientific grammars developed since the 1950s. The lecture will be accompanied by a tutorial and supplemented by the FM seminar “Formal grammars and their Implications”.

Texts: Texts will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: To familiarise the students with the linguistic concept of “grammar” by looking at the development in the past 50 years.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Lecture test.

Course Type: MA Seminar

Title: “Language and Woman’s Place”: 40 Years of Sociolinguistic Research on Language and Gender

Instructor: D. Britain

Time: Tuesday 10-12

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: Forty years ago, Robin Lakoff published Language and Woman’s Place, a short book about language and gender. It caused a huge fuss. Some deemed its contents trivial, others applauded that the topic was being aired. Its contents, largely anecdotal, have triggered an enormous literature investigating whether and how women and men speak differently and are represented differently in speech and text. Although earlier work on gender sociolinguistics exists, Language and Woman’s Place is often credited with having launched the systematic investigation of language and gender. This course examines that early text and subsequent studies that have empirically tested the claims made in it. We also examine how the study of language and gender has developed and diversified since Lakoff’s early foray into this now very important sub-discipline of sociolinguistics.

Texts: Language and Woman’s Place will be made available on ILIAS. Students should acquire a copy of P Eckert and S McConnell-Ginet (2013). Language and Gender (second edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, as this will be a text we all read. We will ask the bookshop to acquire multiple copies.

Aims: To understand and critically evaluate the development of research on language and gender.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative coursework: Compulsory elements of assessment: class presentation; conference-style presentation of the results of empirical research on an aspect of language and gender.

Grade Requirement: Conference presentation/notes/handout.

Course Type: MA Seminar
Title: Pacific Englishes
Instructor: D. Britain
Time: Monday 16-18
Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: The Pacific Ocean covers a third of the surface area of the Earth, and is speckled with thousands of small islands. Despite its sparse population it has long been deemed to be strategically, politically and economically extremely important, and perhaps not surprisingly therefore, has a long and complex history of colonisation with many Western nations implicated, including Spain, Germany, France, Japan, the UK, the US, Australia and New Zealand. Many of the islands of the Pacific today have English and/or English-based pidgins and creoles as a salient language in their sociolinguistic repertoires, alongside indigenous languages. Because of the historical and political complexity of colonisation in the Pacific, examining the many Englishes spoken there allows us to gain insight into the different ways in which new languages and dialects can emerge, the influence of colonisation and independence on their development and the ways in which local languages and local sociolinguistic circumstances also shape colonial language varieties. Our journey through the Pacific takes us from the Ogasarawa Islands and Hawai’i in the North, to New Zealand and Pitcairn Island in the South, via Sapwuahfik, Palau and many small island territories in between, inspecting the development and structure of the dialects, pidgins and creoles as we go.

Texts: Will be made available on ILIAS.

Aims: To understand the history, development and linguistic structure of the many varieties of English and English-based pidgins and creoles in the Pacific Ocean.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative coursework: presentation and assignment.

Grade Requirement: Written assignment.

Course Type: MA Seminar

Title: The Language of Oral Literature

Instructor: F. Andres Morrissey

Time: Wednesday 10-12

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: This course uses the tools of Stylistics to explore texts that are not primarily meant to be communicative but are intended to entertain and perhaps also to exemplify experiences with the intention of edification of the listeners. We will consider storytelling, be it in an everyday framework in the form of conversational telling of anecdotes or personal experiences as well as jokes, but also in the form of the oral performance of traditional tales and songs, be they narratives, i.e. folk ballads, or lyrical folk songs.

The course will, on the one hand, analyse ways in which such texts are performed, explore notions such as authenticity and originality and “reworking” of material as a function of context (social and “historical”), but part of the course will also give participants an opportunity to perform instances of oral texts themselves.

Texts: These will be made available as PDFs on www.morrissey.unibe.ch

Aims: To gain an understanding of the nature of oral texts and folk literature and to experience the demands of story-telling and performance of folk materials first-hand.

Evaluation (pass/fail): A presentation and a performance with a written account of its preparation during the seminar as cumulative coursework (4 ECTS).

Grade Requirement: A recording of a performance and a shortened academic analysis of a related topic (alternatively a seminar paper on a topic discussed in the seminar) (7 ECTS).

### Specialisation Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type:</th>
<th>MA Lecture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Medieval English Literature and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor:</td>
<td>A. Kern-Stähler / N. Nyffenegger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>Wednesday 14-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Points:</td>
<td>3 ECTS</td>
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**Course Description:**
Lovers as dreamers, kings as monsters, pilgrims as sinners, Christ as mother . . . medieval English literature abounds in motifs that may at first seem strange and unfamiliar. After all, they were inspired by cultures from which we are removed by up to 1200 years. Yet these Old and Middle English works speak, and appeal, to us today. In this lecture, we will introduce you to the interdisciplinary field of Medieval English Studies. Looking closely at some major Old and Middle English texts, we will familiarise you with the ways in which literature, as a cultural product, reflects on the societies that produced it.

**Texts:** The texts will be made available on ILIAS.

**Aims:** To introduce students to medieval English literature and culture and to an interdisciplinary approach to medieval culture.

**Evaluation (pass/fail):** Lecture test.

**Grade Requirement:** Short oral exam.

**Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation:** tba.
Course Type: MA Lecture

Title: Writing the Great War

Instructor: I. Huber / V. Richter

Time: Wednesday 10-12

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

**Course Description:** The First World War changed the face of Europe, but it was more than a political and military event. The front experience, in particular the trench war and the mass destruction made possible by new technologies (airplanes, machine guns, poison gas), and the transformations on the home front (women’s influx on the job market) affected the lives of individuals as well as the structures of modern society. Poets such as Rupert Brooke, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon responded immediately to the horrors of the trenches, while novels such as Remarque’s *All Quiet on the Western Front* and Hemingway’s *A Farewell to Arms* (both 1929) denounced the glorification of war in the following decade. Texts by authors who had no direct experience of the war, like Rebecca West’s *The Return of the Soldier*, or the poetry of H.D. attest to the gulf of incomprehension that opened between the theatres of war and life back home on the British Isles. In the lecture series, we will look at various dimensions of the war and post-war experience, such as the concept of trauma in literary, psychoanalytical and theoretical texts; aesthetic responses to a bloodshed defying description; coping strategies such as spiritualism; and theoretical reflections on the war in terms of apocalypse, cultural pessimism and the decline of cultures (Freud, Spengler). Historically, texts covered in the lecture will range from the immediate pre-war period to Pat Barker’s *Regeneration* trilogy (1991-95).

**Texts:** The lecture will cover a broad range of genres, from war poetry to memoirs and novels. A list of texts will be posted on ILIAS in January.

**Aims:** To give students insights into an important chapter of literary and cultural history, and to study it from a comparative perspective; to show how socio-historical and aesthetic aspects intersect; to familiarise students with various critical approaches.

**Evaluation (pass/fail):** Lecture test.

**Grade Requirement:** Review of secondary literature.

**Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation:** 28 May 2014.
Course Type: MA Lecture

Title: Conceptualizing Cosmopolitanism and World Literature

Instructor: T. Claviez

Time: Tuesday 12-14

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.

Aims: 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 coursework, lecture notes.

Grade Requirement: Written exam.

Course Type: MA Seminar

Title: The First World War in Literature and Art / Der Erste Weltkrieg in Literatur und Kunst (bilingual)

Instructor: V. Richter / O. Lubrich

Time: Tuesday 14-16

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: The First World War has been dealt with in a variety of literary genres: war diaries and memoirs, novels, plays and poetry. In the seminar, we will look at aesthetic responses to, metaphorisations of and critical reflections on the war. As the Great War was an international event if there ever was one, and the nations involved viewed it differently both during and after the cessation of hostilities, the seminar will have a comparative outlook, discussing examples from English, American, French and German literature. In addition to selected novels by Woolf, Hemingway, Remarque, Jünger, Céline and Echenoz, we will consider shorter non-fiction, poetry, painting and film. The languages of communication will be English and German, and the ability to read texts in the English, French and German originals is a requirement.

Texts: To be purchased and read before the beginning of term: Ernst Jünger, In Stahlgewittern (first edition, 1920; on ILIAS); Erich Maria Remarque, Im Westen nichts Neues (1929; recommended edition: Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 2013); Ernest Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms (1929; Vintage Classics, 2013); Virginia Woolf, Mrs Dalloway (1925; Penguin Modern Classics, 2012); Louis-Ferdinand Céline, Voyage au bout de la nuit (1932; Folio Plus Classique, 2006); (2012; Les éditions de minuit). The books have been ordered at the Bugeno bookshop. The use of ebooks is not permitted.

Aims: To study an important literary theme from the perspectives of different national literatures; to gain insights into the methods of Comparative Literature.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Oral presentation; active participation.

Grade Requirement: Seminar paper.

Course Type: MA Seminar

Title: The Great War: Fact and Fiction

Instructors: G. Rippl / B. Studer

Time: Tuesday 10-12

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (unmarked 4 ECTS)

Content: This seminar will discuss novels and short stories dealing with the Great War (1914–1918) in connection with the tricky question whether literature in general, and fiction in particular, can count as historical sources. Are novels and short stories as social and cultural artefacts solely fictional material or, due to their production and consumption in particular historical circumstances, at the same time historical documents and sources of historical evidence? This question ensues an additional one, namely whether the oppositional pair “literary text v. historical source” is still a valid one, now that many historians agree that both kinds of texts, not just literary ones but also historical documents, interpret social life and can be seen as sites of collective constructions of reality? As Ruth Klüger has argued convincingly in her seminal essay “Dichter und Historiker – Fakten und Fiktionen” (2000) fiction and historical sources are not two types of texts and do not belong to entirely distinct genres, but rather contract with their readers in divergent ways; to concur with Philippe Lejeune, one of the foremost theoreticians of autobiography, one could speak of a different type of ‘truth pact’. Methodological texts from the two disciplines of North American Studies and History as well as several seminal British and American novels and short stories discussing the Great War (see list below) will enable us to discuss interdisciplinary approaches to genre, ‘truth pacts’ between authors and readers as well as questions relating to gender, trauma theory and psychoanalysis in general.

Please note that the seminar might include some sessions in German (students from the History department might want to present in German). Students from the English department are expected to present in English and to write their seminar papers in English.

Texts: Helen Zenna Smith (Evadne Price), Not so Quiet: Stepdaughters of War (1930); Erich Maria Remarque, Im Westen nichts Neues (1928/29; English translation: All Quiet on the Western Front, 1929); Virginia Woolf, Mrs Dalloway (1925); Hilda Doolittle, “Kora and Ka” (1930); Radclyffe Hall, “Miss Ogilvy Finds Herself” (1934) and Pat Barker, Regeneration (1991).

Aims: This seminar will familiarise students with inter-/disciplinary approaches to WW I novels and short stories, trauma theory and gender issues as well as with methods and theories of another discipline, history.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation and oral presentation for 4 ECTS.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation, oral presentation plus written paper of approximately 5000 words for 7 ECTS.

**Course Type:** MA Seminar

**Title:** Afropolitan Diasporic Writers

**Instructor:** J. Straub

**Time:** Wednesday 16-18

**Credit Points:** 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

**Course Description:** The term ‘Afropolitan’ was popularised by the writer and photographer Taiye Selasi in 2006. It refers to a body of literature produced by contemporary writers of African origins with zigzagging biographies. While their African roots are fundamental, their books reflect the dynamics and conflicts inscribed into hybrid cultural and ‘nomadic’ identities: brought up and educated in the United States or Europe, these authors follow professional careers that span different sides of the Atlantic. Their partly self-reflective works call for a reconsideration of concepts such as ‘African’ or ‘African-American’ literature and require a reassessment of theoretical approaches to the Black Atlantic in the vein of Paul Giles’s seminal studies.

In this seminar we will read three novels and several short studies by Taiye Selasi, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Teju Cole. We will probe the concept of ‘Afropolitan’ writing as a useful category and revisit theoretical debates on African-American identities and writing in the light of this new development in literature.

**Texts:** Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Americanah* (2013); Taiye Selasi, *Ghana Must Go* (2013) and Teju Cole, *Open City* (2011). These books will made available at the Bugeno Book Shop before Christmas. It is strongly recommended that students read these texts before the beginning of the spring semester. Selected short stories and theoretical texts will be put on ILIAS at the beginning of the spring semester.

**Aims:** To introduce students to methods for working with contemporary authors; to sharpen students’ theoretical awareness and aptitude at applying theory to text; to train students’ skills when working with narrative fiction.

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

**Grade Requirement:** Regular attendance, active participation, oral presentation and seminar paper.

**Deadline for Submission of Assignment/Evaluation:** 15 July 2014.
Course Type: MA Seminar

Title: Medieval Literature in Paris

Instructor: A. Kern-Stähler

Trip Dates: 5-7 May 2014 in Paris (possibly travelling on 4 and 8 May, tbc)

Sessions:
- 26 February 9-10 (Tea Corner)
- 5 March 9-10 (Tea Corner)
- 16 April 9-10 (Tea Corner)

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: Fancy discussing medieval literature in Paris with students from other universities? This seminar will bring together MA students and PhD students from the University of Bern, the University of Kent at Canterbury and the University of Lausanne. We will be working on a common thread (check my office door for further announcements), bringing together expertise from literary studies, art history and history. Our international and interdisciplinary seminar will be held at the University of Kent’s Paris Centre, an eighteenth-century building in the historic heart of Montparnasse.

Texts: Will be uploaded on ILIAS.

Aims: To familiarise students with an interdisciplinary approach to medieval culture; to improve their debating skills in an international context; to strengthen the skills to develop and conduct an independent research project and to present their results in oral and written form.


Grade Requirement: Active participation, presentation in Paris, research paper of approx. 4000 words.

Course Type: MA Seminar

Title: Autobiography in a Globalised World

Instructor: G. Rippl

Time: Thursday 14-16

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: This MA seminar is dedicated to the discussion of autobiographical modes of life-writing in our globalised world. In this globalised world, many Anglophone autobiographers have an intercultural or migrant background and tell entangled life-stories which are often set in post-colonial and neocolonial sites. Also, we encounter many new prolific possibilities of writing one’s life and “getting a life” (Smith and Watson) due to the availability of electronic mass media such as TV, video, and Web-based means of expression (Facebook, online diaries, blogs etc.). In this seminar we will discuss the multiple aesthetic forms contemporary autobiography encompasses and the social functions it performs.


Aims: To familiarise students a) with an important literary mode/genre and b) with the topic of globalisation and its effects on the literary market of life-writing.

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

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation, oral presentation plus written paper of approximately 5000 words for 7 ECTS.

Course Type: MA Seminar

Title: Thinking/Writing Communities (advanced MA students and PhD students)

Instructor: T. Claviez / D. Wetzel

Time: Monday 14-16, fortnightly

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: This bi-weekly course is addressed to advanced MA and doctoral students with an interest in literary theory/philosophy/sociology. It is designed as an intense reading seminar, in which central texts on community will be discussed. The seminar will not feature presentations, but will be devoted to an open discussion of these texts.


Aims: To provide a knowledge about central texts within European philosophy about the idea of community/society, and to discuss more recent texts pointing toward a new concept of community.

Evaluation (pass/fail): For an ungraded pass (4 ECTS), regular attendance and minutes of one of the sessions are required.

Grade Requirement: For a graded seminar (7 ECTS), regular attendance of the seminar, as well as a term paper are required.

Course Type: MA Seminar
Title: Global Fictions of India
Instructor: A. Cottier
Time: Thursday 12-14
Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: In this seminar, we will read four novels by contemporary Indian authors: Amitav Ghosh, Anita Desai and Salman Rushdie, all of which tell stories about men, women and children on the move – from a global as well as from an Indian perspective. We will discuss how these fictions negotiate colonialism, globalisation, cosmopolitanism and nationalism, with a special focus on the aesthetics of the texts. Moreover, we will look at how community, family and gender interact with these issues.

In order to establish a framework for understanding these fictions that are both local and global in scope, and in order to acquaint ourselves with relevant postcolonial concepts, we will read theoretical texts by Homi K. Bhabha, Edward Said and Aijaz Ahmad. Moreover, we will also read theories of globalization, cosmopolitanism and nationalism.


Aims: To read and discuss a selection of contemporary Indian novels in English, and to further students’ understanding of postcolonial theory, theories of globalisation, cosmopolitanism and nationalism.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular attendance, active participation, and an oral presentation for 4 ECTS.

Grade Requirement: Regular attendance, active participation, an oral presentation and a paper of approx. 5000 words for 7 ECTS.

Other Courses

Course Type: MA Workshop

Title: The Art of Reviewing Books

Instructor: J. Straub

Time: Wednesday 12-14

Credit Points: 3 ECTS

Course Description: Book reviews are everywhere: we find them in specialised reviews, in magazines, newspapers, on TV, the radio and on the Internet. In this workshop we will look at the history of the review system in the English-speaking world. We will investigate the different media that have been involved in reviewing books, the role of the critic, changing terminologies and the function of reviews within the literary market. We will also take into consideration today’s changing world of reviewing, especially given the growing impact of new methods and means for evaluating books enabled by the Internet. Furthermore, we will think more systematically about the challenges and responsibilities that book reviewers face. Following four weekly meetings at the beginning of the semester (February 19, February 26, March 5 and March 6), we will have a one-day workshop where we discuss project-related work by students on Friday, 09 May 2014. In order to suit the format of the workshop session, the number of participants of this MA course is limited to 12.

Texts: Material will be made available via ILIAS at the beginning of the semester.

Aims: To endow students with a systematic and historical idea of the impact and development of book reviewing; to train independent, project-related study and presentation skills.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Regular participation, active participation, workshop presentation.

Grade Requirement: Regular participation, active participation, workshop presentation (submitted as a paper).

Course Type: MA Wahlbereich Lecture
Title: BMZ Ringvorlesung: “Migration im Mittelalter”
Instructor: A. Kern-Stähler, Medievalists from the University of Bern and Guest Speakers
Time: Thursday 17-19
First Session: 27 February 2014
Credit Points: 3 ECTS


Ort: Hauptgebäude Raum 220

Evaluation (pass/fail):

As BA and MA lecture (graded or ungraded): Regular presence, three follow-up sessions (dates tba, usually Friday morning). Please contact Dr Nicole Nyffenegger (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.

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
Lecture Program:

27.2.2014 Völker auf Wanderschaft. Schriftliche, archäologische und klimatologische Evidenz zu den Motiven und zum Ablauf von Migrationsbewegungen während der Völkerwanderung
Prof. Dr. Ch. Rohr, Bern (Geschichte)

06.3.2014 Mirabilia für den Khan: Europäische Kaufleute im mongolischen Yuan-Reich
Prof. Dr. K. Kollmar-Paulenz, Bern (Religionswissenschaft)

13.3.2014 Die mittelalterliche deutsche Ostsieland als Migrationsprozess aus archäologischer Perspektive (BMZ-f)
PD Dr. F. Biermann, Göttingen (Ur- und Frühgeschichte)

20.3.2014 Der wandernde König
Prof. Dr. R. C. Schwinges, Bern (Geschichte)

27.3.2014 Fließende Übergänge – eine Maria Magdalena-Legende über- quert den Rhein... und andere Grenzen
M.A. R. Kirakosian, Oxford (Germanistik)

03.4.2014 Matthäus Ensinger: Ein wandernder Künstler zwischen Bern, Straßburg, Prag, Ulm und Thann
Dr. R. Nemec, Bern (Kunstgeschichte)

10.4.2014 „The best of islands“ - Eroberung und Migration in der mittelalterlichen englischen Literatur
Dr. N. Nyffenegger / K. Reist Bern (Anglistik)

01.5.2014 La migration du culte des saints laïcs italiens vers l’Allemagne du Sud et la Suisse au XVe- début du XVIe siècle (Bindschedler-Gastvortrag)
Prof. Dr. A. Vauchez, Paris (Geschichte) Balzan-Preisträger 2013

08.5.2014 Deutsche Zuwanderer in Venedig
Prof. Dr. U. Israel, Dresden (Geschichte)

15.5.2014 Die Wüste und das Meer - Mobilität im Mittelmeerraum (BMZ-f)
Prof. Dr. T. Dittelbach, Bern (Kunstgeschichte) / Prof. Dr. H. Friese, Chemnitz (Sozialanthropologie)

22.5.2014 Nomadische Mobilität freiwillig und erzwungen. Eroberungsarmee und Umsiedlungen zur Zeit Timurs
Prof. Dr. J. Paul, Halle (Islamwissenschaft)
Master Forums

Course Type: MA Forum
Title: Linguistics
Instructor: D. Britain
Time: Monday 14-16
Sessions: 17 February 2014
24 March
31 March
07 April
12 May
19 May
26 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 MA 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: MA Forum

Title: English Literature

Instructor: A. Kern-Stähler / V. Richter

Time: Thursday 10-12

Sessions: 27 February 10-12
13 March 10-12
27 March 10-12
10 April 10-12
1 May 10-12
15 May 9-12

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 choose to attend the MA literature forum in the section they are writing their thesis/appropriate to their area of interest.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative coursework.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded.
Course Type: MA Forum

Title: North American Literature

Instructor: T. Claviez / G. Rippl

Time: Thursday 10-12 (fortnightly)

First Session: 27 February 2014

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 choose to attend the MA literature forum in the section they are writing their thesis/appropriate to their area of interest.

Evaluation (pass/fail): Cumulative coursework.

Grade Requirement: Ungraded.
Seminar for Doctoral Students

Course Type: Seminar

Title: Medieval Literature in Paris

Instructor: A. Kern-Stähler

Trip Dates: 5-7 May 2014 in Paris (possibly travelling on 4 and 8 May, tbc)

Sessions:
- 26 February 9-10 (Tea Corner)
- 5 March 9-10 (Tea Corner)
- 16 April 9-10 (Tea Corner)

Credit Points: 7 ECTS (ungraded 4 ECTS)

Course Description: Fancy discussing medieval literature in Paris with students from other universities? This seminar will bring together MA students and PhD students from the University of Bern, the University of Kent at Canterbury and the University of Lausanne. We will be working on a common thread (check my office door for further announcements), bringing together expertise from literary studies, art history and history. Our international and interdisciplinary seminar will be held at the University of Kent’s Paris Centre, an eighteenth-century building in the historic heart of Montparnasse.

Texts: Will be uploaded on ILLAS.

Aims: To familiarise students with an interdisciplinary approach to medieval culture; to improve their debating skills in an international context; to strengthen the skills to develop and conduct an independent research project and to present their results in oral and written form.


Grade Requirement: Active participation, presentation in Paris, research paper of approx. 4000 words.

### PhD Colloquia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type:</th>
<th>PhD Colloquium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>PhD &amp; Research Colloquium, Linguistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor:</td>
<td>D. Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>Tuesday 14-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Session:</td>
<td>18 February 2014</td>
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</table>

**Course Description:** This colloquium is for students researching for and writing a PhD thesis. We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as important recent theoretical publications.

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<tr>
<th>Course Type:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>PhD Research Colloquium, North American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor:</td>
<td>G. Rippl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>Tuesday 14-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Session:</td>
<td>18 February 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Description:** This colloquium is for PhD students and post-doc researchers who are working on a PhD thesis or their second book (Habilitation). We will discuss our own work-in-progress as well as recent theoretical publications.
STAFF RESEARCH INTERESTS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

D. 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.

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

T. 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.

A. Cottier: Postcolonial literatures, contemporary British and North American literatures, historiography, history and politics, autobiography, narratology, gender studies, literary theory.

M. Denger: Contemporary postcolonial literatures, postcolonial theory, ritual, hauntology, concepts of time, concepts of space, concepts of community, concepts of identity (construction), postmodern narrative strategies.

L. Etter: Intermediality, comics and graphic novels, classical and postclassical narratology, interrelations of literature and contemporary fine arts.

M. Fanger: Sociolinguistics, language variation and change, EFL/ESL, English language teaching.

J. Felder: Gothic literature and art, Gothic and horror cinema, film studies (film history and theory), visuality and visual culture, American literature and culture, American drama.

K. Gonçalves: Sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, English as a Lingua Franca, the history of English, historical linguistics, language change, language and gender, discourse and identity construction, narrative studies.

I. Huber: Fantastic literature, literary anthropology, gender studies, postcolonial studies, narratology, literary theory, comparative perspectives.

A. 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.

M. Kimmich: Theatre and performance, pop culture and postmodern fiction, politics of speculative fiction (and genre literature in general), intermedial adaptation, serial narratives in various media, storytelling in new media.

U. Kluwick: Postmodern fiction, postcolonial literatures, historiographic metafiction, magic realism, literary theories, ecocriticism, Victorian literature.

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

Z. Lehmann: Literature and theology, Victorian literature, the long nineteenth century, literature and philosophy
T. Leonhardt: Articulatory, acoustic and auditory phonetics; phonology; language variation and change; second language acquisition

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

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

N. Nyffenegger: Medieval literature and history, especially questions of (authorial) identity, cultural contacts (e.g. travel and migration narratives), founding myths, representations of “self and other”, historiography.

K. Reist: 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.

V. 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.

G. 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.

J. Strässler: Syntax, especially lexically-driven parsing, generative grammar, computer linguistics, phonetics and phonology, forensic linguistics, time-tense relationships.

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

N. Studer-Joho: Old and Middle English (especially morphology and phonology), historical dialectology, language change, historical sociolinguistics, scribal variation.

L. Tresch: Language ideologies, language and the media, language variation and change, English dialectology (New Zealand English and 'Estuary English'), dialect contact, new dialect formation and legitimisation, multilingualism, code-switching.
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.

Check our Facebook page 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!
https://www.facebook.com/StudentsCommittee
UNIVERSITY OF BERN, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT: ADDRESS LIST SPRING TERM 2014

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
<th>TEL. DEPT.</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
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<tbody>
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## TIMETABLE SPRING SEMESTER 2014

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08-10</td>
<td>Morrissey: Modern English Grammar II (Language Foundation Module)</td>
<td>Morrissey: Grammar and How it is Taught (FM Grammatical Analysis Seminar)</td>
<td>Morrissey: Languages in Contact (FM Language Contact and MA Lecture)</td>
<td>Strässler: Grammar and Grammaticality (FM Grammatical Analysis and MA Lecture)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 10-12 | Mace-Tessler: Writing Skills II (Language Foundation Module)  
Bürki/Fanger: Grammatical Variation and Change: British and American English (FM Grammatical Analysis Seminar)  
Cottier: Postcolonial Travel Writing (BA Workshop)  
Britain: "Language and Woman's Place": 40 Years of Sociolinguistic Research on Language and Gender (MA Seminar)  
Rippl/Studer: The Great War: Fact and Fiction (MA Seminar)  
| Huber/Richter: Writing the Great War (FM and MA Lecture)  
Britain: Bachelor Colloquium Linguistics  
Morrissey: The Language of Oral Literature (MA Seminar)  
Kern-Stähler/Nyffenegger: Chaucer's Women (FM Seminar) | Mace-Tessler: Writing Skills II (Language Foundation Module)  
Kern-Stähler/Richter: Bachelor Colloquium Literature (English Literature)  
Claviez/Rippl: Bachelor Colloquium Literature (North American Literature)  
Kern-Stähler/Richter: Master Forum Literature (English Literature)  
Claviez/Rippl: Master Forum Literature (North American Literature) | | |
| 12-14 | Studer-Joho: Language Contact in the History of English (FM Language Contact Seminar)  
Claviez: Conceptualizing Cosmopolitanism and World Literature (MA Seminar)  
Bürki: English as a Lingua Franca: A Language in Contact (FM Language Contact Seminar) | Morrissey: Creative Writing (BA Workshop)  
Cottier: Global Fictions of India (MA Seminar) | |
| 14-16 | Britain: Master Forum Linguistics  
Claviez/Wetzel: Thinking/Writing Community (MA Seminar)  
Reist: Reading Beowulf: Text and Context (BA Workshop)  
Leonhardt: The Phonology of Second Language Acquisition (FM Language Contact Seminar)  
| Lubrich/Richter: The First World War in Literature and Art / Der Erste Weltkrieg in Literatur und Kunst (bilingual) (MA Seminar)  
Reist: Where the Pepper Grows: Medieval Travel Writers and Their World (FM Seminar)  
Rippl: PhD & Research Colloquium, North American Literature  
Britain: PhD & Research Colloquium, Linguistics  
Morrissey: Practical Issues in Paper Writing (BA Workshop) | Kern-Stähler: Medieval English Literature and Culture (FM and MA Lecture) | Mace-Tessler: Reading Film (BA Workshop)  
Rippl: Autobiography in a Globalised World (MA Seminar) | Lehmann: "Hear the air screaming": Death and Modernism in The Great War (FM Seminar) |
17.15-18.45: BMZ: Migration im Mittelalter (BA Lecture/ Wahlbereich Lecture and MA Lecture) | |
| 18-20 | Huber: Modern Moments: Concepts of Time in Modernity and Modernism (FM Seminar) | | | |

**Key:**  
Classes in **bold** are for master students  

**Focus Modules (FM):**  
- Linguistics FM: Grammatical Analysis  
- Linguistics FM: Language Contact  
- Literature FM: Discovering the Middle Ages  
- Literature FM: World War I and Modernism  

**Block Workshops and Seminars (BA):**  
- Huber/Morrissey: Exploring Writing Processes (14-16 March 2014)  
- Felder: Early Gothic Horror Cinema: Reflections on/of War (Monday 9-13, Block-Seminar, starting 7 April 2014)  

**Excursion (Seminar for MA and Doctoral Students):**  
- Kern-Stähler: Medieval Literature in Paris (5-7 May 2014 tbc)