

Course Catalog Summer Semester 2013

American Studies Leipzig

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

Unless stated otherwise, **classes start in the week of April 15th 2013.**

Students are responsible for keeping track of updates on actual course dates (some are alternating).

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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 |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pisarz-Ramírez pisarz@uni-leipzig.de | 3508 | 97 37 343 |
| Prof. Dr. Crister Garrett crister.garrett@uni-leipzig.de (during summer term 2012 on sabbatical) | 3505 | 97 37 335 |
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Secretary's Office

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Regular office hours:
Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

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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, Dr. Sebastian Herrmann, Anja Eifert, MA, Florian Bast, MA

General Advising

Mentoring "Qualitätspakt Lehre- Stil"
General study advising offered by "Philologische Fakultät"

Maria Bergau, Priska Fronemann, Julia Protze
Room: 3314
Tel: 97 37 464

www.uni-leipzig.de/~philolment
e-mail: philolment@uni-leipzig.de

Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12am, Thursday 1-3pm and by appointment

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

- Dr. Katja Schmieder
- Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

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, Dr. Sebastian Herrmann, 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 in the respective news item. 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 15th 2013.**

Students are responsible for keeping track of updates on actual course dates (some are alternating).

Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5

HSG (Hörsaalgebäude), Universitätsstr. 7

2 BA Courses

2.1 Society, History, 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

Lecture: From the Colonial Period to Reconstruction

Wednesday, 1-3pm, HSG HS 4
Prof. Crister Garrett
[lehrbox coming soon]

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 and its impact on international affairs.

Seminar

either a) Friday, 3-5pm, GWZ 2.516
Tobias Schlobach
www.lehrbox.de/490

or b) Wednesday, 3-5pm, GWZ 2.516
Tobias Schlobach
www.lehrbox.de/433

or c) Friday, 1-3pm, GWZ 2.516
Tobias Schlobach
www.lehrbox.de/491

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

Tutorial (Übung)

either a) Monday, 11-1pm, GWZ 2.516
Catherine Sharpe
[lehrbox coming soon]

or b) Wednesday, 11-1pm, GWZ 2.516
Catherine Sharpe
[lehrbox coming soon]

or c) Thursday, 9-11am, GWZ 2.516
Catherine 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 for American Studies (04-001-1003)

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sylvia Reuter (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 tutorial

1003-1 Lecture: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics

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

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.

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

1003-2 Seminar Systemlinguistik: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics

Von den folgenden Seminarangeboten (a-b) ist ein Kurs zu belegen.

either a) Monday 11-1pm, NSG 221
Ursula Kania / Nina Julich (Institut für Anglistik)

or b) Tuesday, 9-11am, NSG 322
Jakob Neels (Institut für Anglistik)

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 other traditional areas of linguistics such as morphology, syntax, and semantics. Needless to add, the textbook describes English as used in the USA.

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

Prüfung: s. Vorlesung "Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics"

1003-3 Übung Sprachpraxis für Amerikanisten: Spoken Academic Discourse

Von den folgenden Übungsangeboten (a-b) ist ein Kurs zu belegen.

either a) Tuesday 11-1pm, NSG 329
Peter Tasic (Institut für Anglistik)

or b) Thursday, 5-7pm NSG 329
Peter Tasic (Institut für Anglistik)

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.

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

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

Lecture: The Canon and Popular Culture

Tuesday, 9-11am, HS 12
Prof. Anne Koenen
[lehrbox coming soon]

The lectures will explore theoretical implications of the canon debate and theories of popular culture and use these theoretical groundings to analyze popular genres such as crime fiction and the gothic as well as diverse areas of cultural studies (such as consumerism, food, and visual culture).

The first lecture will take place on **April 16**.

Seminar: Casting a Bullet: Political Assassination Narratives in American Culture

Thursday, 1-3pm, GWZ 2.516
Dr. Sebastian Herrmann
www.lehrbox.de/484

From Lincoln to Kennedy, stories of political assassinations feature strongly in American culture. Whether fictional or nonfictional, these narratives dramatize a particular form of direct 'political participation' in which an individual's political power matches that of the nation. They thus mark the clash of two concepts central to American culture's self-understanding: that of an orderly democratic process and that of radical individualism.

In this seminar we will look at a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts of political assassinations to investigate how these texts navigate this tension between the 'lone gunman' and the nation, and how they use this tension to negotiate notions of individualism, agency, and gender.

Seminar: The Body in African American Women's Literature

Wednesday, 3-5pm, NSG 415

F. Bast, MA

www.lehrbox.de/483

From its very beginnings, African American women's literature has engaged with the body in complex and politically charged ways. From Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861) and other slave narratives through Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Black Power Movement all the way to the neo-slave narrative and other postmodern texts, the body has been a seminal component of black women's writing. It has been a surface on which to project and a trope through which to negotiate and interrogate notions of freedom, sex/gender, race, power, and (self-) possession.

This class aims to demonstrate to students the vast importance of constructions and representations of bodies in the fiction of African American women authors and to teach them to analytically engage these constructions and representations in an oral presentation and a scholarly research paper. In addition to Jacobs's narrative, students will read theoretical reflections of the black female body, in particular black feminist texts, in order to develop an understanding of such concepts as Double Jeopardy and Intersectionality and of the philosophical complexity of the corporeal in general. Lastly, students will read and discuss in detail African American women's literature from the late 20th century that addresses many of these aspects from a postmodern perspective, such as Octavia Butler's *Kindred* (1979) or *Dawn* (1987), Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* (1970) and Sherley Anne Williams' "Meditations on History" (1980). Participation will be based on the willingness to shoulder a high reading load, enforced by PVLs.

The seminars of this module include a **project phase** (no classes, only consultations) in the second half of the semester, followed by a **presentation conference**. The two-day conference will be held between July 19th and July 21st. Participation is mandatory. Students are expected to block these days in their calendars. The final decision on the exact date and time of the conference will be made in coordination with the students at the beginning of the semester.

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

Module Coordinator: Dr. Katja Schmieder

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.

The module consists of one seminar in English and one in American Studies and one tutorial in American Studies

1107-1 Seminar Literatur oder Kulturstudien Großbritanniens:

Von den folgenden Seminarangeboten (1107-1 a-b) ist ein Kurs zu belegen.

1107-1a Transatlantic Migrations and the Formation of Diasporas

Thursday, 7-9am, NSG 224
Joachim Schwend (Institut für Anglistik)

Empfohlene Vorbereitung: Coogan, Tim Pat (2002). *Wherever Green is Worn*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. Braziel, Jana Evans and Anita Mannur, ed., *Theorizing Diaspora: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2008.

Prüfung: Mündliche Präsentation (15 Minuten) mit Essay als Hausarbeit in diesem Seminar oder im Seminar 1107-2

The New World has been a destination for migrants from the Old World. Many emigrants left their homeland to avoid persecution, others left to find a better life across the Atlantic. The European ports of embarkation (e. g. Cobh, Bremerhaven) are sites of farewell and sites of memory. Museums and monuments on both sides of the Atlantic remind us of those who left and arrived. We will concentrate on Irish and German emigrants leaving in the late 18th and 19th centuries and look into the museums “The Queenstown Story” in Cobh and the “Deutsches Auswandererhaus” in Bremerhaven. But we will also look into the reception of the emigrants in their ports of arrival, New York (Ellis Island), Boston and Grosse Ile in Canada. What were conditions like for those who arrived – Catholic Irish in a WASP culture in the USA? What are the ideals connected with the United States of America – from slavery to citizenship – and in how far were they realized (or not) for the new immigrants? In how far can we talk of an Irish Diaspora in the USA and worldwide?

1107-1b Into the Wilderness: Contemporary Canadian Literature

Thursday, 11-1pm, NSG 414
Stefan 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: Faye Hammill (2007): *Canadian Literature*. (Edinburgh Critical Guides) Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP. *The Cambridge Companion to Canadian Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Prüfung: Mündliche Präsentation (15 Minuten) mit Essay als Hausarbeit in diesem Seminar oder im Seminar 1107-2

Die Romane sind käuflich zu erwerben; die Short Stories werden als Kopiervorlage / elektronischer Text zur Verfügung gestellt.

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.

1107-2 Seminar Literatur oder Kulturgeschichte der USA:

Von den folgenden Seminarangeboten (1107-2a-b) ist ein Kurs zu belegen.

1107-2a From Levittown to "Little Boxes": Images of Suburbia in Popular Culture

Wednesday, 5-7pm, GWZ 2.516
Eleonora Ravizza

Prüfung: Mündliche Präsentation (15 Minuten) und Hausarbeit in diesem Seminar oder im Seminar 1107-1

From the idyllic postwar images of 1950s sitcoms to more critical contemporary portrayals, in this course we will trace the evolution of the suburban construct in both the US and the UK. We will investigate cultural, historical, and social aspects of suburbia through the analysis of various texts (films, TV series, short stories, novels, etc.) across different genres, paying particular attention to how categories of gender, class, and race intersect in the suburban space. Possible primary texts we will discuss might include *Pleasantville*, *The Truman Show*, *The Stepford Wives*, *American Beauty*, *Revolutionary Road*, *The X-Files*, *Weeds*, *Mad Men*, and others.

1107-2b Science and Literature

Thursday, 9-11am, HSG HS 13
Dr. Katja Schmieder

Prüfung: Mündliche Präsentation (15 Minuten) und Hausarbeit in diesem Seminar oder im Seminar 1107-1

As an interdisciplinary course the seminar will take a closer look at the relationship between the literary strategies applied in scientific and fictional writings. We will thus explore the functions and effects of what Carl Djerassi called “Science-in-Fiction” with texts by Mary Shelley, Michael Crichton, and Dan Brown.

1107-Tutorial

Group A: Tuesday, 1-2 pm, GWZ 2.516
Group B: Tuesday, 5-6 pm, GWZ 2.516
Alice Hofmann

The Tutorial is meant to support the seminars’ oral and written assignments. It will help train and refine the students’ argumentative and English language skills.

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

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

This module is meant to provide students with the opportunity to engage in-depth selected societal, historical, and political themes that have shaped and 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.

The module consists of two seminars

Seminar: The Contemporary United States in a Transatlantic Context

Tuesday, 3-5pm, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Crister Garrett
[lehrbox coming soon]

This seminar will focus on the making of U.S. foreign policy in a transatlantic context. We will explore the institutions and values shaping American foreign policy, especially regarding German-American relations. This seminar will include a one-day "transatlantic summit" involving SHP III students and students from Ohio University that will be coordinated with the United States Consulate/Embassy.

Seminar: US Public Diplomacy and the Emergence of the Pacific Century

Wednesday, 1-3pm, GWZ 2.516
Anja Eifert
www.lehrbox.de/440

The following seminar explores the significance and scope of US public diplomacy (PD), its importance in bi- and multilateral relationships as well as the historical and present role of PD in US foreign politics. With the election of Barack Obama as US president in 2008, the US reoriented its foreign policy to include a change from unilateralism to multilateralism as well as a renewed emphasis on the use of smart power and PD. Among the current administration's priorities are the strengthening of diplomatic relations not only with the Muslim world but also with the three main emerging nations in Asia: China, India, and Indonesia. This pivot toward Asia has impacted US foreign policy and security objectives in a region of increasing geostrategic importance. The seminar will thus not only investigate various US PD strategies and initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region but also address the different governmental, non-governmental and private actors instrumental in the implementation of US PD. In a multistakeholder world with competing regional and global interests, the seminar will finally explore both theory and policy implications for US PD in the Asia-Pacific region and investigate the challenges for US PD in constructing a stable transpacific partnership for the 21st century.

2.6 Literature & Culture III (04-001-1011)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Dr. 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

Seminar: The 19th century in American female fiction

Tuesday, 11-1pm, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
www.lehrbox.de/476

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, Louisa May Alcott, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Jacobs, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Edith Wharton, Kate Chopin, Willa Cather, Margaret Mitchell, and others.

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

Seminar: The Lions in Winter

Wednesday, 3-6pm, Wirtschaftswissenschaften 16/I315
Calvin Baker
[lehrbox coming soon]

The American novel, like America itself, enjoyed new significance after the Second Great War. While the reasons for this owe perhaps as much to geopolitics as creativity the results are undeniable—a generation's quest to write the great American novel.

Many of these novels, directly or indirectly, grapple with the specter of American colonialism, its attendant holocausts, and what they mean for the national identity, as well as the individual self.

In this course we will examine four late novels by living masters of American literature, with an eye toward what they may wish to tell us about America, and about life itself.

Sessions will start on **15 May**

The readings for this class will include:

Don DeLillo, *Falling Man*

Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

Toni Morrison, *Home*

Philip Roth, *Indignation*

The books have been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung

Magisterstudents, please note that the rules for using Picadorscheins apply for this course. Get in touch with your students advisors if you have any questions.

2.7 Language and Society III – 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 Sprachgeschichte: Historical Roots of Present-Day US-English

Wednesday, 9am-11am, NSG 114
S. Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

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, guidelines, and material.

1012-2 Seminar Varietäten: Language in US Society

Thursday, 11-1pm, NSG 412
Isabelle Buchstaller (Institut für Anglistik)

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

In this course we will study the relationship between language and US society. The main goal of the course is to give students an appreciation of the social complexity of language and its social significance. We will examine the role of language and language differences in organizing social life. We will address commonly held misconceptions about language and explore important issues related to linguistic diversity and the politics of language across cultures.

We will also consider some of the educational, political, and social repercussions of these sociolinguistic facts. Topics include social action through language; language ideology and discrimination; language and social identity; language planning; language and power in social institutions and everyday life.

1012-3 Übung Sprachpraxis: Written Academic Discourse I

Thursday 3-5pm NSG 329

Peter Tasic (Institut für Anglistik)

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

Williams, Joseph M. *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace*. 1981. Rev. by Gregory G. Colomb. 10th ed. Boston: Longman, 2010. Print.

Die Teilnehmer werden gebeten, Aczel und Williams vor Beginn der Übung anzuschaffen.

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) approaches to text production, iii) patterns of coherence and cohesion, and iv) systematic revision techniques.

2.8 Service Learning Project Seminar: Praktikum and Service Learning

Module Coordinator: Prof. Crister Garrett

Monday, 9-11am, GWZ 2.516
Catherine Sharpe

Service Learning has enjoyed a long and respected tradition in the United States as a form of community-based learning and professional development at leading universities. Recently service learning has become increasingly established at European and German universities in the wake of the Bologna reform process.

American Studies Leipzig offers a Service Learning module to allow students to earn credit for a community service project embedded in a scholarly framework. In a structured learning environment (the module involves a seminar, research, project, and scholarly paper), students design and carry out a community project that will allow them to earn 10 LP (10 ECTS) toward meeting their BA SQM requirements. Spanning 2 semesters, the Service Learning module begins in the Summer Semester and concludes at the end of the Winter Semester.

For more information, please visit the project website at americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/service-learning or email to aslservicelearning@uni-leipzig.de

Students can sign up by writing to aslservicelearning@uni-leipzig.de. Please tell us your major, your year of study (1st year, 2nd year etc), and provide a short explanation (around 100 words) about why you would like to take the SL SQM. Please note that space is limited and students will be enrolled on a first-come first-served basis.

3 MA Courses

3.1 Political Cultures in a Transatlantic Context (04-038-2005)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Crister S. 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

Seminar: The American Myth of the Wilderness

Friday, 11-1pm, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Anne Koenen
www.lehrbox.de/487

The myth of the wilderness and the opposition between “virgin land” and civilization have structured interpretations of American culture right from the “beginning” in Puritan writings to postmodern deconstructions in Proulx’s short stories. In the dominant, mainstream tradition, the wilderness has served multiple functions for white men, as a refuge, a place of rebirth, and a space of freedom. We will analyze traditional concepts of the frontier in theoretical, pastoral, and Gothic writings, of “the garden” versus “the desert,” and discuss recent re-interpretations, re-definitions, and deconstructions.

Texts: Puritan sermons; Mary Rowlandson, *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*; James Fenimore Cooper, *The Last of the Mohicans*; Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; Owen Wister, *The Virginian*; Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*; short stories by Ernest Hemingway and Annie Proulx; Leslie Silko, *Ceremony*; Marilynne Robinson, *Housekeeping*; Jon Krakauer, *Into the Wild*; “Little House on the Prairie” series.

The first session of the seminar will take place on **April 19**.

Seminar: Cultures of Capitalism in a Transatlantic and Global Context

Friday, 1-3pm, GWZ 3.515

Prof. Crister Garrett

Understanding the American experience, and interpretations of it, runs fundamentally through narratives of capitalism. The expectations, norms, institutions, and stories about the pursuit of profit during the course of American history inherently inform how Americans perceive themselves and pursue politics. American capitalism influences in turn global politics, and global politics influences American politics and economic development. Perhaps no arena is more important for the evolution of American capitalism than the transatlantic space, as the country compares and contrasts its culture of capitalism with varieties of capitalism found in Europe. Exploring discourses of capitalism and their differences underscores how cultures of capitalism emerge, and are contested in both a transatlantic and a global context.

3.2 Media and Society (04-038-2006)

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

Media and its different forms lays at the heart of constructing and disseminating images, ideas, information, and identities that have shaped the very notion of “America” and how it has been received, integrated, adapted in every corner of the world, and especially in Europe. Conversely, European traditions in such mediums - whether journalism in all its forms (print, radio, tv, internet) or film, music, literature, - have had and have strong influences on many aspects of American society. This module is meant to deepen student knowledge about how media and society have evolved in the United States, Europe, and in a transatlantic context.

The module consists of two seminars

Seminar: Fact Panic? Discourses of Truth in Contemporary US News Programs

Monday, 3-5pm, GWZ 2.516

Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

In 2010, the Wall Street Journal lamented “a larger journalistic trend that seeks to recast all political debates as matters of lies, misinformation and ‘facts,’ rather than differences of world view or principles.” Indeed, as formats such as CNN’s truthmeter or the Annenberg Public Policy Center’s factcheck.org show, facts, lies, and truth have become central concerns in the American media over the last two decades. Notably, such an emphasis on the importance of facts and truthful reporting seems to mark the crisis of these concepts rather than their affirmation.

In this seminar, we will investigate contemporary discussions of facticity and objectivity to explore the underlying cultural crises they express.

Seminar: Media in American Society

Block Seminar
Hartmut Keil

Thursday 18 April 13-15, NSG 205
Friday 19 April 15-17, GWZ 3.515
Thursday 25 April 13-15, GWZ 3.515
Friday 26 April 15-17, GWZ 3.515
Friday 10 May 15-18, GWZ 3.515
Thursday 30 May 13-15, NSG 204
Friday 31 May 15-18, GWZ 3.515
Thursday 13 June 13-15, NSG 204
Friday 14 June 15-17 GWZ 3.515
Thursday 27 June 13-15, NSG 202
Friday 28 June, 15-18, GWZ 3.515
Thursday 11 July 13-15, NSG 204
Friday 12 July 15-18, GWZ 3.515

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution – freedom of speech and of the press – has given the media an elevated role in American public life. While the seminar will explore the media’s historical development, it will focus on their place in contemporary American society including their present organizational and financial structure. One of the central questions therefore will be who owns and controls them, how they represent their interests in Washington, what impact they have on American politics (are they the “fourth branch of government”?). Other important questions will be raised: how do the media cover and impact political campaigns? How do they report on wars? Has the federal government (effectively) tried to censor them? How have the media represented ethnic, racial, and religious groups, how have they dealt with violence and gender issues? A few case studies of news formats will be analyzed to compare their impact on different publics: evening news of major networks, examples of investigative journalism, radio talk shows as well as the new social media. The seminar thus intends to gauge the media’s rights in a free society and obligations for the general public requesting full information.

3.3 Difference and Literature (04-038-2007)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Anne Koenen

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

Seminar: (Post) Modernisms: From "Male, Pale, and Yale" to Rainbow Coalitions

Friday, 9-11am, GWZ 3.515
Prof. Anne Koenen
www.lehrbox.de/488

With regard to modernism and postmodernism in general and writers William Faulkner's and Toni Morrison's fictions in particular, shared features and concerns abound: writing strategies like the disruption of chronology as well as subjects like the history of the South, the traumata of the past, and the legacy of slavery. Also, of course, both writers were awarded the Nobel Prize for literature for their works. In many respects, however, Toni Morrison's novels can be understood as re-writings of Faulkner's work from a black female perspective.

We will analyze major novels and short stories (mainly by Morrison and Faulkner, but also by Hemingway, Stein, O'Nan, and a play by Hwang) following these approaches and ground our readings and discussions in a contextualization of the authors in the periods they write in.

Novels: *Absalom, Absalom!*, *Light in August*, *Song of Solomon*, *Beloved*. Purchase of novels recommended. The first session of the seminar will take place on **April 19**.

Seminar: Deviants and Outcasts in American Culture

Thursday, 11-13, GWZ 3.515
Prof. Gabriele Piszcz-Ramírez
www.lehrbox.de/478

This course will address the ways in which deviance and difference have been represented and negotiated in American literature and culture from the early 19th century to the present time. We will look at novels, films, plays, visuals and other material to discuss how notions of deviance have changed, which function the figure of the outcast has had in various periods and how the definition as outcast has impacted on identity constructions and group and self-representation. Our discussion of deviance will be concerned with social non-conformism and crime, as well as with physical and mental disability and will address configurations of deviance such as the pariah, the outlaw, the monster, the freak, the extremist, and others.

Novels: Stewart O'Nan, *The Speed Queen*, *Sapphire*, *Push*. All other course materials will be available from the course site on Lehrbox. This course starts on **April 18**.

3.4 Interamerican Studies and Latino Cultures (04-038-2008)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

This module helps students to develop an understanding of the historical and cultural interrelationships between the United States and other regions in the hemisphere as well as of the histories and cultures of U.S. Latinos/as in the context of current debates about migration, national identity and multiculturalism.

The module consists of two seminars

Seminar: “We never crossed the border, the border crossed us”: Mexican American cultural productions

Wednesday, 9-11am, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
www.lehrbox.de/477

The course aims at discussing Mexican American literature, film, documentary, and art as a body of cultural productions that since its emergence has contributed to redefinitions of the concepts of nation and national culture. We will look at central categories of national identity construction and identity performance such as the body, the family, and the community, as well as at the category of the borderlands as a trans-national concept which emphasizes the links between the United States and other regions of the continent. Along an axis which moves from nationalism to cultural nationalism to transnationalism, we will study texts and images by Mexican Americans as works which have critically interrogated and reinterpreted concepts of „Americanness“ and American culture. Novels we will read include Pat Mora’s *House of Houses* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1997) and Alfredo Véa’s, *La Maravilla* (New York: Plume, 1994). Purchase of novels recommended. All other reading materials will be available from lehrbox. This course starts on April 17.

Seminar: The Americas in American Literature

Thursday, 3-5pm, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
www.lehrbox.de/482

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 literary texts that articulate the intercultural relationships between the United States and Latin America, Canada and the Caribbean.

The first seven sessions of this MA course will be taught as regular class sessions, followed by a project phase in which participants will be expected to investigate a research project of their own choice. The course will conclude with a half-day colloquium dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the student projects. Reading materials for this course will be available from Lehrbox. This course starts on April 18.

4 Other Courses

4.1 Picador Workshop: Creative Writing

Friday, 11am-1pm, GWZ 3.515
Picador Professor

Course Description coming soon

All students are welcome, but the number of spots is limited. Magisterstudents, please note that the rules for using Picadorscheins apply for this course. Get in touch with your students advisors if you have any questions.

You can apply for this class via email.

4.2 Doctoral Colloquium: Cultures of Security

Monday, 3-5pm, GWZ 3.515
Prof. Crister S. Garrett

This doctoral colloquium will explore a wide range of scholarship dealing with cultures of security both historically and currently. The concept of security is broadly defined, involving political, economic, social, and military considerations. Culture is also defined in a cross-disciplinary fashion to involve anthropology, sociology, international relations, and critical theory. The United States will be placed in a transatlantic and global context to better permit comparative and cross-country deliberations.

To Join the Colloquium

Students can join the colloquium either by invitation or via an application. The application involves a consultation with Prof. Garrett first to explore the nature of the interest in the colloquium.

4.3 Kolloquium für DoktorandInnen und HabilitandInnen

Date and room t.b.a.
Prof. Anne Koenen

For further information and application, please contact Prof. Koenen (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) personally.