

Seminar presentation sheet

Academic year	2017/18
Seminar n°	1
Seminar title	CRISIS OF REPRESENTATION—REPRESENTATIONS OF CRISES. QUESTIONING AUTHORITIES ON THE EARLY MODERN STAGE.
Teacher(s) (Name, SURNAME)	Andreas MAHLER / Martin PROCHÁZKA
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Teacher(s)' presentation in a few words	<p>Andreas Mahler is Professor of English Literature and Literary Systematics. His main fields of research are early modern English literature, literary theory, comedy, and the carnivalesque.</p> <p>Martin Procházka is Professor of English and American literature. He specializes in literary and cultural theory, rhetoric, comparative literature, Shakespeare and Romanticism.</p>
Seminar presentation (1000 characters max)	<p>Every crisis is connected with a questioning of authorities. The early modern English theatre does not only stage quite a number of crises where an acknowledged authority (e.g. a king or a queen) has to prove whether he or she is still considered to be in a position to stand for the values of the community; it is also the site of a crisis of representation in which the traditional ways and means of presenting and representing (e.g. a print, a chronicle, a play) are questioned as to their medial authority of being in a position to adequately show and depict what is going on in the world. The seminar will address four Shakespearean history plays (<i>Richard II</i>, <i>1,2 Henry IV</i>, <i>Richard III</i>) with regard both to their depiction of a crisis of authority and to the crisis of representation (in the theatre and elsewhere) in early modern England.</p>

Prerequisites to follow the seminar	Participants must have read the four plays (Arden or Norton edition) before the beginning of the seminar. They should familiarize themselves with past and present issues of questioning, corroborating, destabilizing, and re-establishing authority (establishing possible links between the early modern crisis of the feudal system and the present crisis of late modern democracies).
Seminar objectives /skills to be developed by the students	At the end of the seminar, students will be able to trace the similarities and differences between early modern and late modern political crises, their representation and problematization on the early modern stage as well as their repercussions in present-day discussions on the use/abuse of authority. They will be able to differentiate between legitimate and illegitimate authorities and will have developed criteria for the discussion, negotiation, and defence of political justice.
Session 1 – Presentation / plan	Dethroning the king: representing the crisis of authority in Shakespeare's <i>Richard II</i> Mitchell 1995, Hobson 2001, Procházka 2013; selected scenes from <i>Richard II</i> (esp. 1.1-1.3; 2.1; 3.3-3.4; 4.1; 5.5)
Session 2 – Presentation / plan	Doubting the usurper: questioning doubtful authority in Shakespeare's <i>Henry IV</i> (Part 1+2) Derrida 1995, 1-52; selected scenes from <i>1,2 Henry IV</i> (esp. <i>1HIV</i> : 1.2; 2.1; 2.5; 3.2. <i>2HIV</i> : Induction; 1.1-1.3; 2.1; 3.1; 4.1-4.3; 5.3; 5.5)
Session 3 – Presentation / plan	Fighting an 'evil' king: sinful authority and the 'Tudor myth' in <i>Richard III</i> Weimann 1996, 1-22; selected scenes from <i>Richard III</i> (esp. 1.1-1.4; 2.1; 3.1; 3.4-3.7; 4.4; 5.3-5.8)

Bibliography:

JACQUES DERRIDA, *The Gift of Death*, trans. David Wills (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1995) 1-52 (Chapters 1 and 2).

MARIAN HOBSON, "Derrida and Representation," in *Jacques Derrida and the Humanities: A Critical Reader*, ed. Tom Cohen (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001) 132-151.

W. J. T. MITCHELL, "Representation," in *Critical Terms for Literary Study*, ed. Frank Lentricchia and Thomas Mc Laughlin (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1995) 11-22.



MARTIN PROCHÁZKA, “‘New Languages’: Pragmatism, Rhetoric and War in Shakespeare’s Second Tetralogy and Ford’s *Perkin Warbeck*,” *Litteraria Pragensia*, 23.45 (2013): 43-64.

ROBERT WEIMANN, *Authority and Representation in Early Modern Discourse*, ed. David Hillman (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996) 1-22.