

**Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher**

**2210 Literature and Anthropology: A Wed (3) PHY C 213**  
**2410 Survey of British Literature from**  
**3210 William Shakespeare to Ian McEwan**  
**3410**

**73110**  
**73720**

**201210**

V 1 KP (requirements to be announced in class)  
V + KI 3 KP (requirements to be announced in class)

This lecture will provide a comprehensive and critical historical survey of the development of British literature from the Renaissance to the present. The theoretical framework adopted will be that of socio-cultural anthropology, in particular with a view to the field of cultural anthropology and the so-called 'anthropological turn in literary studies' (J. Schlaeger). The lecture is divided into three parts. Part One consists of an introduction to the development of cultural anthropology from the nineteenth-century definition centred on culture as 'socially patterned human thought and behaviour' (E. Tylor) to more recent theories drawn from the humanities and the social sciences. These theories variously emphasize the historical, normative, functional, structural and/or symbolic definitions of the term but are united by their focus on comprehending the forces that shape human society, past and present. Part Two will examine these forces in relation to the British cultural context, especially with regard to such interlinked phenomena as censorship and textuality, religion and sexuality. Part Three will focus on the anthropological implications of literary texts and develop the notion that literature as a medium allows insights that exceed philosophical, sociological or psychological theories (W. Iser). Both Parts Two and Three incorporate, amongst other things, a discussion of the function of transgression and taboo as a central anthropological dimension. The basis for discussion is formed by textual excerpts from key authors such as Shakespeare, Webster, Swift, Pope, Sterne, Lewis, Radcliffe, George Eliot, Swinburne, Browning, Tennyson, Meredith, D.M. Thomas, McEwan.

This lecture series is accompanied by an "**Arbeitskreis**" (**201220**) for MA students:  
**Wed (6) ZS 1, 228.**

The first session will take place in the second week of term.

An extensive bibliography will be provided at the beginning of the term.