

## Englische Literaturwissenschaft

**Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher**

**Jane Austen between Cynicism and Romanticism: Novels and Films** (compact seminar) **Tue (6)** **HSZ 204**

HS: 7 KP  
SiH: 3 KP  
1 KP } requirements to be announced in class

With *Mansfield Park* (1814) and *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), as well as the respective film versions directed by Patricia Rozema and Ang Lee, we shall be concentrating on two major Austen novels which are nevertheless surprisingly different from each other. After having established the surface content of the novels, we shall ask whether there is a subtextual level of meaning which the texts only seem to hint at. We shall consider whether *Sense and Sensibility* is essentially a romantic novel, whether it really pushes in the direction of a clear distinction between sense and sensibility and what its attitude towards romantic love is.

In accordance with this approach, we shall read *Mansfield Park* from a feminist and post-colonial perspective, analysing the role of femininity, slavery and patriarchy. Moreover, special attention will be paid to the characterisation of the female protagonist Fanny Price, to the role of the narrative voice, "Aunt Jane," and to the problematic functionalisation of theatricality. Finally, taking into account the concept of British heritage cinema, we shall analyse how far the film versions differ from the novels and which textual aspects they stress.

This seminar will be held as a compact seminar on one week-end in January. In addition to this there will be four introductory sessions during October and November. Active participation is expected.

The primary texts to be purchased and read *before* the beginning of the semester are:

Jane Austen. *Mansfield Park*. London: Penguin Books, 2003.

Jane Austen. *Sense and Sensibility*. London: Penguin Books, 2003.