



SUMMER SCHOOL 2025 CANTERBURY



IN A NUTSHELL

- Location:** University of Kent
- Dates:** 10 - 23 August 2025
- Teaching:** 4 hours per day under the week
- Credits:** 100% equivalent to “regular” classes

CLASSES

You will have to choose (exactly) two of the following classes:

- **Afrofuturism**

Seminar/Übung Cultural Studies USA or Amerikanische Literatur

Natalie Erkel

- **Cartoon Politics: Artistic Interventions in Contemporary History**


Seminar/Übung Cultural Studies GB

Sebastian Berg

- **Psycholinguistic Aspects of Bilingualism**

Seminar/Übung Linguistik

Alexander Kaul



For course descriptions
see below



LOCATION

- **Canterbury** is situated in the southeast of England, about 50 minutes (by train) from London.
- It is a town of about 55,000 people and one of the most visited places in the country.
- Canterbury boasts a medieval city centre with many historic buildings...
- ...and, of course, the famous cathedral (World Heritage!)





THE CAMPUS

- The University of Kent is located on the outskirts of town, about a 10-minute bus ride from the city centre (about 30 minutes on foot).
- You will find cafés, restaurants, bars, two small co-op stores and lots of green space on campus.
- Sport facilities and bike rental are available for a fee.
- Buses take you to the nearest beach in about 20 minutes as well.

INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Guided tour of Canterbury
- Guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral
- Day trip to London
- Day trip to seaside town (weather permitting)
- Ample free time to explore the area



ACCOMMODATION

- We are booked into regular, self-catering student accommodation on the university's Canterbury campus.
- Summer school participants will live in 5-bedroom houses in “Park Wood student village”.
- Each student will have their own bedroom, but kitchens and bathrooms will be shared.

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

You will have to have passed the following *Basiskurse* before the start of the summer school:

- Academic Skills
- Grammar BM
- For a cultural studies class:
 - Introduction to Cultural Studies
- For a literature class:
 - Introduction to Literary Studies
- For a linguistics class:
 - English Sounds and Sound Systems
 - Introduction to English Linguistics



FINANCES

- The cost for participating in the summer school is **455€**.
- This includes accommodation and expenses for the extracurricular programme (entry fees, bus tickets)...
- ...but will be **plus living expenses and travel to/from Canterbury**

Please note that students will make their own travel arrangements.





BORDER REGULATIONS

- Entering the UK will normally require a passport (**not** a national identity card like the German *Personalausweis*) that is valid for the entire duration of your stay.
- EU nationals do not need a visa to enter the UK, but for non-EU nationals things might be different. Check the current rules before you travel!
- Costs for visa and/or other potentially mandatory documents are not included in the participant fee.

REGISTRATION

If you are a B.A. student eligible for *Aufbaukurse* (and of age), you can sign up by

1. sending an e-mail to **Alexander.Kaul@rub.de** that specifies which two classes you would like to take, and
2. coming to an in-person meeting early in the summer term where you will be given additional information and will have to sign the official registration form.

Please note

- Places will be assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis. All applications must be sent before the deadline for regular course registration in the summer term.
- Full (non-refundable) payment will have to be made at the beginning of the summer term (after the meeting).



USEFUL LINKS

Blean Woods National Nature Reserve: <https://kurzlinks.de/64oj>

Canterbury Cathedral: <https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/>


Fitness facilities: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/sports/facilities>

Park Wood Houses: <https://kurzlinks.de/440f>

University of Kent at Canterbury: <https://www.kent.ac.uk/>

Visit Canterbury: <https://www.canterbury.co.uk/>

photos by Marten Juskan unless stated otherwise



Questions? Contact
Alexander.Kaul@rub.de

A scenic view of a rocky beach. The foreground is filled with smooth, multi-colored pebbles in shades of brown, tan, and grey. The ocean is visible in the middle ground, with a few people swimming. In the background, there are buildings and trees under a clear blue sky.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AFROFUTURISM

Course description:

In this class, we will deal with various texts that can be classified as “Afrofuturist” texts. Afrofuturism, rooted in empowerment, creativity and resilience, serves as a platform for social and political critique. The term “Afrofuturism” was coined by Mark Dery in his 1993 essay “Black to the Future.” Dery defined Afrofuturism as “speculative fiction that treats African-American themes and addresses African-American concerns in the context of twentieth-century technoculture.” The beginnings of “Black Speculative Fiction” or Afrofuturism, however, in fact go back to the late 19th and early 20th century with authors such as Martin Delany, Pauline Hopkins, George Schuyler, Sutton E. Griggs, and W.E.B. Du Bois. Afrofuturist activist and scholar Ytasha Womack defines Afrofuturism as “an intersection of imagination, technology, the future, and liberation. [...] Both an artistic aesthetic and a framework for critical theory, Afrofuturism combines elements of science fiction, historical fiction, speculative fiction, fantasy, Afrocentricity, and magic realism with non-Western beliefs.” Through a combination of literature, visual media, and critical analysis and theory, we will examine different Afrofuturist texts. We will be reading and discussing short stories, novels, comic books, graphic novels and visual media by authors such as Octavia Butler, Samuel R. Delany, Nalo Hopkinson, N. K. Jemisin, Nnedi Okorafor, and Rivers Solomon.

Assessment/requirements:

Übung: essay/term paper (max. 2,500 words) or oral exam (~25 minutes)

Seminar: term paper (max. 4500 words) or oral exam (~30 minutes)

CARTOON POLITICS: ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Course description:

The University of Kent is the home of the British Cartoon Archive. Thus, I would like to take the summer school as an occasion to visit the archive and to research its collections. In this course, we will look into selected controversial political events, issues, and debates of the last decades and investigate how these were taken up, evaluated, and commented on in cartoons. I contend that cartoonists do not only depict political issues and politicians, but try to play an active role in political processes, especially by influencing public opinion. Hence, we will discuss strategies of political intervention available to artists and analyse how these were applied in cartoons in order to deal with contentious political problems. In short, in this course you have the chance to learn about two things: some of the most important political events from contemporary British history and the conventions and stylistics of cartoons as an artistic genre.

Assessment/requirements: active participation, project researched by pairs or small groups to be presented in class (Übung, 3 CPs); active participation, project researched by pairs or small groups to be presented in class, research paper (Seminar, 4 CPs).

PSYCHOLINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF BILINGUALISM

Course description:

How do bilinguals understand and produce speech? In this seminar, we will have a closer look at bilingualism from a psycholinguistic perspective. We will examine spoken and written language processing, issues in language switching, cognitive effects of bilingualism and models of the bilingual brain.

Assessment/requirements: Übung (3 CPs): active participation, short presentation, (reading) assignments; Seminar (4 CPs): the above, plus 12-page term paper or final written exam to be taken in Bochum after the summer school