

**M.A. Seminar
Toni Morrison:
Thus. 16.15-18.00
Prof. Elisabeth Bronfen**

(1.) 20. Feb - Introduction

(2.) 27. Feb – *Playing in the Dark. Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*

Refiguring the Civil War

(3.) 6. Mar – *Beloved*

(4.) 13. Mar – *Django Unchained* (Quentin Tarantino)

Refiguring the Harlem Renaissance

(5.) 20. Mar – *Jazz*

(6.) 27. Mar – *Halleluja* (King Vidor) Screening 109 minutes

** There will be NO CLASS on the 3rd of April, owing to the hearings for the professorship in Global Literatures in English

Refiguring Early Puritan Communities

(7.) 10. Apr – *Paradise*

(8.) 17. Apr – *The Village* (M. Night Shyamalan)

* Owing to the beginning of the Easter break we should stop at 16.00, but since we have a reduced time schedule as it is I will be holding this class session.

Refiguring Early Settlements in the New World

(9.) 8. Mai – *A Mercy*

(10.) 15. Mai – *The New World* (Terrence Malick)

(11.) 22. Mai – *Desdemona* (with lyrics by Rodia Traoré)

Please bear in mind: To come to class without having done the reading (or viewing) makes little to no sense. You cannot fruitfully partake in class discussions if you have not prepared for them. All primary texts must, therefore, be read and, in the case of the films, viewed, before the class session dealing with them. The novels need to be purchased individually. Copies of the films are in the library, but I recommend you buy your own copy, like you would buy your own copy of the books. In some cases, the DVDs are actually cheaper than the books. Many of the movies can also be watched via online streaming.

Requirements for the class: All students must prepare a thesis statement for each class session, to be handed in at the end of each session. This can also entail a series of questions, comments or associations; it will facilitate class discussion and allow me to see in what directions you have been thinking while preparing for each class. In addition, all students must compile written minutes (*Sitzungsprotokoll*) for one of the class sessions. Finally, students taking the class for 9 KP must write an essay. It is wise to use the class discussions to test your ideas for this piece of written work.

** It is recommended that you visit the lecture course “America, America. A History of American Literature, Culture and Film” along with this M.A. Seminar. It will provide you with the cultural background on which Toni Morrison’s fictional refigurations of American history is predicated.