

Wieland Schwanebeck

**1220 University Unleashed:
70320 The Angloamerican Academic Novel** **Wed (6)** **HSZ E 05**

2220

2420

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| PS | 6 KP (active participation, group work, <i>Hausarbeit</i>)
3 KP (active participation, group work, synopsis or presentation)
1 KP (active participation, group work) |
| Ü | 2 KP (regular, active participation, synopsis or presentation)
1 KP (regular, active participation) |

Specified requirements to be announced.

The University is not only responsible for analysing texts, sometimes it becomes the subject of literature itself: in the Angloamerican world, the campus has provided the background for a wide range of narratives, from romance to detective fiction. However, it was only in the aftermath of World War II and due to fundamental changes to the British education system, that authors like Kingsley Amis or David Lodge set out to establish a distinctive genre of Academic fiction: the *Campus Novel* (or, alternatively, Academic Novel). Surprisingly, these texts rarely deal with stern theorising and scientific innovation; instead, their key topics include power politics, marital life, infidelity, and travel; their tone is playful, witty and humorous, and they are usually fun to read.

In this seminar, we want to approach the genre by examining its basic components and some of its key narrative techniques. Students will be introduced to the categories of analysing prose texts (such as narrative situations, plot, spatial categories).

We may also take a look at some excerpts from American campus fiction (e.g. Vladimir Nabokov, Philip Roth) and their adaptations, and examine the key differences between Britain and the USA in this context.

Readings

We will discuss excerpts from the following texts:

Evelyn Waugh: *Brideshead Revisited* (1945) / Vladimir Nabokov: *Pnin* (1957) / David Lodge: *Changing Places* (1975), *Small World* (1985), *Nice Work* (1988) / Malcolm Bradbury: *The History Man* (1975), *Why Come to Slaka?* (1986) / Alexander McCall-Smith: *Portuguese Irregular Verbs* (2003)

The respective chapters will be made available in a reader at the beginning of the term.

We will read the full text of Kingsley Amis's novel *Lucky Jim* (1954).

Please purchase the Penguin Classics Edition of the novel (with David Lodge's introduction, ISBN 0141182598) and start reading.