



Department of English Studies

PROVISIONAL COURSE INFORMATION WINTER TERM 2024/25

The following list of classes are open to all incoming exchange students.

Please note that these classes are aimed at students of English or American Studies, i.e. Anglophone literatures, linguistics and cultures. The classes with code numbers 100/200 are introductory courses. All classes with code numbers above 300 and higher require some basic background knowledge.

Please check the level of English language competence before selecting classes to attend. Most of our classes are aimed at students of English who have reached C1 level of competence on the CEFR. We do not offer any classes suitable for students with language levels lower than B2.

Note that there are parallel groups of some classes offered in 'groups'. Students only need to attend one group of each class, which will meet once a week for 90 minutes.

Before you register for classes on the PORTA platform, you will need to check your class choices by submitting a Learning Agreement.

Students should use the online platform PORTA to register for classes if possible. Alternatively, contact the individual lecturers about registering for classes. Please include your full name, Trier University student number (if you have it), the name of the course as listed and the day and time of the group you wish to join.

The exact number of ECTS credits awarded for a seminar or lecture will depend on the workload and assessment. Students should negotiate with the lecturer at the start of the teaching term. For your Learning Agreement, simply list the number of ECTS you would like to aim for.

If you have any questions, please contact the Erasmus Coordinators via erasmusangl@uni-trier.de

PRACTICAL LANGUAGE CLASSES

LANG 101 *Integrated Language Study Skills*

In this introductory class, the emphasis is on speaking and listening skills in an academic context, especially on giving oral presentations and making the most of a lecture course. The class equips students with the kinds of language, language awareness, and essential study skills they will need to successfully complete their English Studies degrees, and encourages them to develop learning strategies to improve their fluency and accuracy in English. The class also provides students with extensive speaking practice and aims to reduce their inhibitions about working in groups and speaking in front of their peers in presentations and discussions, in order to prepare students for future

CEFR Level: B2+ ECTS Credits: 4 or 5

Groups: Mon 14-16, Mon 10-12, Tue 8-10 (2x), Tue 10-12 (2x), Wed 8-10, Wed 10-12, Thu 10-12

LANG 201 *Academic Writing for Students of English Studies*

The goal of this introductory class is to teach students the basics of writing good essays of various genres in the Anglo-American tradition. The skills trained include finding the main idea of a text, writing topic sentences/thesis statements, writing concluding sentences/paragraphs, achieving coherence, unity, presenting support, adequately and correctly using and referencing supporting material/sources, recognising aspects of a good/bad essay, and giving constructive feedback.

CEFR Level: B2+ ECTS Credits: 4 or 5

Groups: Mon 10-12, Fri 10-12

LANG 301 *British Cultural Studies*

This course gives an overview of modern-day life in the UK and aims to provide students with insight into various aspects of the contemporary culture and society of the UK, which will enable them to interpret British literature more accurately, and live in the UK without major problems. Based on this content, language exercises including presentations, discussions, summaries, paragraph writing, and text comprehension aim to improve the accuracy of students' English, with a focus on written expression.

CEFR Level: B2-C1 ECTS Credits: 3 or 4

Groups: Mon 10-12, Mon 16-18, Tue 14-16, Thu 8-10, Thu 10-12, Thu 14-16

LANG 302 *Advanced Grammar*

This course aims to help students accurately use and analyse the meanings of advanced English grammatical structures and to avoid German interference mistakes. The primary focus will be on verb usage, including tense/aspect, complementation, conditional sentences, reported speech, and active/passive voice. Other topics may include articles/determiners, participles, word order, or formal/colloquial language. Skills developed include grammatical accuracy, fluency of written production, familiarity with meta-language, and using reference works.

CEFR Level: B2-C1 ECTS Credits: 2

Groups: Mon 8-10, Thu 8-10, Thu 14-16, Fri 8-10

LANG 402 *Translation German – English*

This course introduces students to the basic principles of effective translation from German into English, whilst contrastively analysing important grammar points of these two languages. By the end of this course, students should have greater fluency and accuracy when writing in their L2 and be able to use appropriate terminology to describe linguistic situations and inter-linguistic relationships.

Participants need at least B2+ level competence in both English and German.

CEFR Level: B2-C1 ECTS Credits: 2

Groups: Thu 12-14

LANG 501 *Phonetics and Pronunciation*

The primary objectives are to familiarize students with IPA and to enable them to transcribe accurately back and forth between the IPA and normal orthographic English. This will be used to raise awareness of pronunciation errors caused by L1 interference. The course will also familiarize students with native-speaker “fast speech” of different accents of the UK or USA. The work on this content aims to improve the accuracy and fluency of students’ (spoken) English, and awareness of varieties of English spoken in the UK or USA.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 4

Groups: Mon 12-14 (BrE), Tue 10-12 (BrE), Tue 12-14 (AmE), Wed 8-10 (AmE), Thu 8-10 (AmE), Thu 12-14 (AmE)

LANG 701/LANG 901 *Comparative Culture Studies (USA – UK)*

This course aims to further students’ abilities to research culture studies topics independently and present their views convincingly in academic presentations, to formulate concessions to and rebuttals of opposing views, and lead discussions on the topic. The content focus of these presentations and discussions will be topical issues exploring the topic in further detail in contemporary UK and USA society, involving analysis and in-depth discussion of these cultural studies topics from a comparative perspective.

CEFR Level: C1+ ECTS Credits: 3

Groups: Tue 8-10, Wed 12-14, Thu 10-12

LINGUISTICS CLASSES

LING 101V *Introduction to Linguistic Studies 1* (Lecture)

This lecture offers a basic introduction to a range of topics in English Linguistics: Phonetics/Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis. It is aimed at first-semester students and requires no previous knowledge in English Linguistics.

CEFR Level: B2+ ECTS Credits: 3 or 6

Groups: Tue 14-16

Contact: Prof. Sebastian Hoffmann, hoffmann@uni-trier.de

LING 102V/ METH *Introduction to English Language Teaching (ELT)* (Lecture)

The major aim of this lecture is to enable students to reflect systematically and make informed judgements about language learning and language teaching and to better understand the complex processes involved in both. The basic knowledge required to do this, i.e. knowledge of the concepts and methods in language teaching and knowledge about language, is the central concern of this lecture.

CEFR Level: B2+ ECTS Credits: 3 or 5

Groups: Mon 12-14

Contact: Prof. Henning Rossa, rossa@uni-trier.de

LING 201V *Introduction to Linguistic Studies 2*

Following on from Introduction to Linguistic Studies 1, this is an introductory class acquainting students with social, regional and historical variation in English.

CEFR Level: B2+ ECTS Credits: 2, 4, 6 or 7

Groups: Tue 10-12, Thu 10-12

Contact: Dr Bettina Kraft, kraftb@uni-trier.de

LING 301 *Semantics*

This seminar investigates how meaning is expressed in English. The most important topics are, amongst others, morphology, prototype theory, figurative language, humor, misunderstandings, vocabulary acquisition and teaching. CEFR Level: B2-C1 ECTS Credits: 2, 4 or 6

Groups: Wed 12-14 or 16-18

Contact: Dr Bettina Kraft, kraftb@uni-trier.de

LING 301 *Analyzing Sentences*

In this course, we will be looking at how sentences are structured, how they can be described/analysed, and how sentences vary across different text types, registers and varieties. We'll be starting with some of the basics (word classes, different sentence types, the concept of syntactic hierarchy) and then work our way through the various levels involved - e.g. the phrasal level (noun phrases, verb phrases, etc.), the clausal level (e.g. different types of subordinate clause) - and see how form and function interact.

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CEFR Level: B2-C1 ECTS Credits: 2, 4 or 6

Groups: Thu 14-16

Contact: Prof. Sebastian Hoffmann, hoffmann@uni-trier.de

LING 301 *Phonetics and Phonology*

We are confronted with spoken language before we are even born, as babies in the womb can perceive the melody of spoken language (aka prosody). But how do we form the speech sounds that make up our complex language? What makes a consonant a consonant and a vowel a vowel? And how do we structure and use our knowledge to all understand each other (more or less) even though the physiological structures forming speech sounds and the ways we speak are unique to each individual? In this class we will delve into these and many more questions as we discover the awesomely fascinating world of phonetics and phonology.

CEFR Level: B2-C1 ECTS Credits: 2, 4 or 6

Groups: Mo 12-14 Contact: Ms Tammy Ganster, ganster@uni-trier.de

LING 301 *Analyzing Spoken Languages*

Description to follow.

CEFR Level: B2-C1 ECTS Credits: 2, 4 or 6

Groups: Mon 14-16 Contact: Prof. Andrea Sand, sand@uni-trier.de

LING 301 Morphology

Description to follow.

CEFR Level: B2-C1 ECTS Credits: 2, 4 or 6

Groups: Tue 12-14 Contact: Ms Tammy Ganster, ganster@uni-trier.de

LING 301 English Phonetics and Phonology

Description to follow.

CEFR Level: B2-C1 ECTS Credits: 2, 4 or 6

Groups: Tue 10-12 Contact: Prof. Arndt-Lappe, arndtlappe@uni-trier.de

LING 501 Pidgins and Creoles

This class will look at a variety of English-lexifier pidgins and creoles from different parts of the world as well as exploring their origins, specific socio-linguistic contexts, language policy or their uses in literary texts or education.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 4, 6 or 8

Groups: Wed 10-12

Contact: Prof. Andrea Sand, sand@uni-trier.de

LING 501 Second Language Acquisition

In this class we will learn how speakers acquire a second language. We will discuss the complex factors involved in second language acquisition and I hope to be able to show you that not everything in second language acquisition comes down to transfer from language A to language B. At the end of the semester we will conduct an empirical research project together as a class which means that in this class you will also learn basic skills for empirical research in linguistics as well as basic relevant aspects of data science and very basic descriptive statistics for linguists.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 4, 6 or 8

Groups: Thu 14-16

Contact: Ms Laura Witz, witz@uni-trier.de

LING 501 *Linguistic (Im)Politeness Theories*

In this class we will investigate how the linguistic phenomenon of (im)politeness is negotiated in varieties of the English language.

We will study theoretical linguistic approaches to the topics and analyse a variety of examples from different contexts of language use.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 4, 6 or 8

Groups: Thu 12-14 Contact: Dr Bettina Kraft, kraftb@uni-trier.de

LING 501 *Formulaic Language*

What are the basic units of language? Well, most people would probably think of words as one of these units - and when we make sentences, we string words together on the basis of the grammatical rules we know. But is this really how language (or rather: our brain) works? When we look at lots of language (e.g. in the form of electronic corpora), we see that people use the same sequences of words over and over again - sometimes with slight variations, but still. And given that the human brain likes efficiency, it makes sense to assume that these sequences are not compiled from individual words every single time we use them. Instead, they are most likely retrieved from memory as single chunks, even though these prefabricated unit span across what are usually considered syntactic boundaries. These chunks are often subsumed under the heading "formulaic language".

In this seminar, we will be looking at what kind of formulaic language there is, how to look for instances of formulaic language - and how to test the hypothesis that we are indeed dealing with stored units that are larger than words.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 4, 6 or 8

Groups: Fr 10-12

Contact: Prof. Sebastian Hoffmann, hoffmann@uni-trier.de

Ling 502 METH *Professional Vision for Language Teachers*

In this course, we will have a look at instructional quality research in the field of TEFL and how videography can be used to develop and evaluate pre-service teachers' professional development and reflection skills.

Together, we will explore the following questions:

What is professional vision? What is instructional quality? And how are the two concepts related to each other?

Why do teachers need to know about professional vision and instructional quality?

What are characteristics of good English language teaching?

How can teaching videos help teachers to reflect upon their performance?

What kind of professional knowledge does a foreign language teacher need to become an expert?

These are all questions we will examine in this seminar. We will especially focus on lesson observation and how to evaluate teaching videos. After introducing relevant theoretical concepts, the course also offers practical units in which you might collaboratively create an observation scheme, observe, and reflect upon English lessons, as lesson observation enables pre-service teachers to deconstruct and question their own subjective theories and routines of action.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 2

Groups: Mo 14-16, Tue 10-12

Contact: Ms Lisa Klassen, klassen@uni-trier.de

LING 502 METH *Teaching Grammar*

This class requires participants to get involved in the collaborative process of designing teaching sequences, tasks and materials with a focus on teaching grammar and vocabulary in the EFL-classroom.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 2

Groups: Mon 10-12 Contact: Prof. Henning Rossa, rossa@uni-trier.de

LING 502 METH *Teaching Children's / Young Adult Literature*

Description to follow.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 2

Groups: Mo 8-10

Contact: Prof. Henning Rossa, rossa@uni-trier.de

LING 502 METH *Selecting and Developing Teaching Materials for the EFL Classroom*

In this course, we will explore how texts can be integrated in the EFL classroom. What different types of texts offer what kinds of speaking opportunities? What different ways are there to work with texts to offer your students the best opportunities to further develop their skills and competences?

After introducing some theoretical input regarding text competence, this seminar offers practical sessions, in which we are going to plan, teach and reflect upon EFL lessons whilst focusing on different text types.

In this class, we will be looking at examples of real-life use of teaching materials by actual school teachers. We will then take a retrodictive approach to find the (assumed) underlying teaching principle(s) of the teacher(s) in question. This requires reading literature from a wide range of academic disciplines, such as psychology, musicology, sociology, linguistics etc., as theories, models and concepts as well as empirical findings from these disciplines form (part of) the basis of the different possible teaching principles.

Towards the end of the term, once we have established the rationales for different (sets) of teaching principles – and each student has decided on a selection for their own teaching philosophy -, you will have to choose teaching materials (or create your own ones) and plan/design possible uses in a Year 5 or 6 classroom, in line with your own teaching principles. You will be expected to complete weekly reading and/or writing assignments.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 2

Groups: Thu 10-12

kraft@uni-trier.de

Contact: Dr. Bettina Kraft, kraft@uni-trier.de

LIT 101V *Introduction to Literary Studies 1: Basic Concepts of Literary Analysis*

This lecture offers a first dive into the English literature. Introducing text type, analysis tools. It is designed as a broad overview that presents students with an initial orientation of the relevant literary currents and landmark works.

CEFR Level: B2+

ECTS Credits: 3 or 6

Groups: Thu 8-10

Contact: JProf. Nele Sawallisch, sawallisch@uni-trier.de

LIT 301 *Jane Eyre & Wuthering Heights: The Bronte Sisters' Time*

Not too long ago, the year 2016 marked the 200th anniversary of Charlotte Brontë, whose masterpiece JANE EYRE was published the same year (1847) as her sister Emily's equally ground-breaking WUTHERING HEIGHTS. The fact that both sisters opted to publish anonymously / under pseudonym reflects the repressive mindset of their time – which is artfully unveiled and dissected in their novels that met with enthusiastic responses as well as sharp criticism; after all, these novels reflect unheard-of behavior and new sensibilities between the sexes, in both the wild Yorkshire moors (WH) and five different locations in northern England (JE). With a few side-glances at later adaptations, we will engage in close readings of both texts, eliciting their character dispositions and motivations, the interaction of human beings and natural environment amidst a rigid Victorian society, and the complex forms of mediating the story through varied narrative perspectives and modes.

CEFR Level: B2-C1

ECTS Credits: 3 or 4

Groups: Wed 8-10 or 12-14

Contact: Dr. Markus M Müller, markus.m.mueller@uni-trier.de

LIT 301 *The Circus: A Past/Parallel World*

The circus – now basically an image, if not myth, of the past – combines art and entertainment, the staging of otherness and questioning of reality. Traditionally a nomadic adventure-space, with an entire entourage moving from one location or destiny to another, the circus presents to its audience a mix of acrobats, exotic animal acts, conjurers, human anomalies, and the clown as subversive, humoresque figure operating on the borders of sense(lessness) and anarchy. Through some literary as well as critical texts and movie excerpts, we will investigate how socio-political, economic, psychological and cultural agendas as well as reflections overlap in this fantastic microcosmic arena.

CEFR Level: B2-C1

ECTS Credits: 3 or 4

Groups: Mon 10-12

Contact: Dr Markus M. Müller, markus.m.mueller@uni-trier.de

LIT 301 *Raising Awareness in/through Children's Fiction*

(Children's) Literature is not only a source of entertainment but can also help to develop empathy and awareness. By reading and discussing children's fiction, including early-readers' / first-readers' texts, thus suitable for primary school settings, from different perspectives, cultures, and contexts, we will investigate how those narratives broaden the reader's horizons, challenge prevalent assumptions and raise awareness about, for example, gender, ethnicity, disability or environmental aspects. In this seminar, we will therefore discuss how children's fiction can promote empathy and awareness across different areas of study, and how the narratives and discussions can be integrated it into your teaching practice.

CEFR Level: B2-C1

ECTS Credits: 3 or 4

Groups: Mon 14-16

Contact: Dr. Britta Colligs, colligs@uni-trier.de

LIT 301 *Romantic Poetry*

This seminar introduces you to the literature and culture of the Romantic period in Britain, 1790 – 1830. It allows you to explore a variety of Romantic poetry from a period characterised by radical ideas and rebellion against tradition, and helps you learn to draw connections between Romantic-era literary works and the culture and history of the period. In this course, we will discuss the works of the “Big Six” – such as William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Keats, and Percy Shelley – as well as further poets to analyse their work in relation to their historical and cultural contexts.

CEFR Level: B2-C1 ECTS Credits: 3 or 4

Groups: Mon 10-12

Contact: Dr. Britta Colligs, colligs@uni-trier.de

LIT 501 *American Life Writing*

This course explores how personal narratives have reflected and shaped America's identity through various forms of life writing. We will examine texts such as letters, journals, memoirs, and contemporary media like podcasts and social media postings. By considering the stories of both the "influential and the disenfranchised," (Monticello and Tucker) we will investigate how life writing has served as a tool for social change and cultural evolution. Our class will include the artistic representation of personal histories in literary and visual media, highlighting how these narratives contribute to a broader understanding of American life.

CEFR Level: C1 ECTS Credits: 4, 6 or 8

Groups: Wed 8-10

Contact: Ms Julia Schwarzmeier, schwarzmeier@uni-trier.de

LIT 501 *British Country House Novels*

If Jane Austen's MANSFIELD PARK (1814) belongs to the long line of British novels focusing on the country house / estate, both Evelyn Waugh's BRIDESHEAD REVISITED (1945; 1959) and Kazuo Ishiguro's THE REMAINS OF THE DAY (1989) continue and at the same time subvert that tradition. While the allegorical dynamism between individual characteristics (including personal power and wealth) and family, community, and nation at large is part of all three of our texts to be discussed, the novels increasingly focus on the decline of the respective

estate (with garden / park / landscape and farm) as a reflection of the collective condition. We will debate, in detail, these and other interconnected aspects, throwing side-glances at, e.g., art history and architecture, forms and mechanisms of nostalgia, narratology and psychology, colonial legacy and gender constellations, social class and the (re)definition of home / belonging.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 4, 6 or 8

Groups: Thu 10-12 or 14-16

Contact: Dr Markus M. Müller, markus.m.mueller@uni-trier.de

LIT 501 *Science Fiction Through Media*

In this class, we will be looking at various science fiction texts realized in different media genres, from novellas and novels, to comics and film. The selection of primary texts and the secondary theories we will be discussing, will aim to give an introduction into the literary genre of science fiction, the vast variety of critical theories science fiction texts may encompass, and the possibilities (and limitations) of different media genres in depicting them.

CEFR Level: C1

ECTS Credits: 4, 6 or 8

Groups: Wed 12-14

Contact: Amanda Boyce, boyce@uni-trier.de