

**B.A. Seminar**  
**Comedy and Gender:**  
**Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Hollywood's fast talking dames**  
**Thus. 14.00-16.00**  
**Prof. Elisabeth Bronfen**

- (1.) 21. Feb - Introduction
- (2.) 28. Feb - Gender and Comedy: *Intolerable Cruelty* (movie)
- (3.) 7. Mar - *Taming of the Shrew* (with Bronfen)
- (4.) 14. Mar - *Mansfield Park* and the theater of love confession and conversation
- (5.) 21. Mar - *Mansfield Park* and disciplining gender (with Foucault's *History of Sexuality*)
- (6.) 28. Mar - *Midsummer Night's Dream* read preposterously through Austen
- (7.) 11. Apr - *Midsummer Night's Dream* and disciplining gender (with Freedman's *Staging the Gaze*)
- (8.) 18. Apr - *To Be or not to Be* (movie) read through Shakespeare & Austen (with Bronfen)
- (9.) 25. Apr - *Persuasion* and the female fantasy of repetition (with Freud's "Family Romance")
- (10.) 2. Mai - *Persuasion* and the romance of remarriage
- (11.) 16. Mai - *Winter's Tale* read preposterously through Austen
- (12.) 23. Mai - *The Lady Eve* (movie) read through Shakespeare and Austen (with Cavell's *Pursuits of Happiness*)
- (13.) 30. Mai - What you have learned

**Please bear in mind:** To come to class without having done the reading (or viewing) makes little to no sense. You can not 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. 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 Shakespeare plays and the Austen novels. (The DVDs are actually even cheaper than the books. Many of the movies can also be watched via online streaming.) For the plays, I recommend *The Norton Shakespeare*, edited by Stephan Greenblatt.

All secondary texts marked with an asterisk (\*) are on OLAT as well as on the reserve shelf. I recommend buying your own copy of Foucault's *History of Sexuality*. Please print your own copies of the other texts, so you can prepare them for the respective class session. This will allow you to use the class sessions to develop your own ideas as well as your discussion skills.

## SECONDARY TEXTS

### On Shakespeare

\*John C. Bean. "Comic Structure and the Humanizing of Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*." *The Woman's Part. Feminist Criticism of Shakespeare*. Edited by Carolyn Ruth Swift Lenz et.al. University of Illinois Press 1980.

\* Elisabeth Bronfen. "Liebe auf das erste Wort." *Programmheft Residenz Theater München*. 2012/2013.

\* Barbara Freedman. *Staging the Gaze. Postmodernism, Psychoanalysis, and Shakespearean Comedy*. Cornell University Press 1991. Read "4. Taming Difference and *The Taming of the Shrew*: Feminism, Psychoanalysis, Theater," and "5. Dis/Figuring Power: Censorship and Representation in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*".

\*Joel Fineman. "The turn of the shrew." *Shakespeare & The Question of Theory*. Edited by Patricia Parker and Geoffrey Hartman. Routledge 1985.

\*Penny Gay. "The Taming of the Shrew. Avoiding the feminist challenge." *As She Likes It. Shakespeare's Unruly Woman*. Routledge 1994.

### On Austen

\* Sigmund Freud. Read "Creative Writers and Day-Dreaming," and "Family Romances," both in *The Standard Edition*, Volume IX. London 1959.

\* Michel Foucault. *The History of Sexuality. An Introduction*. Volume 1. Random House 1990 (see the copied excerpts).

Kathryn Sutherland. *Jane Austen's Textual Lives. From Aeschylus to Bollywood*. Oxford University Press 2005.

Penny Gay. *Jane Austen and Theater*. Cambridge University Press 2002.

Peter Knox-Shaw. *Jane Austen and the Enlightenment*. Cambridge University Press 2004.

Bruce Stovel and Lynn Weinlos Gregg (eds.). *The Talk in Jane Austen*. University of Alberta Press 2002.

Claudia Johnson and Claire Tuite. *A Companion to Jane Austen*. Blackwell 2009.

### On Sophisticated Comedy

\*Elisabeth Bronfen. *Stanley Cavell zur Einführung*. Junius 2009. Read "4. Denkraum Shakespeare," and "5. Hurray for Hollywood"

\*Stanley Cavell. *Pursuits of Happiness. The Hollywood Comedy of Remarriage*. Harvard U.P. 1981. Read "Introduction: Words for a Conversation," "1. Cons and Pros: *The Lady Eve*," and "4. The Importance of Importance: *The Philadelphia Story*"

Maria DiBattista. *Fast-Talking Dames*. Yale 2001.