**ANG 414 New York Novels (Seminar (Advanced Level))**

**EN**

**Lecture type:**

Seminar (Advanced Level)

**ECTS:**

8.0

**Course suitable for:**

**Language of instruction:**

English

**Hours per week:**

2

**Attendance:**

Online, live

**Registration procedure:**

**Registration**: All incoming exchange students at the School of Humanities need to register for their courses via Portal 2. For further details, please check the [instructions](https://unitwikis.uni-mannheim.de/xwiki/bin/view/userdocs/Portal%C2%B2%20Nutzer-Dokumentation/%5BEN%5D%20Documentation/For%20Students/Course%20Registration/Course%20Registration%20for%20International%20Exchange%20Students/) for course registration or contact [incoming@phil.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:incoming@phil.uni-mannheim.de?subject=Course%20registration).

**Learning target:**

Participating students will get to know three periods of American literary history in fiction (Realism, Modernism, and contemporary) and also films in the genre of social satire, all of these with a focus on the most important American city. Moreover, students will learn to give short yet concise presentations and to participate with significant contributions in seminar discussions.

**Literature:**

Texts:

* Edith Wharton: *The Age of Innocence*(1920)
* F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby* (1925)
* Ralph Ellison: *Invisible Man* (1952)
* Colum McCann: *Let the Great World Spin* (2009)

(to be bought)

**Examination achievement:**

Regular participation; a presentation in class; seminar paper (15 pages in English) or oral exam.

**Instructor(s):**

Ulfried Reichardt

**Date(s):**

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| Tuesday  (weekly) | 02.03.2021 – 15.06.2021 | 10:15 – 11:45 | PHIL-ZOOM-09; Virtuelles Gebäude |

**Description:**

This seminar will explore the representation of New York City through the course of more than a century. Edith Wharton’s novel analyzes the complex and socially highly differentiated society of New York in the 1870s, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s well known *The Great Gatsby* presents New York in the Roaring Twenties and the Jazz Age, whereas Ralph Ellison’s novel dramatizes the experience of a young African American man in the 1920s and 1930s, also focusing on important political developments of the times. Colum McCann’s text is a network novel set in 1974 as well as a post-9/11 novel and deals with several interconnected lives, metaphorically linked by Philippe Petit’s tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers on August 7, 1974. Additionally, we will discuss two symptomatic films about the New York City of the late 1970s and 1980s, Woody Allen’s *Manhattan* and Oliver Stone’s *Wall Street*.