

Courses in English

Course Description

Department	13 General and Interdisciplinary Studies
Course title	Gone-Away Worlds: (post-)apocalyptic books for pandemic times
Hours per week (SWS)	2
Number of ECTS credits	2
Course objective	Upon successful completion of this class, students will have improved their critical reading skills. They will be able to discuss and interpret fiction in a more advanced way, using their basic understanding of the Absurd, Existentialism, and principles of modernist, and postmodernist writing.
Prerequisites	None.
Recommended reading	Albert Camus, <i>The Plague</i> , Penguin, 2002 (ISBN: 978-0141185132). Native speakers of French should read the book in the original José Saramago, <i>Blindness</i> , Vintage Classics, 2013 (ISBN: 978-0099573586) Paul Auster, <i>In the Country of Last Things</i> , Faber and Faber, 2005 (ISBN: 978-0571227303) Nick Harkaway, <i>The Gone-Away World</i> , Windmill, 2009 (978-0099519973). Secondary literature on existentialism, e.g., will be provided by the instructor.
Teaching methods	The concept is that of a blended -learning class. Self-study phases and plenary meetings will alternate; so will on-site and on-line forms of teaching. Meetings will integrate short student presentations.
Assessment methods	Credit will be given upon completing the readings and active participation, successful presentation and two additional homework assignments (each of app. 2-3 pages).
Language of instruction	English
Name of lecturer	Prof. Dr. Silke Järvenpää
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Link	
Course content	How have you felt during the Corona lockdown; how are you feeling now that the pandemic refuses to go away? What are your thoughts on life and the universe? – Rest assured, these authors understand you! They have been there, with their imaginations, and provided you with stories that answer some questions and ask many more. We will discuss two absolute classics (Albert Camus, <i>The Plague</i> ; José Saramago, <i>Blindness</i>) and two more recent ventures into (post-?) apocalyptic settings (Paul Auster, <i>In the Country of Last Things</i> ; Nick Harkaway, <i>The Gone-Away World</i>). Yes, this is exactly the time to read novels and to talk about them in meaningful ways. Please buy those four books in the editions listed under „Disziplinäre Verortung und Literatur.“
Remarks	