

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM | 44780 Bochum | Germany  
Englisches Seminar

FAKULTÄT FÜR PHILOLOGIE  
Englisches Seminar

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## Ergänzungen zu den Lehrveranstaltungen des Englischen Seminars im WS 2021/22

### B.A.-Übung, Cultural Studies US (040203)

Presidential Campaigns in the USA - from George Washington to Joe Biden, 3 CP

2 st. do 16-18, online via ZOOM

Hildenhausen

This *Übung* examines the history of presidential campaigns in the United States and how they have changed since George Washington's presidency.

The study of election campaigns is worthwhile because they reveal relevant current social as well as politically issues of the contemporaries. Their analysis highlights various important historical events and brings the people interwoven with them into focus.

Thus, by examining presidential election campaigns, students can gain insight into important historical events and their societal causes (expansion, democratization, slavery, imperialism, etc.) in American history up to the present.

If you want to take the course, please contact [jan.hildenhausen@rub.de](mailto:jan.hildenhausen@rub.de).

Assessment/requirements: active participation and presentation.

**B.A.-Seminar, Englische Literatur bis 1700 (050627)**

Road Trip: Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, 4 CP

2 st. di 16-18, GB 6/137

McCann

Thirty people, two stories each, one road trip, and even a talking chicken - Geoffrey Chaucer's most famous work certainly stands out from other examples of Middle English literature. The *Canterbury Tales*, a complex and unfinished work, is dominated by thirty voices from all levels of medieval society. Yet these disparate voices of men and women, of holy folk, fools, and fowls, are all crafted and created by one man: Chaucer. Each tale in the text is an example of a voice that speaks to us, and indeed to the other voices in that collection. Beyond a speech, beyond a dialogue, the *Canterbury Tales* is a wonderful collection of tales, of interruptions, of exclamations, of opinions, and even of suggestions. His work shows us how complex poetry can be in this period, and how identity and subjectivity can emerge from simple words. This course will focus on these tales, on their language and form, and their use of voice. We will explore thematic issues relating to voice: gender, performance, subjectivity, and of course irony.

No prior knowledge of Middle English is needed. Participants will need to have a copy of the *Canterbury Tales* itself, I recommend: Mann, Jill, ed. *The Canterbury Tales* (Penguin Classics) (Middle English) OUP, 2005.

Assessment/requirements: Übung: six-page essay; Seminar: ten/twelve page term paper.

If you want to take the course, please contact [Daniel.McCann@rub.de](mailto:Daniel.McCann@rub.de).

**M.A.-Seminar / M.Ed.-Übung, Englische Literatur bis 1700 (050709)**

The Bitter and the Sweet: Middle English Lyrics in Context, 5/3 CP

2 st. mi 14-16, GB 6/137

McCann

Medieval lyrics account for some of the most diverse, complex, and beguiling examples of Middle English literature. They are, therefore, an important cultural art form that exerted considerable influence over the imaginations and tastes of medieval people. They showcase some of the finest artistic products of the period, and within them we find something for everyone. Some are personal and deeply felt: from pious meditations on the Virgin Mary and penitential pleas to her son Christ, to bawdy verses about lusty monks, stolen kisses, and sexual longing. Others are socially orientated, offering biting satire and political invective, as well as critique of courtly machinations. This course will examine a range of lyrics from the whole medieval period, and will begin by exploring them through broad thematic categories such as “love lyrics”, “penitential lyrics”; “political lyrics”, and so on. It will provide broad historical contextualisation, and cover issues of metre and form. No prior knowledge of Middle English is necessary; participants will need to have a copy of an anthology of medieval lyrics. I recommend this one as it covers all of them and will be the central text I use:

Thomas G. Duncan, ed. (2013). *Medieval English Lyrics and Carols*. Boydell and Brewer.

Assessment/requirements: *Übung*: six-page essay; *Seminar*: ten/twelve page term paper.

If you want to take the course, please contact [Daniel.McCann@rub.de](mailto:Daniel.McCann@rub.de).

**Bitte beachten Sie die folgenden Änderungen von Kurszeiten:**

**(050640)** Women Writing on Madness, Schürmann  
neu: DO 10-12

**(050713)** Place Poems: Touring Britain through Contemporary Poetry, Klawitter  
neu: DO 14-16

**(050732)** Restoration Readings, Pankratz  
neu: DO 14-16

**(050742)** American Musical Styles, Müller, M.  
neu: MO 10-12

**Folgende Kurse entfallen leider ersatzlos:**

**(050627)** Metaphysical Poetry, Ottlinger

**(050606H)** Introduction to Literary Studies, Gruppe H, Ottlinger