

## Course Catalog Summer Semester 2011

### American Studies Leipzig

Below please find our new course catalog. We will update these pages throughout the break and the semester.

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## 1 Information

### Contact Information

The Institute for American Studies is located at the University's Humanities Building (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum, GWZ), Beethovenstraße 15, on the 5th floor – house 3.

For details on our programs and faculty, please visit the American Studies Leipzig (ASL) website at <http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de>

Name	Room	Phone
<b>Prof. Dr. Crister Garrett</b> <a href="mailto:crister.garrett@uni-leipzig.de">crister.garrett@uni-leipzig.de</a>	<b>3505</b>	<b>97 37 335</b>
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## **Secretary's Office**

Isabel Holzke  
Room 3506

Phone: 97 37 330

Fax: 97 37 339

Email: americanstudies@uni-leipzig.de

### **Office Hours:**

Monday: 9:30 am - 3 pm

Tuesday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Friday: 9:30 am – noon

## **Advising**

At the Institute for American Studies, students can rely on a comprehensive network of advisors to assist them with the organization of their programs of study. Please visit the ASL website for contact information and office hours of our faculty and staff.

These faculty members are available for the following concerns:

### **Questions relating to program requirements; general guidance and advice on how to organize your studies:**

- Dr. Katja Schmieder, Sebastian Herrmann, MA, Anja Eifert, MA, Florian Bast, MA

### **Advice and services concerning transfer from another university or from another degree program; credit for study abroad:**

- Prof. Crister Garrett
- Dr. Katja Schmieder
- Sebastian Herrmann, MA

### **Questions relating to specific fields of study, including format of exams:**

- SHP/Kulturgeschichte: Prof. Crister Garrett, Anja Eifert, MA
- LC/Literaturwissenschaft: Prof. Anne Koenen, Dr. Katja Schmieder, Sebastian Herrmann, MA, Florian Bast, MA

## **Registration for Classes**

Most classes require prior registration. To learn more about registration procedures for students in different ASL programs (Magister, BA, MA; service for Lehramt), please have a look at the Registration Information Sheet available by March on the American Studies website. As access to some classes is quite competitive, please take the procedures and deadlines for registration seriously.

## **American Studies Modules**

Modules in the BA and MA programs are designed to achieve specific learning goals, they entail a specific amount and specific types of coursework and examinations, and they may have prerequisites. To learn more about these, we strongly encourage you to have a look at our program's Module Catalog (BA; MA) and at the appendix to our Conditions of Study (BA; MA).

## **International Students**

International Students are very welcome in the courses offered by the Institute for American Studies. To learn more about places available in individual courses, please contact the instructor, and describe your situation briefly (i.e., exchange student, international guest student, participating in an international degree program). We will do our very best to include you in our courses.

## **Courses**

Course catalogs of past semesters can be found in the Downloads and Resources Area.

For course offerings in Linguistics, please consult the British Studies course catalog, available at the website of the Institute for British Studies (<http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~angl>).

Unless stated otherwise, **classes start in the week of April 4, 2011.**

### Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5

HSG (Hörsaalgebäude), Universitätsstr. 7

Commerzbank (Interim), Dittrichring 5 – 7

## 2 BA Courses

### Registration Guidelines:

If the **BA American Studies is your Major (Kernfach)**, please refer to our Program Overview (pdf) to identify your recommended modules for your year of study. Please keep checking the American Studies homepage for updates on parallel courses.

- For enrollment in your American Studies modules, you need to **sign up at the secretariat on March 21st or 22nd**. Preferences for parallel classes will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Beginning with the level-II modules, you can choose American Studies Leipzig KF modules to count for your Wahlbereich as well. In this case, you **need to apply** for these modules through the tool as well.
- For your Wahlbereich/SQM, please refer to the university's course listings and select via the tool.

If you would like to take **American Studies Leipzig BA modules for your Wahlbereich**, you can apply for the following modules: Society, History, and Politics I and III, Literature & Culture II and III, The Anglo-American World in a Global Context, Introduction to Linguistics, and Language & Society - Language in Transition. You will need to apply for admission to these modules online via the tool.

### **2.1 Society, History, and Politics I (04-001-1002)**

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

This module is meant to provide students with an interdisciplinary and integrated introduction to key developments and themes in the history, politics, and society of the United States from the colonial period to the conclusion of the Civil War. Beyond becoming acquainted with important aspects of American life, the module is meant to provide students with repeated exercises and practice in analytical thinking and expression, both in written and oral form.

**The module consists of one lecture, one seminar, and one tutorial**

#### **110 Lecture: From the Colonial Period to Reconstruction**

Wednesday, 1-3 pm, HSG HS 4

C. Garrett

[www.lehrbox.de/399](http://www.lehrbox.de/399)

The lectures will explore how the unfolding of American history influenced American society and thus the country's political culture, institutions, and outcomes. Topics to be covered include transatlantic influences on the emergence of an American republic, the formation of republican institutions, the role of religion in shaping American politics and society, the evolution of an American capitalism, tensions between regional and national institutions and cultures, expansion and empire, and war. The course thus integrates global, transatlantic, and international developments to better understand the nature of the American experience.

### **111 Seminar:**

**either a)** Monday, 11 am-1 pm, NSG 102  
A. Eifert  
[www.lehrbox.de/347](http://www.lehrbox.de/347)

**or b)** Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 127  
F. Böhme  
[www.lehrbox.de/392](http://www.lehrbox.de/392)

In this seminar, students will read original documents and interpretive essays relating to the different themes raised during the lecture. This will permit students to deepen and contextualize their knowledge about the topics covered during the lecture while also developing their academic skills in writing, speaking, and the presenting of one's own ideas.

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### **112 Tutorial (Übung):**

**either a)** Thursday, 9-11 am, NSG 127  
C. Sharpe

**or b)** Thursday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 127  
C. Sharpe  
[lehrbox coming soon]

The tutorial (übung) involves the practicing of English academic writing on the subject of American society, history, and politics. The writing skills required for the module-seminar will be developed in the tutorial with diverse assignments. There will be a particular focus on the further development of sound skills relating to the form, function, and structure of the English outline, paragraph, and essay.

## 2.2 Introduction to Linguistics (04-001-1003)

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sylvia Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

Das Modul bietet den Studierenden einen ersten Überblick über Analysemethoden und zentrale, grundlegende Fragestellungen in der synchronen amerikanistischen Linguistik sowie das Erlernen des geschriebenen akademischen Diskurses darüber. Die Vorlesung "Einführung in die synchrone Linguistik" führt ein in die Grundlagen der modernen englischen Sprachwissenschaft und gibt einen Überblick über die wesentlichen Teilgebiete der Disziplin. Das Seminar "Systemlinguistik" vertieft das in der Vorlesung "Einführung in die synchrone Linguistik" vermittelte Wissen aus den Bereichen Morphologie, Phonetik/Phonologie, Semantik und Syntax mit spezifischer Relevanz für das moderne amerikanische Englisch. Eine Übung "Sprachpraxis für Amerikanisten" ergänzt das Modul.

**The module consists of one lecture, one seminar, and one Übung**

### 1003-1 Lecture: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics

Tuesday, 1-3 pm, HSG HS 3  
D. Schönefeld, Institut für Anglistik

Prüfung: Klausur (120 min) über den Stoff der Vorlesung und des Seminars

The lecture aims at familiarizing students of English with the essentials of (English) linguistics. We will set out to define the field, the study of language, and will work our way through a programme clarifying central terms and issues of the major branches of linguistics. These comprise phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, as well as sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics, sitting at the interface of language to other phenomena. Time permitting, we will also have a look at the historical development of linguistics.

The lecture assumes a thorough knowledge of English, but does not presuppose any previous study of grammar or other aspects of linguistics.

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### 1003-2 Seminar Systemlinguistik: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics

*Von den folgenden Seminarangeboten ist ein Kurs zu belegen.*

**Sem. a)**: Tuesday, 9-11 am, NSG 404  
S. Reuter, Institut für Anglistik

**or Sem. b)**: Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 404  
S. Reuter, Institut für Anglistik

Literatur: V. Fromkin et al. (2007) *An Introduction to Language*, Boston/USA: Thomson Wadsworth. Reader erhältlich bei Printy (Ritterstraße 5)

Prüfung: s. Vorlesung "Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics"

This seminar is conceived together with the introductory lecture as a basis for further studies in linguistics. Whereas in the lecture you familiarize yourself with basic concepts, the seminar focuses on in-depth discussion, exercises and task solving. We will start our linguistic journey with phonetics & phonology, and after that move into the other core areas of linguistics such as morphology, syntax and semantics. Needless to add, the textbook describes the English as used in the USA.

Students are asked to purchase the course material at Printy (Ritterstr. 5).

### 1003-3 Übung Sprachpraxis für Amerikanisten: Spoken Academic Discourse

Von den folgenden Übungsangeboten ist ein Kurs zu belegen.

**Ü a):** Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 403  
P. Tasic, Institut für Anglistik

**or Ü b):** Thursday, 5-7 pm, NSG 101  
P. Tasic, Institut für Anglistik

Prüfung: Präsentation, Diskussionsleitung u. Zusammenfassung (15 Minuten)

This course focuses on equipping students to improve their command of the processes involved in organizing clear, effective academic presentations and discussions as well as those practical language skills most frequently needed in spoken English as used in the context of research-based discourse in linguistics. The exercises have been designed to promote students' intercultural communicative competence while critical insight into the linguistic relevance of cultural determinants is gained by engaging in inquiry and reflection on past and present American usage.



## 2.3 Literature & Culture II (04-001-1007)

Module Coordinator: Anne Koenen

The module builds on and advances the knowledge and skills students acquired in the introductory module "Literature & Culture 1." It acquaints students with major issues, concepts, and theories involved in the study of literature and (popular) culture. The module explores the canon debate and its implications for the study of U.S.-American literature and culture. In addition, it introduces students to exemplary modes and genres of literature and culture, and to their reflection in scholarship.

**The module consists of one lecture and two seminars**

### 210 Lecture: Multicultural America and the Canon

Tuesday, 9-11 am, HSG HS 4  
G. Pisarz-Ramírez

The lectures will explore the cultural diversity of American literature against the background of the debates about the literary canon. Special emphasis will be placed on ethnic literatures and cultures, including African American, Latino/Chicano, Native American and Asian American writings that will be discussed in their specific cultural and historical contexts.

Lectures will start on **April 12**.

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### 211 Seminar A: Why Vampires Suck: The Figure of the Vampire in Canonical Texts and Popular Culture

Monday, 3-5 pm, NSG 405  
Monday, 3-5 pm, NSG 405  
[www.lehrbox.de/391](http://www.lehrbox.de/391)

The figure of the vampire is an established part of (American) literature and culture. From Bram Stoker to Edgar Allan Poe, the vampire is part of the literary canon. It is, however, much more prominent in texts which, for numerous reasons, are not canonized. Throughout its history, the vampire figure has been used to portray issues of Otherness and the deconstruction of various boundaries. The primary aim of this course lies in using Theory to trace this function of the vampire as the transgressive Other through a diverse variety of different historical periods and textual genres. As part of the LC-II module, the course will also teach students the basic techniques of writing a scholarly research paper.

Participation in this class will be based on the willingness to shoulder a high reading load, enforced by PVLs. The seminar will take a detailed look at the figure of the vampire in canonical texts like "The Vampyre" and *Dracula*, as well as in texts that lie outside of it, such as those of writers who have historically been excluded from the canon like Black women (e.g. Octavia Butler's *Fledgling*) or those which are considered a part of popular culture as opposed to high culture (Joss Whedon's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*). The course will include a number of different genres, such as novels (e.g. *Interview with the Vampire*), short stories ("The Vampyre"), movies (*Blade*, *Twilight*), and TV shows (*True Blood*, *Buffy*).

## 212 Seminar B: The American Short Story: Irving, Poe, Melville, Hawthorne

Friday, 11 am -1 pm, GWZ 2.516

A. Dallmann

[www.lehrbox.de/397](http://www.lehrbox.de/397)

The short story is often claimed to be the most genuine of American genres. By discussing this literary form within its historical context of emergence, this course as a first primary focus aims at sketching the conditions of literary production, publication, and reception of the period which contributed to make the short story flourish as an American genre. Secondly, this course outlines the most influential theories of the short story, drawing attention especially to those introduced by Edgar Allen Poe. As a third focal point, we will delineate the changes and continuities of the genre within American literary history discussing a range of texts from Washington Irving to Poe, Herman Melville, and Nathaniel Hawthorne, drawing attention to central themes and narrative techniques of short story writing.

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## 213 Seminar C: Liminal Experiences: Bodily and Psychological Borders in Literature

Wednesday, 11am - 1pm, room NSG 421

A. Hofmann

[www.lehrbox.de/394](http://www.lehrbox.de/394)

Fictional texts are drawn to liminal experiences. In particular, contemporary representations of trauma, abjection, (mental) illness, etc. speak of a literary fascination with extreme aspects of life. This class explores some of the most intense challenges to the human psyche: Experiences that confront us with unparalleled situations that prevent an understanding and integration—or an ‘easy’ reading, for that matter. By looking at their textual representations we will engage questions such as: How does writing relate to the transgression of borders of both body and mind? Which role does narrative play in rendering these events (e.g. critical, therapeutic, sensationalist...)? Can literary strategies represent their overwhelming, often violent nature? During the course of this class, we will study mainly contemporary fiction (at least one novel, Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*) and a considerable number of theoretical texts. Apart from active participation in the classroom, in-depth preparation of texts as well as several writing assignments are mandatory.

The first session will be on **13 April**.

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## 214 Seminar D: Theorizing Popular Culture

Thursday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

S. Herrmann

[www.lehrbox.de/393](http://www.lehrbox.de/393)

In this class we will discuss a variety of theoretical approaches to reading popular culture, as well as the history of how popular culture has been theorized in the past in different traditions of cultural critique. We will use the insights from these theories to discuss select pop-cultural texts, but the focus of the class will be on understanding and discussing the theories and approaches involved and the history and politics of their circulation. In other words: This class might be less fun than the title makes it sound. The reading workload, in theoretical material as well as in primary texts (in the widest sense of the word), will be considerable, and everybody in class will have to show, in writing and in discussion, that they have read and prepared the sessions thoroughly. Classes start on Thursday, **14 April**.

## **2.4 The Anglo-American World in a Global Context (04-001-1008)**

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

This module is meant to provide students with a deeper understanding of how the United States and Great Britain/Ireland relate to each other and other countries that together make up what is often referred to as the “Anglo-Saxon tradition”. Especially in the wake of contemporary globalization—but certainly during earlier periods of mobility, exchange, and discovery—the concept of an Anglo-American world held great sway in many corners of the globe. Indeed, for much of continental Europe today, “the Anglo-American world” provides a basic compass for understanding fundamental developments in politics, economics, and culture. This module is meant to provide students with a more sophisticated understanding of how the United States and Great Britain have perceived and influenced each other historically and currently, and also to provide a deeper understanding of what the “Anglo-American world” means during our current period of global change.

### Module Requirements:

Successful completion of Modules 04-001-1001 (American Studies, SHP I) and 04-001-1002 (American Studies, LC I) or Module 004-002-1102 (Anglistik)

You must attend the lecture by Dr. Jürgen Ronthaler and Prof. Elmar Schenkel and two seminars (choose one seminar offered by Anglistik and one offered by Amerikanistik).

**The module consists of one lecture, one seminar in English and one in American Studies**

### **1107-1 Lecture: Trans-Atlantic Intertextualities in Anglo-American Fiction**

Wednesday, 1-3 pm, HSG HS 5  
J. Ronthaler & E. Schenkel (Institut für Anglistik)

The lecture this time will concentrate on selected literary influences that criss-cross the Atlantic Ocean between the two countries. Starting with a historical survey and following historical developments Elmar Schenkel and Jürgen Ronthaler will alternate in a loose sequence in reflecting about various representative phenomena that shaped both literatures and cultures. We will discuss W. Irving, Transcendentalism and E.A. Poe, will consider Ch. Dickens, A. Trollope, H. James, Sir A.C. Doyle and E. Hemingway, and we will deal with Mark Twain as a Traveller and as an author of children’s and adolescent fiction. Furthermore detective fiction, poetry and science in Anglo-American fiction will be investigated.

A list with the programme will be available at the beginning of the term.

## 1107-2a [English] Into the Wilderness: Contemporary Canadian Literature

Monday, 9-11 am, NSG 322  
S. Welz (Institut für Anglistik)

Literatur: Margaret Atwood: *Cat's Eye* (1988); Rudy Wiebe: *A Discovery of Strangers* (1994); Yann Martel: *Life of Pi* (2002); Alice Munro: Selected Short Stories

Begleitende Literatur: *The Cambridge Companion to Canadian Literature*. Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Die angegebenen Romane sind in den einschlägigen Buchhandlungen (Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung und Universitätsbuchhandlung) käuflich zu erwerben; die Short Stories werden als Kopiervorlage / elektronischer Text zur Verfügung gestellt.

Prüfung: Hausarbeit

Canadian Literature is still a comparatively young cultural phenomenon. Only a few decades ago in her critical study *Survival: A Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature* (1972) Canadian writer Margaret Atwood fused the conception of Canadian literature with notions of national identity. Today, the question of identity still seems to be on the agenda while we are witnessing an ever-growing, stylistically diverse, and thematically rich literary output from this vast country. The course provides a first approach to Canadian literature in English via a selection of recent prose texts in focusing on the thematic aspect of 'Wilderness'. Textual analyses of this central conception will emphasize conflicts such as man vs. nature, the urban vs. the rural, mass society vs. individual isolation.

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## 1107-2b [English] A Special Relationship?

Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 222  
F. Hofmeister (Institut für Anglistik)

Empfohlene Vorbereitung:

Ein Überblickswissen über die Geschichte Großbritanniens und der USA seit Beginn der Neuzeit wird vorausgesetzt.

Literatur:

A reader with a detailed bibliography and essential texts will be made available at the beginning of the term.

Prüfung: Hausarbeit

The UK and the USA have been linked in various ways – politically, economically, culturally – since the 17th century. But in how far has this relationship been 'special', as the famous term suggests? And has this 'special relationship' survived the end of the Cold War (and the end of the Blair-Bush era), or have global developments made it obsolete? This seminar will trace the "Love-Hate Relations" (as the poet Stephen Spender termed them) from the colonial beginnings over the political developments of the twentieth century to the contemporary situation. Drawing on a wide range of material such as political speeches, feature films, or travel writing, we will pay particular attention to mutual stereotypes and the political rationales behind the invocation of a 'special relationship'.

### 1107-3a Age and Age Difference in Anglo-American Culture and Literature

Thursday, 9-11 am, GWZ 2.516  
K. Schmieder (Institut für Amerikanistik)  
[www.lehrbox.de/401](http://www.lehrbox.de/401)

#### Prüfung: Projektarbeit / Präsentation

“May-December romance,” “sugar daddy,” “jailbait” - these are colloquial phrases implicating relationships that involve people with a considerable age difference. The years since the publication of Nabokov’s seminal novel *Lolita* in the 1950s have witnessed an ever-intensifying debate on such relationships, and on issues of age and aging in general. In our seminar we will examine the cultural matrix from which these debates arise, and we will investigate their appropriation by texts as diverse as Hal Ashby’s movie “Harold and Maude” and Philip Roth’s novel *The Dying Animal*. As we utilize the cultural and literary studies toolbox, our analyses of these texts will also be informed by historical, sociological, and psychological frameworks in order to tackle questions like: Why have age and age difference always been sources of strong emotions, such as attraction or repulsion? To what ends have age-related topics been fictionalized during the past decades? How is age employed as an interdisciplinary analytical category?

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### 1107-3b Ethnic and Regional Music Traditions in the United States

Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, Commerzbank 2-01  
T. Wilson  
[lehrbox coming soon]

This seminar explores musical traditions within three American regions: the Midwest, Northeast, and South. Starting from the perspective that musical traditions are best understood within the contexts that they are created and performed, we will examine music and its connections to the cultures and history of specific ethnic and regional communities and consider its connections to broader social movements. We will study representations of Appalachian culture, including the music of Scots-Irish communities and regional adaptations of British ballad traditions. Other traditions to be explored include African American spiritual music, blues, early country, rhythm and blues, rock ‘a’ billy, the American folk revival, Cajun and other French-American vernacular music, Texas-Mexican musical traditions, Midwestern polka, Klezmer, and early rap and hip hop.

## **2.5 Praktikum and Service Learning Module (04-001-1013)**

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

The goal of this module is to give BA students the practical chance to realize social projects in their community as part of their professional skills education. The concept of Service Learning comes from the United States where notions of civic commitment have enjoyed a long tradition. Service Learning has been introduced recently at several German universities. At the University of Leipzig, however, this module is the first of its kind. Students can earn 5 ECTS points (5 LP) by attending the Service Learning Project Seminar and Tutorial and by conducting a project in cooperation with a social institution of their choice.

**The module consists of one seminar and one tutorial**

### **220 Service Learning Project Seminar**

Monday 9 -11 am, GWZ 2.516

C. Sharpe

Courses start in week of April 11

[lehrbox coming soon]

In the Service Learning Project Seminar, participating students will gather on a regular basis to discuss and reflect on what they experience during their project work. The course instructor will also discuss the theoretical and historical background of Service Learning. Towards the end of the semester students will put together a photo exhibition.

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### **221 Service Learning Tutorial**

Tuesday 5 - 6 pm, GWZ 2.516

M. Zywietz

Courses start in week of April 11

[lehrbox coming soon]

In the tutorial students will learn the basics in project management. These include writing a project proposal and report as well as initiating, planning, and organizing the different stages of a project.

## 2.6 Society, History, and Politics III (04-001-1010)

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

This module is meant to provide students with the opportunity to engage diverse societal, historical, and political themes that have shaped and continue to shape the United States. Issues will be explored in terms of basic questions relating to American identity, the nature of power in American society, the negotiation of forms of consensus, and how American dynamics influence the country's exercise of power and transcultural undertakings in the international arena, especially in a transatlantic context.

**The module consists of two seminars and one tutorial**

### **310 Seminar 1: American Environmental Politics in a Transatlantic Context**

Blockseminar\*:

C. Garrett

[lehrbox coming soon]

Friday, April 8th 1-3, GWZ 2.516

Friday, April 15th 1-4, NSG 201

Tuesday, April 19th 5-7, GWZ 2.516

Wednesday, April 20th 5-7, GWZ 2.516

Friday, May 6th 1-3, HS 17

Friday, June 10th 1-3, GWZ 2.516

Tuesday, June 21st 5-7, GWZ 2.516

Friday, June 24th 1-4, GWZ 2.516

Monday, June 27th 9-12, NSG 201

Wednesday, June 29th 5-8, GWZ 2.516

Friday, July 1st 9-4, NSG 420

*\*Times and dates are subject to change.*

We all know the standard cliché: Americans do not care about the environment. Reality is a lot more complicated of course. Whether national park systems, new federal regulations, or societal change to encourage sustainability, American environmental politics have historically been ambitious, innovative, and indeed, roundly contentious. There is certainly an American culture of environmental politics, and it in turn has been strongly influenced by transatlantic dynamics. The German model and culture for environmental politics is especially influential in the United States today. In this seminar we want to explore historical and contemporary trends in American environmental politics and its transatlantic context.

This seminar will culminate in a “transatlantic summit” (Friday, July 1st ) where Leipzig students will work in a team with guest students from Ohio University on transatlantic environmental policy issues and present their findings to professional diplomats from the United States who are serving in Germany.

## 311 Seminar 2: Populism in a Transatlantic Context

Blockseminar, GWZ 2.516

M. Walter

[lehrbox coming soon]

Intro Session on April 6 at 6 PM in Room 2.516

Fr. 20.05.2011; 1:15 PM to 4:45 PM, HS 17

Sa. 21.05.2011; 11:15 AM to 2:45 PM, GWZ 2.516

Fr. 27.05.2011; 1:15 PM to 4:45 PM, GWZ 2.516

Sa. 28.05.2011; 11:15 AM to 2:45 PM, GWZ 2.516

Fr. 08.07.2011; 11:15 AM to 2:45 PM, NSG 202

Sa. 09.07.2011; 11:15 AM to 2:45 PM, NSG 110

Su. 10.07.2011; 11:15 AM to 2:45 PM, GWZ 2.516

In recent years, the Americas and Europe witnessed the emergence of various populist movements. But what exactly is populism? Throughout history, populism understood as a form of grassroots, anti-system political activism, has not just shaken up the political landscape of its time and place, it has also repeatedly raised the core questions of modern democracy: Who are the people? And who is allowed to represent the people? This seminar will explore the different notions of the term populism in social sciences and humanities, and discuss a number of case studies from American history (Agrarian Populism, George Wallace etc.) and from the contemporary transatlantic context (Tea Party Movement, Latin American populist regimes, European right-wing populist parties, and other forms of grassroots protest).



## 2.7 Literature & Culture III (04-001-1011)

Module Coordinator: Anne Koenen

The module aims to deepen students' knowledge of U.S. literature and culture, and of the methods and theories involved in their study. Two seminars allow students to explore exemplary themes and discourses in literary and cultural studies. A tutorial assists students in advancing their academic writing skills so as to master the module's advanced writing assignments.

**The module consists of two seminars and one tutorial**

### **320 Seminar 1: Hidden Truths: Paranoia, Conspiracy, Psychotic Writing**

Thursday, 5-7 pm, GWZ 2.516

S. Herrmann

[www.lehrbox.de/396](http://www.lehrbox.de/396)

The idea that the world might actually be quite different from what it seems like has proven an immensely prolific and engaging plot device. From postmodern novels to *The Truman Show*, from conspiracy stories to the 'mindtwist movie,' contemporary storytelling has returned to this basic idea in countless transfigurations. In this seminar, we will read (and watch) fictions that are built around this basic idea of a presumed conspiracy against the protagonist, a hidden truth that only gradually unravels. Working with novels, short stories, and movies, we will look at straightforward examples and less obvious implementations to ask and discuss a number of questions: What anxieties and threats do these texts negotiate? What is their appeal? What is their history? What other dynamics are involved? Race? Class? Gender?

Texts we might look at include, but are not limited to: *American Purgatorio*, *Time Out of Joint*, *Dark City*, *The Yellow Wallpaper*, *City of Glass*, and *Young Goodman Brown*.

The seminar will have a substantial weekly reading and writing load in primary and secondary material and will require your participation in in-class discussion and your attendance at film screenings. Please take this into consideration when deciding whether to enroll in the module.

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### **321 Seminar 2: Reading Like a Writer. The Close Reading of Contemporary American Short Stories Through the Lens of the Writer of Literary Fiction**

Monday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

Shannon Cain

[lehrbox coming soon]

This class will study the contemporary American short story through the viewpoint of the writer of literary fiction. Through close reading, we will examine authorial choices such as narrative distance, characterization, setting, tone, subtext, and discover the impact of those choices on the story.

This seminar will start on **May 2nd**.

**322 Tutorial (see: 312 Tutorial SHP III)**

Wednesday, 11 am -1 pm, Commerzbank 4-01

C. Sharpe

(every two weeks, beginning: 13 April)

[lehrbox coming soon]

The tutorial is meant to help students prepare their oral and written assignments. Students will do in-class exercises, provide each other collegial feedback, and discuss with the instructor strategies for effective written and oral presentation and argumentation.

## 2.8 Language and Society – Language in Transition (04-001-1012)

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sylvia Reuter (Anglistik)

Das Modul vermittelt detaillierte Kenntnisse über die spezifische Entwicklung des US-Englischen vom Altenglischen bis heute sowie über diskurslinguistische Konzeptionen oder über spezifische US-Varietäten wie z. B. Gullah, African American Vernacular English (AAVE) oder regionale Dialekte. Das Seminar "Geschichte des US-Englisch" dient einem Gesamtüberblick über die Geschichte des Englischen vom Altenglischen bis zum Frühneuenglischen sowie die Herausbildung und Entwicklung des US-Englischen.

Ein weiteres Seminar (je nach Angebot aus Varietäten oder Diskursanalyse) und eine Übung "Geschriebener Akademischer Diskurs I" ergänzen das Modul.

**The module consists of two seminars and one tutorial**

### 1012-1 Seminar Sprachgeschichte: Historical Roots of Present-Day US-English

Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 404  
S. Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)  
[lehrbox coming soon]

Prüfung: mündliche Prüfung (20 min) zum Stoff dieses Seminars und des Seminars 1012-2

The seminar introduces into the earlier periods of all Englishes, i.e. into Old and Middle English, followed by Early Modern English as the decisive period for the birth of US-English. It then examines the most important factors that have shaped US-English from its beginnings in colonial times up to the present. Yet, as we move from the past into the present we will not only discuss changes on all language levels, i.e. vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation, but also investigate what authentic texts of various times teach us linguistically.

Students are asked to purchase the course material at Printy (Ritterstr. 5) with syllabus, texts etc.

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### 1012-2 Seminar Varietäten: English in the United States – General American and AAVE

Blockseminar  
Beginn: Fr, 15.04.11, 14.00-17.00 Uhr GWZ H4 3.15 Pollner, Clausdirk  
und Sa, 16.04.11, 10.00-13.00 Uhr GWZ H5 3.16  
Weitere Termine werden beim ersten Treffen vereinbart.

Literatur: S. Mufwene (ed.) (1998): *African-American English*. London: Routledge.

T. McArthur (ed.) (2002): *The Oxford Guide to World English*. Oxford: OUP.

Textvorlagen werden bereitgestellt.

Prüfung: mündliche Prüfung (20 min) zum Stoff dieses Seminars und des Seminars 1012-1

In this seminar we shall be discussing the major characteristics of "General American" / "Network American" (phonetics, morphology, syntax, vocabulary), and some aspects of AAVE, arguably the most important "sub-variety" of US English.

## 1012-3 Tutorial Sprachpraxis: Written Academic Discourse I

Thursday, 1-3 pm, NSG 101  
P. Tosic, Institut für Anglistik

Literatur: Aczel, Richard. *How to Write an Essay*. 1998. Stuttgart: Klett, 2009. Print.

Prüfung: Klausur (90 Minuten)

The goal of this practical language exercise is the class essay in academic English. Students will practise their analytic and interpretative text production skills in keeping with both the formal genre conventions and current research on academic writing at tertiary levels. Our exercises are geared to helping students mitigate those weaknesses detrimental to structural clarity and target those strengths conducive to enriching the formal elements in their written academic discourse. Our exercises will focus on improving i) the mechanics of academic writing, ii) critical and argumentative approaches, iii) patterns of coherence and cohesion, and iv) systematic revision techniques.

## 2.9 Picador Seminar: Creative Writing and Literary Publishing

Tuesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

Shannon Cain

[lehrbox coming soon]

This class in creative writing uses literary publishing as a lens through which to learn the craft of fiction and creative nonfiction. Students will edit and produce an international pop-culture anthology. We will solicit submissions, make editorial selections, work with authors to edit their pieces, and collaborate with designers and printers. Each student will also write a short story or essay, develop this piece privately with the professor, and may submit it to be considered for publication in the magazine.

This seminar will start on **April 26th**.

### Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5

HSG (Hörsaalgebäude), Universitätsstr. 7

Commerzbank (Interim), Dittrichring 5 - 7

### 3 MA Courses

#### Registration Guidelines:

First-year MA students may choose three out of the following four modules listed below.

Course registration will be via e-mail to [asl-enrolment@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:asl-enrolment@uni-leipzig.de) until April 1. As subject-header, please use "MA"; in the body of your mail, please give your name and the titles of the American Studies modules for which you wish to enroll.

Second-year MA students do not have any coursework scheduled for their 4th semester and may focus entirely on writing their theses.

#### **3.1 Religion and Society in a Transatlantic Context (04-038-2004)**

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

Religion has played a central role in shaping the American experience. The relationship between religion and society shapes not only American politics, economics, culture and societal structures and practices, but how the country interacts with the rest of the world. Religion is often seen as one of the fundamental differences between Europe and the United States, for example, and exploring religion and society in a transatlantic context provides a key exercise to acquire a more substantial and sophisticated understanding of the American experience and its similarities and differences with Europe.

**The module consists of two seminars**

#### **430 Seminar 1: Religion, American Society, and International Politics and Policy**

Tuesday, 3 – 5 pm, GWZ 2.516  
C. Garrett  
[www.lehrbox.de/398](http://www.lehrbox.de/398)

Religion has infused American society and politics. The relationship between religion and American domestic and foreign politics is thus a complex and central theme in national, and by extension, international and global affairs. Indeed scholars are "returning to religion" to pursue a better understanding of what shapes politics and policy not just in the United States, but in a transatlantic and global context. We will explore the relationships between religion, American society and international politics, and what these dynamics mean for national and international policy.

## 431 Seminar 2: Religion in American Society

Blockseminar, GWZ 2.516

H. Keil

Friday, 15 April, 1.15-4.45 pm

Friday, 6 May, 1.15-4.45 pm

Friday, 20 May, 1.15-4.45 pm

Friday, 3 June, 1.15-4.45 pm

Friday, 17 Jun, 1.15-4.45 pm

Friday, 8 July, 1.15-4.45 pm

Saturday, 9 July, 10.15 am – 3.45 pm

This course will evaluate the impact of different religious traditions on American society, politics, and culture. After discussing major issues of religious transfer to the United States as well as the historical context which helps account for specific developments (including constitutional precedent), we will analyze topics of particular relevance for contemporary America (and often for other countries as well), such as: the rise of fundamentalist denominations and the organized religious right; the social issues debates; the importance of religious interest groups in American public life and politics; the religious basis of voluntary work and the concept of faith-based services; the role of religion in the media; the impact of 9/11 on Muslim communities and on cultural conflict; and the religious confrontation between the Judeo-Christian and the Islamic worlds.

Basic reading: Noll, Mark A. *The Old Religion in a New World: The History of North American Christianity*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002 (German edition: Noll, Mark A. *Christentum in Nordamerika*. Leipzig: Evangelischer Verlag, 2000); Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, New York 1998.

### **3.2 Political Cultures in a Transatlantic Context (04-038-2005)**

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

This module is meant to provide students with a deeper understanding of the concept of political culture in a transatlantic context. Political culture is generally defined as the traditions, practices, and values that shape how a society practices politics, and prioritizes in its political process, for example, in the case of governing. Political culture involves the fields of cultural history, political science, sociology, anthropology, economics, and cultural studies. It is a key concept for understanding the nature of politics and society in the United States, in Europe, and in any comparison between the two regions.

**The module consists of two seminars**

#### **410 Seminar 1: American Cultures of Foreign Policy in a Transatlantic and Global Context**

Thursday, 1-3 pm, NSG 211

C. Garrett

[www.lehrbox.de/402](http://www.lehrbox.de/402)

The conduct of foreign policy reflects the interaction and evolution of many elements, including history and its interpretations, accepted values and expectations in a society, and preferred institutions for government and policy-making. Thus foreign policy making unfolds in the context of traditions or cultures that have emerged in countries for pursuing issues and interests in an international context. In this seminar we will explore the emergence of American cultures of foreign policy in a historical and contemporary framework. To understand how the international system has shaped that process, and to acquire a better understanding of how American cultures of foreign policy are “exceptional” in any sense, we will also explore comparative examples of foreign policy cultures, including Germany, France, and China. Included in the comparative analysis will be diverse case studies from contemporary international politics.

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#### **411 American Political Culture**

First Meeting: Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2.516

P. Rundquist

Course meetings: Double-class periods approximately every two weeks.

First Meeting: 12 April, 11:15-14:45, schedule thereafter to be announced at first meeting

What do Americans think about politics, the associated institutions of government, elections, political parties, and things that go on in “the public space?” How did they come to think the way they do about politics and government? What influence does the way Americans view politics and government in their own country have with how Americans view the political climate of other countries. What do American politicians think and say about the political universe in which they work and compete with one another? Is America really “exceptional,” or is it much like other advanced democracies in how politics and the culture surrounding it exists?



Political culture is a term that involves multidisciplinary approaches to the analysis of how politics and government works. It involves various approaches to the study of politics and government: psychology, sociology, economics, history, communications studies and the mass media, laws and norms, the public space, the private sphere, and the space where these overlap. The first several class sessions will be devoted to reading and to lectures by the professor. Students will register to deliver class presentations on a variety of topics connected to American Political Culture, and the presentations are likely to begin at the third class session. At the end of the semester, students are expected to complete a semester paper. Students are encouraged to submit, by the middle of the semester, a one-page paper proposal along with a list of sources to be used in the paper. The paper will be due not later than 1 September.

Among the suggested readings for the seminar are:

Gebhardt, Juergen (ed.) *Political Cultures and the Culture of Politics: a Transatlantic Perspective* (2010)

Hartz, Louis. *The Liberal Tradition in America* (1955, 1991)

Huntington, Samuel P. *American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony* (1981)

Lepore, Jill. *The Whites of their Eyes: The Tea Party's Battle over American History* (2010).

White, John Kenneth. *The Values*

### **3.3 Difference and Literature (04-038-2007)**

The module addresses the negotiation of socio-cultural difference in U.S.-American literature. It aims to deepen students' understanding of 'difference' in its key manifestations 'race,' class, and gender with a focus on their articulation and contestation in literary texts. The seminars explore specific forms of difference in their historical, social, cultural, and aesthetic contexts. They will embed selected readings in 'difference and literature' within discussions of U.S. literary history and reflections on literary theory.

**The module consists of two seminars**

#### **440 Seminar 1: Call and Response - African American Literature from Oral Tradition to Hip Hop**

Wednesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516

G. Piszcz-Ramírez

[www.lehrbox.de/389](http://www.lehrbox.de/389)

Classes start on **April 13**.

In this course we will explore African American literature both as a distinct literary tradition and as an important contribution to American culture. Exploring major writers and works next to less well-known texts, we will investigate what characteristics define this literature, and how its innovations have enlarged the scope and achievement of American letters. One focus of the seminar will be on tracing a distinctly black literary and cultural aesthetic, one that originated in the oral traditions of Africa and was kept alive during the American slavery experience. Another focus will be on the ways in which black writing has negotiated, encompassed, and rebelled against normative literary expectations. We will consider a broad range of oral and written forms, including folk tales, spirituals, sermons, slave narratives, essays, poems, and fiction. Authors we will study include Phillis Wheatley, Olaudah Equiano, Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Wilson, Charles Chesnut, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, and others.

This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar for Literary Studies. Please apply for this seminar by email ([piszcz@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:piszcz@uni-leipzig.de)) before March 31. In your application, please specify 1) your program of studies (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach, Lehramt), 2) the semester in which you study, and 3) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

## 441 Seminar 2: The 19th century in American female fiction

Thursday, 3 – 5 pm, GWZ 2.516

G. Písarz-Ramírez

[www.lehrbox.de/388](http://www.lehrbox.de/388)

Classes start on **April 14**.

The 19th century emerges as a crucial period in the development of American women's literature. In this course we will delve into the rich and substantial body of work by nineteenth-century American women writers. By focusing on novels (some of them hugely popular at the time), short stories, poetry, as well as essays and autobiographical texts, we will trace some of the varying ways in which women writers addressed specific concerns of femininity such as domesticity, middle class life, marriage and motherhood, religion, as well as political and social issues such as slavery, expansionism, and war. Topics will include the social construction of gender, the participation of writers and readers in processes of social change, the cultural work of texts, and literary activism, as well as writing styles such as sentimental writing, sensationalism, realism, and modernism. Our class discussions will focus on texts by Lydia Maria Child, Rebecca Harding Davis, Louisa May Alcott, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Jacobs, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Edith Wharton, Kate Chopin, Willa Cather, and Margaret Mitchell.

The following texts need to be acquired: Willa Cather, *O Pioneers*; Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*.

This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar for Literary Studies. Please apply for this seminar by email ([pisarz@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:pisarz@uni-leipzig.de)) before March 31. In your application, please specify 1) your program of studies (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach, Lehramt), 2) the semester in which you study, and 3) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

### **3.4 Rethinking the Americas (04-038-2008)**

Module Coordinator: Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

This module is offered as a transdisciplinary cooperative exercise between the MA Program in American Studies and the MA Program in Latin American Studies. Different forms of Hispanic and Latino culture are having a profound impact on the nature of American politics, economics, society, and culture. And the United States continues to have a deep influence on South, Central, and North America. Any sophisticated understanding of the contemporary United States involves the study of how the Americas have evolved, are evolving, and shaping our basic understanding of concepts such as nation, state, identity, borders, law, language, work, family, and other building blocks of society.

**The module consists of two seminars**

#### **450 Seminar 1: The Americas in American Literature**

Wednesday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2.516

G. Pizarz-Ramírez  
www.lehrbox.de/390

Classes start on **April 13.**

This course situates the study of American literature in the context of the American hemisphere rather than the nation state. We will investigate the possibilities for the study of American cultural productions opened up when “America” is understood not as a synonym for an isolated United States but as a network of historical and cultural connections that have extended across the hemisphere from the period of colonization to the present. We will read theoretical texts from the fields of comparative, inter-American and Border Studies as well as novels, poems, essays and plays that articulate the intercultural relationships between the United States and Latin America, Canada and the Caribbean. Among the authors we will discuss are Herman Melville, Leonora Sansay, Martin R. Delany, José Martí, William Faulkner, Junot Diaz, George Elliott Clarke, and Dionne Brand.

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#### **451 Seminar 2: New Diasporas**

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2.316

A. de Toro

Classes start on April 7.

Das Seminar widmet sich einem aktuellen Forschungsbereich in den Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaften. Hier wird der Begriff ‚Disaporas‘ historisch geklärt und nach dem aktuellen Stand der Forschungsdiskussion beleuchtet. Es wird ein transdisziplinärer und transkultureller vergleichender Ansatz gewählt, wobei die Hispanics in den USA und Spanien sowie die Maghrebiner in Spanien besondere Aufmerksamkeit erhalten sollen.

Voraussetzung für die Teilnahme am Seminar und dem Erwerb der modularen Teilleistung ist entweder die Übernahme eines Referats für eine Sitzung oder die Übernahme sowohl eines Referats als auch das Verfassen einer Hausarbeit während der Semesterpause, je nachdem, welchen Status der Teilnehmer dem Seminar zuweist.

Das Seminar ist konstitutiver Teil des erfolgreichen Bestehens des Moduls.

### 3.5 Picador Seminar: Creative Writing and Literary Publishing

Tuesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

Shannon Cain

[lehrbox coming soon]

This class in creative writing uses literary publishing as a lens through which to learn the craft of fiction and creative nonfiction. Students will edit and produce an international pop-culture literary magazine. We will solicit submissions, make editorial selections, work with authors to edit their pieces, and collaborate with designers and printers. Each student will also write a short story or essay, develop this piece privately with the professor, and may submit it to be considered for publication in the magazine.

This seminar will start on **April 26th**.

### 3.6 Picador Seminar: Reading Like a Writer. The Close Reading of Contemporary American Short Stories Through the Lens of the Writer of Literary Fiction

Monday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

Shannon Cain

[lehrbox coming soon]

This class in creative writing uses literary publishing as a lens through which to learn the craft of fiction and creative nonfiction. Students will edit and produce an international pop-culture anthology. We will solicit submissions, make editorial selections, work with authors to edit their pieces, and collaborate with designers and printers. Each student will also write a short story or essay, develop this piece privately with the professor, and may submit it to be considered for publication in the magazine.

This seminar will start on **May 2nd**.

Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5

HSG (Hörsaalgebäude), Universitätsstr. 7

Commerzbank (Interim), Dittrichring 5 - 7

## 4 Magister Courses

### Registration Guidelines:

As a general rule, classes for Magister Hauptstudium require prior enrollment, usually via lehrbox or via email to the seminar instructor. There are no Magister Grundstudium courses any more. Students still in need of Grundstudium credit must attend the office hours of one of the study advisors. Students in the Hauptstudium may choose from the selection below.

### 4.1 Literaturwissenschaft

#### Four Seminars

#### 010 Call and Response - African American Literature from Oral Tradition to Hip Hop

Wednesday, 3 pm – 5 pm, GWZ 2.516  
G. Piszcz-Ramírez

Classes start in week of **April 10**.

In this course we will explore African American literature both as a distinct literary tradition and as an important contribution to American culture. Exploring major writers and works next to less well-known texts, we will investigate what characteristics define this literature, and how its innovations have enlarged the scope and achievement of American letters. One focus of the seminar will be on tracing a distinctly black literary and cultural aesthetic, one that originated in the oral traditions of Africa and was kept alive during the American slavery experience. Another focus will be on the ways in which black writing has negotiated, encompassed, and rebelled against normative literary expectations. We will consider a broad range of oral and written forms, including folk tales, spirituals, sermons, slave narratives, essays, poems, and fiction. Authors we will study include Phillis Wheatley, Olaudah Equiano, Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Wilson, Charles Chesnut, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, and others.

This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar for Literary Studies. Please apply for this seminar by email (pisarz@uni-leipzig.de) before March 31. In your application, please specify 1) your program of studies (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach, Lehramt), 2) the semester in which you study, and 3) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

## **011 The 19th century in American female fiction**

Thursday, 3 – 5 pm, GWZ 2.516  
G. Pizarz-Ramírez

Classes start in week of **April 10**.

The 19th century emerges as a crucial period in the development of American women's literature. In this course we will delve into the rich and substantial body of work by nineteenth-century American women writers. By focussing on novels (some of them hugely popular at the time), short stories, poetry, as well as essays and autobiographical texts, we will trace some of the varying ways in which women writers addressed specific concerns of femininity such as domesticity, middle class life, marriage and motherhood, religion, as well as political and social issues such as slavery, expansionism, and war. Topics will include the social construction of gender, the participation of writers and readers in processes of social change, the cultural work of texts, and literary activism, as well as writing styles such as sentimental writing, sensationalism, realism, and modernism. Our class discussions will focus on texts by Lydia Maria Child, Rebecca Harding Davis, Louisa May Alcott, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Jacobs, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Edith Wharton, Kate Chopin, Willa Cather, and Margaret Mitchell.

The following texts need to be acquired: Willa Cather, *O Pioneers*; Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*.

This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar for Literary Studies. Please apply for this seminar by email (pizarz@uni-leipzig.de) before March 31. In your application, please specify 1) your program of studies (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach, Lehramt), 2) the semester in which you study, and 3) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

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## **Picador Seminar: Creative Writing and Literary Publishing**

Tuesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516  
Shannon Cain  
[lehrbox coming soon]

This class in creative writing uses literary publishing as a lens through which to learn the craft of fiction and creative nonfiction. Students will edit and produce an international pop-culture anthology. We will solicit submissions, make editorial selections, work with authors to edit their pieces, and collaborate with designers and printers. Each student will also write a short story or essay, develop this piece privately with the professor, and may submit it to be considered for publication in the magazine.

This seminar will start on April 26th. The rules for using Picadorscheins apply for this course. Get in touch with your students advisors if you have any questions.



**Picador Seminar: Reading Like a Writer. The Close Reading of Contemporary American Short Stories Through the Lens of the Writer of Literary Fiction**

Monday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

Shannon Cain

[lehrbox coming soon]

This class will study the contemporary American short story through the viewpoint of the writer of literary fiction. Through close reading, we will examine authorial choices such as narrative distance, characterization, setting, tone, subtext, and discover the impact of those choices on the story.

This seminar will start on **May 2nd**.

## 4.2 Kulturgeschichte

### Four Seminars

#### 020 Religion in American Society

Blockseminar, GWZ 2.516

H. Keil

Friday, 15 April, 1.15-4.45 pm

Friday, 6 May, 1.15-4.45 pm

Friday, 20 May, 1.15-4.45 pm

Friday, 3 June, 1.15-4.45 pm

Friday, 17 Jun, 1.15-4.45 pm

Friday, 8 July, 1.15-4.45 pm

Saturday, 9 July, 10.15 am – 3.45 pm

This course will evaluate the impact of different religious traditions on American society, politics, and culture. After discussing major issues of religious transfer to the United States as well as the historical context which helps account for specific developments (including constitutional precedent), we will analyze topics of particular relevance for contemporary America (and often for other countries as well), such as: the rise of fundamentalist denominations and the organized religious right; the social issues debates; the importance of religious interest groups in American public life and politics; the religious basis of voluntary work and the concept of faith-based services; the role of religion in the media; the impact of 9/11 on Muslim communities and on cultural conflict; and the religious confrontation between the Judeo-Christian and the Islamic worlds.

Basic reading: Noll, Mark A. *The Old Religion in a New World: The History of North American Christianity*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002 (German edition: Noll, Mark A. *Christentum in Nordamerika*. Leipzig: Evangelischer Verlag, 2000); Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, New York 1998.

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#### 021 American Cultures of Foreign Policy in a Transatlantic and Global Context

Thursday, 1-3 pm, NSG 211

C. Garrett

The conduct of foreign policy reflects the interaction and evolution of many elements, including history and its interpretations, accepted values and expectations in a society, and preferred institutions for government and policy-making. Thus foreign policy making unfolds in the context of traditions or cultures that have emerged in countries for pursuing issues and interests in an international context. In this seminar we will explore the emergence of American cultures of foreign policy in a historical and contemporary framework. To understand how the international system has shaped that process, and to acquire a better understanding of how American cultures of foreign policy are “exceptional” in any sense, we will also explore comparative examples of foreign policy cultures, including Germany, France, and China. Included in the comparative analysis will be diverse case studies from contemporary international politics.

## 022 American Political Culture

First Meeting: Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2.516  
P. Rundquist

Course meetings: Double-class periods approximately every two weeks.

First Meeting: 12 April, 11:15-14:45, schedule thereafter to be announced at first meeting

What do Americans think about politics, the associated institutions of government, elections, political parties, and things that go on in “the public space?” How did they come to think the way they do about politics and government? What influence does the way Americans view politics and government in their own country have with how Americans view the political climate of other countries. What do American politicians think and say about the political universe in which they work and compete with one another? Is America really “exceptional,” or is it much like other advanced democracies in how politics and the culture surrounding it exists?

Political culture is a term that involves multidisciplinary approaches to the analysis of how politics and government works. It involves various approaches to the study of politics and government: psychology, sociology, economics, history, communications studies and the mass media, laws and norms, the public space, the private sphere, and the space where these overlap. The first several class sessions will be devoted to reading and to lectures by the professor. Students will register to deliver class presentations on a variety of topics connected to American Political Culture, and the presentations are likely to begin at the third class session. At the end of the semester, students are expected to complete a semester paper. Students are encouraged to submit, by the middle of the semester, a one-page paper proposal along with a list of sources to be used in the paper. The paper will be due not later than 1 September.

Among the suggested readings for the seminar are:

Gebhardt, Juergen (ed.) *Political Cultures and the Culture of Politics: a Transatlantic Perspective* (2010)

Hartz, Louis. *The Liberal Tradition in America* (1955, 1991)

Huntington, Samuel P. *American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony* (1981)

Lepore, Jill. *The Whites of their Eyes: The Tea Party's Battle over American History* (2010).

White, John Kenneth. *The Values*

## **023 Religion, American Society, and International Politics and Policy**

Tuesday, 3 – 5 pm, GWZ 2.516

C. Garrett

[www.lehrbox.de/398](http://www.lehrbox.de/398)

Religion has infused American society and politics. The relationship between religion and American domestic and foreign politics is thus a complex and central theme in national, and by extension, international and global affairs. Indeed scholars are “returning to religion” to pursue a better understanding of what shapes politics and policy not just in the United States, but in a transatlantic and global context. We will explore the relationships between religion, American society and international politics, and what these dynamics mean for national and international policy.

### Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5

HSG (Hörsaalgebäude), Universitätsstr. 7

Commerzbank (Interim), Dittrichring 5 - 7