

Courses Catalog Summer Semester 2014

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 7th, 2014.**

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>

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Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pisarz-Ramírez pisarz@uni-leipzig.de	3508	97 37 343
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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"

Julia Protze, Priska Fronemann, Miriam Speckmann

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, 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 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 7th, 2014.**

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 S. 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.

Tuesday, 9-11 am, HS 1
Prof. Crister Garrett
www.lehrbox.de/527

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) Monday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Eric Fraunholz
[lehrbox coming soon]

or b) Tuesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Tobias Schlobach
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/433>

or c) Wednesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Anja Eifert
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/347>

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) Wednesday, 11 am -1 pm, GWZ 2.516

Bethany Lerch

[lehrbox coming soon]

or b) Thursday, 9-11 am, GWZ 2.516

Bethany Lerch

[lehrbox coming soon]

or c) Thursday, 1-3 pm, NSG 404

Bethany Lerch

[lehrbox coming soon]

The tutorial (Übung) involves the practicing of American 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 analytical 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, 1-3 pm, HS 3

Prof. Wolfgang Lörcher (Institut für Anglistik)

Prüfung:

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

This lecture will provide a systematic introduction into the field of synchronic linguistics with focus on the theoretical description of English. It aims at providing an overview of the central areas in the study of language such as morphology, syntax and semantics as well as familiarizing students with aspects of language use investigated in pragmatics, text linguistics, socio- and psycholinguistics.

1003-2 Seminar Systemlinguistik: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics

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

either a) Monday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 328
Dr. Ursula Kania (Institut für Anglistik)

or b) Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 125
Jakob Neels (Institut für Anglistik)

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 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).

1003-3 Übung Sprachpraxis für Amerikanisten: Spoken Academic Discourse

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

either a) Thursday, 3-5 pm, NSG 327
Peter Tasic (Institut für Anglistik)

or b) Thursday, 5-7 pm, NSG 327
Peter 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: Prof. Dr. 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

Thursday, 9-11 am, GWZ 2.010
Prof. Anne Koenen

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 24**.

Seminar: Fangtāsies of Otherness: The Cultural Work of Lestat, Carmilla, Angel, and their Fellow Hemovores.

Wednesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Florian Bast
[lehrbox coming soon]

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 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 the cultural work which vampire characters—most notable that of 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*, in texts of authors who have historically been excluded from the canon like Black women (e.g., Octavia Butler's *Fledgling*), and in text that 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*).

Theorizing Popular Culture

Thursday, 5-7 pm, GWZ 2.516

Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

www.lehrbox.de/531

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.

* * *

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 25th and July 27th. 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 Neo-Victorianism: Representing the Nineteenth Century in British, American and Global Literature and Culture

Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 110
Dietmar Böhnke (Institut für Anglistik)

This seminar will start in the second week!

Empfohlene Vorbereitung:

Auffrischen der Kenntnisse zur viktorianischen Zeit; Lektüre einiger Primärtexte

Literatur:

Clayton, Jay (2003), Charles Dickens in Cyberspace: The Afterlife of the Nineteenth Century in Postmodern Culture. Oxford: OUP; Heilmann, Ann and Mark Llewellyn (2010), Neo-Victorianism: The Victorians in the Twenty-First Century. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan; Ho, Elizabeth (2012), Neo-Victorianism and the Memory of Empire. London: Continuum; Joyce, Simon (2007), The Victorians in the Rearview Mirror, Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press; Krueger, Christine L. (ed.) (2002), Functions of Victorian Culture at the Present Time, Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press; Kucich, John and Dianne F. Sadoff, eds. (2000), Victorian Afterlife: Postmodern Culture Rewrites the Nineteenth Century. Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press.

Prüfung:

mdl. Präsentation mit Essay als Hausarbeit in diesem od. Im Seminar 1107-2

The Neo-Victorian phenomenon has grown from its 1960s origins in British rewritings of the Victorian classics such as Jean Rhys’s *Wide Sargasso Sea* and John Fowles’s *The French Lieutenant’s Woman* to become a world-wide phenomenon since the 1990s, ranging from A.S. Byatt’s global bestseller *Possession* and its film version through various postcolonial rewritings by Margaret Atwood (*Alias Grace*), Peter Carey (*Oscar and Lucinda*) or Lloyd Jones (*Mr Pip*) to the more popular narratives by Gibson and Sterling (*The Difference Engine*), Michel Faber (*The Crimson Petal and the White*) or Sarah

Waters (Fingersmith). At the same time, it has spread to other genres like graphic novels (From Hell, The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, Heart of Empire), films (The Piano, Shanghai Knights, Sherlock Holmes), TV (various adaptations, 1900 House, Desperate Romantics, Ripper Street) and global popular culture (steampunk, manga, anime etc.). In this course, we will start from the background of Victorian 'globalisation' (e.g. the British Empire) to look at examples and implications of this global neo-Victorianism today and survey the multiplicity of 'Victorianisms' produced and consumed in Britain, Canada and the US as well as in Australia, New Zealand or Japan. Along the way, we may deal with questions of (post)colonialism and globalisation, gender and ethnicity, media contexts, and the construction and representation of history in general.

1107-1b Remembering Terrorism. Terrorism memorials in Britain and the United States

Thursday, 11-1 pm, NSG 105
Frauke Hofmeister (Institut für Anglistik)

Empfohlene Vorbereitung:

Students are strongly advised to obtain an overview of British and US history since 1945.

Literatur:

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

Prüfung:

mdl. Präsentation mit Essay als Hausarbeit in diesem od. im Seminar 1107-2

The impact of recent and not-so-recent terrorist attacks on Western societies has become a fashionable object of study over the last years. This seminar will deal with a particular aspect of material culture – terrorism memorials – in Britain and the United States in order to investigate the understandings of terrorism which are revealed both through the production and the consumption of these memorials. We will consider general issues of representation and memory culture alongside specific studies concerning national terrorism discourses and functions and uses of memorials also in relation to other, artistic and political, responses to terrorist attacks. Students will work on individual case studies from both countries in question, and a comparative approach will be taken in order to identify and account for similarities and differences.

1107-2 Seminar Literatur oder Kulturgeschichte der USA:

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

1107-2a Learning to Watch American and British Film

Tuesday, 11 am-1 pm, HS 6
Prof. Barry Laga
www.lehrbox.de/536

Prüfung:

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

This course provides you with the intellectual tools to make sense of, interpret, appreciate, evaluate, and discuss film critically. To acquire those tools, we will trace the development of film history, dabble in film theory, study a variety of genres, and apply the “elements of cinema” (i.e. cinematography, mise-en-scene, editing, sound, etc.) to a wide range of films. We will be particularly attentive to American and some British films as both aesthetic artifacts and cultural narratives. We will pay attention to what the films convey, but also to their particular strategies and methods. Please note that you’ll have to watch the longer feature films outside of class. We will provide several screenings during the week.

1107-2b Literature and Medicine

Thursday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Dr. Katja Schmieder
[lehrbox coming soon]

Prüfung:

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

Both literature and medicine focus on ideas about and perceptions of the human being. Especially in the Anglo-American world, where fiction has been employed to popularize science ever since, we find myriads of novels and movies that deal with medical topics. Today medical schools throughout the US and Great Britain include literary writings in their curricula, while humanities scholars identify the narrative nature and potential of medical texts.

In order to contextualize and analyze such developments, our seminar readings will include 19th century prescient fiction like Edgar Allan Poe's “The Business Man” as well as 20th century medical thrillers, e.g. Jeffery Hudson's (= Michael Crichton) *A Case of Need*, and doctor's narratives, such as Samuel Shem's *The House of God*.

1107-Tutorial

Tuesday, 9-11 am, GWZ 2.516
Bethany Lerch
[lehrbox coming soon]

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 S. 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

Wednesday, 3-5 pm, NSG 221
Prof. Crister Garrett
www.lehrbox.de/528

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. We will engage in a comparative historical analysis to better understand how cultures of politics, economy, and social policy emerge in both a transnational and transcultural context. 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. The theme of the summit will involve a contemporary and 'controversial' issue, i.e., one that highlights societal differences and thus the challenges in pursuing international politics and diplomacy.

Contemporary American Culture in Context

Monday, 11 am -1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Barry Laga
www.lehrbox.de/535

Texts are less personal expressions than evidence of cultural negotiations. As Stephen Greenblatt notes, "If exploration of a particular culture will lead to a heightened understanding of a work of literature produced within that culture, so too a careful reading of a work of literature will lead to a heightened understanding of the culture in which it was produced." Following Greenblatt's lead, we will study a wide range of texts as a way to understand American culture and history, and we will use those contexts to make sense of literary texts. The class is as much an exploration of American culture as it is about a particular reading methodology.

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

Contemporary Canadian Intercultural Theatre

Monday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516, **first session on April 28th.**

Guillermo Verdecchia (Picador Guest Professor)

[lehrbox coming soon]

Stuart Hall argued that "the capacity to live with difference" would be the "question of the 21st century".

This course will focus on (mostly) Canadian plays that, in some way, stage Hall's question. What role might the theatre play in moving us beyond the platitudes and good intentions of official multiculturalism toward a truly intercultural nation? How might Canadian drama and theatre intervene in other national contexts that face similar questions.

We will consider between 5-7 plays. A list of required texts will be provided soon. The class will be structured somewhat like a seminar; I will try to keep lecturing to a minimum. Your participation will be crucial to the success of this course. We will discuss these texts together, and supplement our discussion with dramatic readings and low-key performances. This is after all a course built around plays! (Don't worry; this will be great fun and give you insight into the texts.)

The seminar is part of the Ba Module "Literature and Culture III" It is also open to advanced Magister students. Please note that the rules for using Picadorscheins apply for this course. Get in touch with your students advisors if you have any questions.

Narratives of Race in American Literature and Culture

Thursday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516

Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/529

This course explores the social construction of race in American society. Our main interest will be to investigate how "race" has been defined at various moments in American cultural and literary history, and how narratives of race have influenced Americans' sense of individual and national identity. We will trace the development of the concept of race in American texts from the seventeenth century to the present, as well as in landmark movies in the history of race relations. Considering authors from Thomas Jefferson to Gloria Anzaldúa we will discuss how race has been constructed on both sides of the "color line", paying specific attention to concepts such as "whiteness", "culture", "class", and "ethnicity".

Reading materials for this course will be available from Lehrbox.

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.

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

Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 303
Dr. Sylvia 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: English in South Asia

Fridays from 2 pm GWZ 4315
Prof. Clausdirk Pollner (Institut für Anglistik)
Blockseminar, starting 11 April 2014

Literatur:

Tom McArthur (2003). Oxford Guide to World English. Oxford: OUP

Prüfung:

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

In this seminar we shall be looking at the main characteristics of English in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka: pronunciation, morphology and particularly word-stock.

1012-3 Übung Sprachpraxis: Written Academic Discourse I

Tuesday, 9-11 am, NSG 427
Peter Tomic (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.

3 MA Course

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

The Legacy of Slavery in the American South

Thursday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 3.515

Prof. Hartmut Keil

[lehrbox coming soon]

First session: **10 April 2014**

The seminar will discuss the Transatlantic slave trade; the development of Southern slave society and the plantation system from a comparative perspective; emancipation, segregation, and discrimination from colonial times through to the present. It will focus specifically on the changes that have occurred in the South, especially since World War II. Topics are the South's regional identity; African cultural traditions and their impact on African American identity; the Civil Rights Movement and race relations; the role of religion; social, economic, and cultural differences within the South; historical memory and heritage of the South.

The seminar will be taught parallel to seminars in the Institute of English Studies (Prof. Buchstaller - Linguistics), Ethnology (Prof. Rao), and African Studies (Prof. Werthmann). Several joint sessions of these four seminars will be offered during the course of the semester (to be announced). They will serve as preparation for a study tour to lowcountry South Carolina and Georgia in late September/early October.

Cultures of Capitalism in a Transatlantic and Global Context

Monday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 3.515

Prof. Crister Garrett

<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/525>

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 political economy, 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

Ways of Seeing – Visual Cultures

Friday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 3.515

Prof. Anne Koenen

www.lehrbox.de/539

“Modern life takes place onscreen.” This observation that opens a study of visual culture points to the centrality of visuals in our lives, and implies the need to understand visual representations in their diversity and complexity. Ways of seeing are central to disciplines from medical science to film studies to art history and popular culture studies. In the seminar, we will analyze various texts from different areas in their socio-historical contexts and against the background of theoretical studies. A more detailed program of primary texts will be the result of a group brainstorming in the first session.

The first session of the seminar will take place on **April 25**.

Fact Panic? Discourses of Truth in Contemporary US News Programs

Thursday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2.516

Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

www.lehrbox.de/530

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.

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

(Post)Modernism: William Faulkner and Toni Morrison

Friday, 9 - 11am, GWZ 3.515

Prof. Anne Koenen

www.lehrbox.de/540

In William Faulkner's and Toni Morrison's fictions, shared features and concerns abound: subjects like the history of the South, the traumata of the past, and the legacy of slavery as well as narrative strategies. 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 rewritings of Faulkner's work from a black female perspective. We will analyze major novels and short stories following these approaches and ground our readings and discussions in a contextualization of the authors in the periods (post-modernism) they write in.

Novels: *Absalom! Absalom!*, *Light in August*, *Song of Solomon*, *Beloved*. Purchase of novels recommended. Short stories, criticism, as well as an extended bibliography will be provided on the Internet.

The first session of the seminar will take place on **April 25**.

What was/is African American Literature?

Wednesday, 3 -5 pm, GWZ 3.515

Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/538

In a provocative book with the title *What Was African American Literature?* Black literary scholar Kenneth W. Warren suggested in 2011 that African American literature as a distinct entity is at an end, given that the period in which black writing was oriented toward a response to the conditions of Jim Crow is now over. His text has led to lively debates about the cultural, political and aesthetic specificity of African American literature. This course will explore "African American" as an unstable signifier that has been defined, redefined and questioned in the field of tension between normative literary expectations and individual expression throughout the history of African American writing. We will explore texts from the 19th century to the present, including authors such as Charles Chesnutt, Zora Neale Hurston, Percival Everett, and Charles Johnson.

This course will start on Wed. **April 16**.

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

New Orleans in Fiction

Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/534

New Orleans has always taken a special place in the imagination of Americans, due to its geographical position as a major port city linking the United States to the Caribbean as well as due to its tropical climate, racially and ethnically diverse population and distinctive mix of cultures. A hub for illegal slave trading in the 19th century, New Orleans was the center of the slave trade by 1850, but also the home of the largest number of free people of color in the Deep South; moreover, it has been considered a liminal zone between the Anglo and the Latin worlds. While the city has been framed as one of the most exotic places within the U.S., it has at the same time been represented as an abject place within the national body linked to contagious tropical diseases, sinfulness, and racial contamination. In this course we will discuss representations of New Orleans in fiction and film from the 19th to the 21st centuries. A list of texts and films will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

This course will start on Tue. **April 15.**

Frontier, Borderlands, Nation: Imagining Inter-American Space

Wednesday, 9 – 11 am, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/537

This course will focus on the border region between the United States and Mexico as a geographical, conceptual and creative space. We will discuss the cultural production about and emerging from this region in the context of the theoretical fields of Border Studies and Inter-American Studies, revisiting the pervasive myth of the “mobile frontier” created by Frederick Jackson Turner in 1893 in the light of more recent conceptualizations of border space and “border gnosis” (Mignolo) as well as within current debates about immigration and border control. Our readings will include historiography, cultural theory, fiction, and visual texts.

This course will start on Wed. **April 16.**

4 Other Courses

4.1 Picador Workshop: Creative Writing - Playwriting

Tuesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 3.515, first session on April 22nd
Guillermo Verdecchia (Picador Guest Professor)
[lehrbox coming soon]

This course is an introduction to writing for the stage. We will focus on developing a writing practice, analytical skills, and understanding of your individual process. The course will be structured much like a writing workshop with time devoted to practice and discussion. Your interests and questions will inform some of what we cover.

We learn to write by writing. And by reading. We will do both in this class. Some portion of each class will be devoted to in-class writing. An array of sources and techniques will be used to motivate and guide this work. This in-class writing will explore a variety of styles and approaches to writing for theatre and performance. Some of this work will be further developed throughout the term. Students are expected to write approximately 10 pages each week. Our emphasis will be on experimentation and process; our aim is personal, intelligent, and adventurous writing.

In concert with the development of a writing practice, we will develop and strengthen our critical and analytical faculties. We will read a variety of scripts or portions thereof to develop a sense of the variety of voices and styles theatre and performance embrace, and to understand how they work, how they mean, how, and what they perform. We will also share our own writing in class regularly and learn to respond thoughtfully to one another's work. We can learn as much from each other's work as from our own. Hearing our work aloud, in space and in public (not simply in our heads), can make us more sensitive to how our writing performs. Analysing the work of others can help us become more conscious of the choices we make in our own.

Our work may conclude with a public reading.

There is also a task I would like you to prepare for our first session:

On the first day of class, Apr 22, 2014, please come prepared to answer the following question:

Where does your interest in theatre/writing come from? What is the most significant or inspiring theatre experience you've had.

Also:

Please prepare a brief oral synopsis of your favourite scene from a play (or film) that you really like. This play can be from any era and reflect any style. It can also be either a well known work or an obscure piece of dramatic writing by someone other than you. Your synopsis should be between 2 - 3 minutes max.

- i. Feel free to set up the scene with a précis of the story of the play
- ii. Feel free to read a tiny excerpt from the work itself

Welcome to our class; I look forward to working with you.

Corneille: *It is certain that there are laws of playwriting, since it is an art; but it is not certain what these laws are.*

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 Kolloquium für DoktorandInnen und HabilitandInnen

date and room t.b.a.

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