

Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher

**3220
3420**

Restoration Comedies

Tue (6)

HSZ E 01

HS 7 KP (requirements to be announced in class)
SiH/S 3 KP (requirements to be announced in class)
1 KP (requirements to be announced in class)

This seminar follows a tripartite structure, namely (1) a historical introduction to the Restoration period (1660-1710), (2) a theoretical survey of the often contradictorily defined concepts of humour, the comic and laughter, which will include an introduction to the most relevant theories developed by Henri Bergson, Friedrich Nietzsche, Charles Baudelaire, Sigmund Freud, Mikhail Bakhtin, Helmuth Plessner, Anton C. Zijderveld, Hans Robert Jauss and others; (3) a close reading and textual analysis of William Wycherley's *The Country Wife* (1675), Aphra Behn's *The Rover* (1677), John Vanbrugh's *The Provoked Wife* (1697) and William Congreve's *The Way of the World* (1700). Where available, film productions of these comedies will also be considered.

Readings:

Please purchase a copy of each of the four comedies mentioned above.

Please Note: This seminar is designed as a compact seminar. The first sessions of the seminar will take place in weeks one and three. The seminar itself will take place on a weekend (Saturday and Sunday) in June. Students who want to take part in this seminar should be prepared to give a short oral presentation (15 minutes).

Students are required to sign up for this class in Frau Schmidt's office from 15 February to 15 March 2008 (limited participation).