

Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher

HS S SiH	The Student's Guide to Literature, or: "How to read a novel?" Arundhati Roy's <i>The God of Small Things</i> as an Exercise in Close Reading	Thur (3)	HSZ 201
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This seminar is suited for third year BA students as well as for MA and "Staatsexamen" students.

If you have ever wondered how literature works and how to interpret difficult but fascinating novels, this is the seminar to take. The idea is to critically define the special characteristics of literature, to think about how texts produce meaning and why, very often, different interpretations of one and the same text are possible. We will, of course, also discuss the limits of interpretations and how to define them.

As a practical example we will focus on Arundhati Roy's Booker Prize-winning novel, *The God of Small Things* (1997), a mesmerizing book which John Updike has not only called "a work of highly conscious art" but also compared to a "a devotionally built temple." Other critics have described Roy's novel as "a masterpiece, utterly exceptional in every way" and as "a banquet for all the senses we bring to reading."

Please buy:

Arundhati Roy. *The God of Small Things*. London: Harper Perennial, 2009.

A syllabus and comprehensive bibliography will be available in the first session in April. You are expected to have read the book before the start of the term.

Further materials will be provided online (via OPAL).

NB: This course prepares students for the "Schriftliches Staatsexamen: Klausur Englische Literaturwissenschaft" in the autumn of 2014.

Please note: You are not required to enrol for this seminar in advance. If you would like to join this course, simply turn up at the first session and sign up then.