

Dr. Wieland Schwanebeck**PS****007****Wed (6)****W 48/001**

In 2012, *Skyfall*, James Bond's 23rd cinematic adventure demonstrated that there was life in 007 yet. Not only did the film break box-office records in the UK, it was also praised by critics, won two Academy Awards, and showed that audiences were more than willing to accompany Bond on a self-referential nostalgia trip into his own history. Bond is arguably part of our DNA as readers and cinema-goers.

Our seminar will investigate the James Bond myth from a variety of angles, right from its literary inception in the 1950s. We will discuss both Ian Fleming's original 007 narratives (starting with the first novel, *Casino Royale*), as well as classic 007 films from different eras (including 1964's *Goldfinger* and 1977's *The Spy Who Loved Me*).

The texts will be analysed from structuralist as well as narratological angles in order to shed light on the narrative formulae and strategies at work: How is suspense constructed in fictitious texts? What ancient story patterns do the 007 adventures evoke? What leads the readers to root for James Bond?

We will also dedicate a number of sessions to theoretical issues, such as the gender politics of James Bond, the series' geopolitical aspects, and the role of the villains.

Please buy the following novel:

Ian Fleming: *Casino Royale*. [1953] London: Vintage, 2012. [ISBN 0099575973]

Participants are expected to read both primary and secondary texts on a regular basis in preparation of each meeting. Theoretical texts will be available on OPAL at the beginning of term.

You do not have to register in advance – just be there for the first meeting.