

Courses Catalog Summer Semester 2015

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, 2015.**

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, Dr. Florian Bast

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

<http://mentoren.philol.uni-leipzig.de>

e-mail: philolment@uni-leipzig.de

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2-3 pm, 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, Dr. Florian Bast

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 7, 2015.**

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.

Wednesday, 1-3 pm, HS 4
Prof. Crister Garrett
www.lehrbox.de/580

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, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
First session on **April 13th**.
[lehrbox coming soon]

or b) Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Eric Fraunholz
www.lehrbox.de/579

or c) Wednesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Tobias Schlobach
www.lehrbox.de/588

The Analytical Seminar will involve students engaging 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 analytical academic skills in writing, speaking, and the presenting of one's own ideas.

Tutorial (Übung)

either a) Monday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
[lehrbox coming soon]

or b) Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
[lehrbox coming soon]

or c) Tuesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
[lehrbox coming soon]

The Praxis Seminar (Tutorial/Übung) will involve students practicing American-English academic writing on the subject of American society, history, and politics. Analytical writing skills will be developed with diverse assignments. Students will also practice regularly the presentation of ideas orally and how to substantiate them with evidence and analysis.

First sessions in the week of **April 7th, 2015**.

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 Vorlesung: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics

Tuesday, 1-3 pm, HS 3
Prof. Doris 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.

1003-2 Seminar Systemlinguistik: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics

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

either a) Tuesday, 9-11 am, NSG 414
Dr. Sylvia Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

or b) Friday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 226
Dr. Sylvia Reuter (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 227
Peter Tasic (Institut für Anglistik)

or b) Thursday, 5-7 pm, NSG 227
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: Dr. Florian Bast

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: Popular Culture and the Canon

Wednesday, 5-7 pm, HS 2
Various Lecturers

In a lecture series formats, specialists will speak on a variety of subjects of popular culture. A first block will focus on defining popular culture, understanding its history and the history of theorizing it. This block is followed by a large and diverse section of case studies focusing on individual aspects ranging from Crime Fiction to Military Blogging, among many others.

Seminar: The Dark Side of the American Experience: American Gothic as a National Narrative

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 425
Thorsten Burkhardt
lehrbox coming soon

In 1960 Leslie Fiedler famously called U.S. literature "a gothic fiction [...] a literature of darkness and the grotesque in a land of light and affirmation." From the very first American novelist, Charles Brockden Brown, to one of the most famous contemporary writers, Stephen King, American literature has often shown great skepticism towards the promises of the American continent. What is conceptualized as a country of opportunity and freedom is represented in its literature as a place of disillusionment and violence; where one expects the American Dream, one is confronted with a nightmare. This seminar will trace the American gothic tradition throughout various periods in American literary history and ask the question what cultural work this particular, and pervasive, genre has performed, and is still performing, in American culture. This course will also address the issue of reading secondary sources and writing a scholarly research paper.

Participation in this class is based on the willingness to shoulder a high reading load. The seminar contains texts by both classical authors, like Charles Brockden Brown, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, or Henry James, as well as the more 'popular' voices of H.P. Lovecraft, who was initially only published in pulp magazines, or Shirley Jackson, who published a lot of her stories in magazines aimed at housewives. Finally this class will also address more contemporary literature by Stephen King, Toni Morrison, and Alice Sola Kim.

There will be a combined introductory session for this seminar and Dr. Bast's seminar on April 8th at 3:15 pm in room 2.516 GWZ.

Seminar: Worlds of Difference, Plots of Power: The Fictions of Octavia E. Butler

Wednesday, 3-5 pm, NSG 214

Dr. Florian Bast

lehrbox coming soon

Octavia E. Butler, the first black woman to be commercially successful as a science fiction author, is known for her fictions' minute dissections of the complexities of power and of the dynamics of oppression and resistance. Situated at a highly fertile intersection of such contested issues as agency, the body, and concepts of the Other, Butler's texts have garnered significant interest from usually distinctly conceived areas of literary studies—feminist criticism, African American studies, and science fiction studies, to name only three. This class aims to give students an overview of this diverse and intensely debated body of work, to provide them with a basic understanding of the respective productivities of the different approaches which have been taken in analyzing Butler's work, and to guide students towards close textual analyses of some of Butler's fictions. Taking a close look at several of Butler's short stories and novels—such as *Kindred* (1979); “Bloodchild” (1984); the Parable Series, consisting of *Parable of the Sower* (1994) and *Parable of the Talents* (1999); and the Xenogenesis Series, comprised of *Dawn* (1987), *Adulthood Rites* (1988), and *Imago* (1989)—the class will pay particular attention to the ways in which Butler's texts make highly innovative use of some of the staples of science fiction to address issues at the heart of African American literature. Additionally, we will focus on how they uphold sophisticated ambiguities in relation to issues of power, oppression, and agency, broadly conceived. Since the seminar focuses on the work of an author who primarily considered herself a novelist, participants will have to shoulder a high reading load, enforced by PVLs.

First session on **April 8th**.

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 17th and July 19th. 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 (1107-1a-b) ist ein Kurs zu belegen.

1107-1a (Neo-)Victorianism as Transatlantic Media Phenomenon

Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 114
Dietmar Böhnke (Institut für Anglistik)

Empfohlene Vorbereitung:

Auffrischen der Kenntnisse zum 19. Jahrhundert Literatur: Hewitt, Martin, ed. (2012), *The Victorian World*. London/NY: Routledge; Higson, Andrew (2003), *English Heritage, English Cinema: Costume Drama since 1980*. Oxford: OUP; 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; Kucich, John and Dianne F. Sadoff, eds. (2000), *Victorian Afterlife: Postmodern Culture Rewrites the Nineteenth Century*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press; Sadoff, Dianne F. (2010), *Victorian Vogue: British Novels on Screen*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press; Sweet, Matthew (2001), *Inventing the Victorians*. London: Faber and Faber.

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

Due to the industrial and communications revolutions, the Victorian Age (1837-1901) and more generally the nineteenth century was both the first truly globalized period in history and the first (mass) media age. It saw the height of the British Empire and the rise of the USA as a global power as well as such groundbreaking innovations as railways, steamships, photography, the telegraph, telephone and finally film. Partly because of this, the period has remained central to the national imagination on both sides of the Atlantic and is continually revisited in various media, above all in films for the small and big screen. In this course, we will start by surveying the historical context of (Victorian) globalization and media developments before moving on to the representation and reinvention of the period in a variety of neo-Victorian films and TV series, such as *Clueless*, *The Claim*, *Conceiving Ada*, *From Hell*, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, *Penny Dreadful*, *Possession*, *Ripper Street*, or *Shanghai Knights*. In analyzing these films, we will be looking at both

AngloAmerican/transatlantic aspects and the media element, including such issues as Hollywood and the British film industry, Austenmania and the heritage film debate, the new 'golden age' of TV series, the Alice, Dracula, Frankenstein and Sherlock crazes, Ripperology, the steampunk phenomenon etc. Along the way, we may deal with questions of (post/neo) colonialism and Americanisation/globalisation, gender and ethnicity, media convergence, historical films and the construction and representation of history in general.

1107-1b Into the Wilderness: Contemporary Canadian Literature

Thursday, 11-1 pm, NSG 322
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. Die angegebenen Romane sind in den einschlägigen Buchhandlungen (Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung und Universitätsbuchhandlung) oder über Versanddienste käuflich zu erwerben; die Gedichte werden als Kopiervorlage/ elektronischer Text zur Verfügung gestellt.

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

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 Anglo-American Capitalism and the European Union

Tuesday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 225

Daniel Floyd

[lehrbox coming soon]

Prüfung:

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

This seminar will explore how the United States and Great Britain/Ireland relate to each other and other countries that together comprise what is often referred to as the “Anglo-American World”. In present-day globalization, and during earlier periods of mobility, exchange, and discovery, Anglo-American ideas have influenced economic and other aspects of societal governance throughout Europe. The Anglo-American sphere continues to exercise cultural and economic power within the European Union, and is of course influenced by the EU in many ways. The course material and class discussions will analyze how the USA and the UK, collectively and separately, shape aspects of capitalist ideology and cultural norms in the EU. Emphasis will be placed on forms of “soft power” that have gradually (and sometimes imperceptibly) exerted a deep impact on how citizens of European countries define and debate their concepts of fair and or legitimate economic governance and activity.

1107-2b Literature and Science: Science-in-Fiction

Thursday, 1-3 pm, NSG 324

Dr. Katja Schmieder

[lehrbox coming soon]

Prüfung:

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

In this seminar we will decidedly not discuss science fiction but rather focus on Science-in-Fiction, a term the late Carl Djerassi famously coined. Thus, we will interrogate the many ways in which „science“ is communicated, criticized, and popularized through novels, movies, and TV shows. As we proceed, we will attempt to answer the following questions: How is „the scientist“ portrayed? What are the implications of politicized science? In how far might fictionalizations of science help us understand the epistemological premises of the natural sciences vs. the humanities? To what ends is science used as a tool of investigation in crime/detective fiction? And last but not least: How come we always find the mad doctor, but never the mad literary scholar? Texts to be analyzed in class might include (but are not restricted to) Mary Shelley's „Frankenstein,“ works by Michael Crichton, Michael Frayn's drama „Copenhagen,“ and TV crime series.

1107-Tutorial

Tuesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
[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.

First session in the week of **April 13th, 2015.**

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

The Contemporary United States in a Transatlantic Context

Thursday, 1-3 pm, NSG 302
Prof. Crister Garrett
www.lehrbox.de/586

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.

US Public Diplomacy and the Emergence of the Pacific Century

Wednesday, 1-3 pm, 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.

The seminar starts on **15 April**.

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

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

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

Beyond the Beaches: A Survey of Contemporary and Classic Caribbean Literature

Monday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 3.515
Prof. Lauren K. Alleyne (Picador Guest Professor)
[lehrbox coming soon]

In this class, we will read writing by anglophone Caribbean writers with the goal of learning the history, culture and contemporary issues facing this diverse and vital part of the world. We will read poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, and in some cases, we will have the opportunity to interview authors writing in and about the Caribbean. Readings for this course will include, among other texts:

- *A Small Place* by Jamaica Kincaid
- *The Dragon Can't Dance* by Earl Lovelace
- *Limbo* by Esther Figueroa
- *Claire of the Sea Light* by Edwidge Danticat

The books by Kincaid, Lovelace, and Danticat have been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung and will be available at the beginning of April. You will need to attain the book by Figueroa via amazon.de, zvb.de or other vendors of used books.

First session on **April 13**.

The seminar is part of the B.A. 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.

Paranoid Fiction?

Thursday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Dr. Sebastian Herrmann
www.lehrbox.de//587

Used as a cultural studies concept and thus understood not as a clinical condition but as a particular position or mode, the notion of 'paranoia' can help unlock the narrative dynamics of a wide range of texts. In this seminar, we will work with novels, short stories, and movies to explore the "paranoid position" (Sedgwick) and its reading dynamics: What anxieties and (perceived) threats do paranoid texts negotiate? What is their appeal? What is their history? What are the particular narrative qualities involved?

2.7 Ethnicity and Diversity in US Culture II: Multicultural and Multilingual America

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sylvia Reuter (Anglistik)

The module is offered in 2015 as a trial run. Students can use credit from this module either as equivalent for "Language and Society III," or they can have their course work count toward 'Ethnicity and Diversity II' once the module has been formally installed. In any case, students can only take either of the two, and they have to enroll in TOOL for "Language and Society III" in either case. Please see this newsitem for more information.

The module consists of two seminars and one tutorial

Mixed Race America in U.S. Literature

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/574>

Scholars predict that by the year 2050, one in five Americans will identify with two or more racial ancestries. Multiracial individuals today are celebrated in the media as symbols of America's 'raceless' future (Nobles, *Shades of Citizenship*), often in stark contrast to historical representations of mixed race persons who were referred to derogatively as half-breeds, mongrels, or tragic mulattoes. In this course we will explore narratives of race-mixing, passing, and multiraciality in American literature from the late 18th century to the present, discussing the various concepts and representations of racial hybridity, creolité and mestizaje as well as the significance of today's hype around multiraciality. We will consider texts by Crèvecoeur, L.M. Child, Ch. Chesnut, K. Chopin, H. Jacobs, G. Anzaldúa, and others, as well as texts from the field of critical mixed-race studies.

This course will start on **April 9**.

1012-2 Seminar Diskursanalyse: Phraseology

Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 224
Sabine Fiedler (Institut für Anglistik)

Literatur: Fiedler, S. (2007): *English Phraseology. A Coursebook*. Tübingen: Narr (Lehrbuchsammlung).

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

This seminar is intended to achieve a twofold aim: first, it will introduce students to the most important theoretical concepts in phraseology. The fundamental characteristics of phraseological units (such as polylexicity, semantic and syntactic stability, idiomaticity) as well as different types of classification will be discussed. Second, we will be examining the usage, frequency and main functions of idioms and fixed expressions in different English text types.

1012-3 Übung Sprachpraxis: Written Academic Discourse I

Tuesday, 9-11 am, NSG 315
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.

2.8 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 three seminars and one tutorial

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

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 414
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 Diskursanalyse: Phraseology

Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 224
Sabine Fiedler (Institut für Anglistik)

Literatur: Fiedler, S. (2007): *English Phraseology. A Coursebook*. Tübingen: Narr (Lehrbuchsammlung).

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

This seminar is intended to achieve a twofold aim: first, it will introduce students to the most important theoretical concepts in phraseology. The fundamental characteristics of phraseological units (such as polylexicity, semantic and syntactic stability, idiomaticity) as well as different types of classification will be discussed. Second, we will be examining the usage, frequency and main functions of idioms and fixed expressions in different English text types.

1012-3 Übung Sprachpraxis: Written Academic Discourse I

Tuesday, 9-11 am, NSG 315
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.

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, literature, cultural studies, political science, sociology, anthropology, and economics. 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

The Legacy of Slavery in the American South

Blockseminar
Prof. Hartmut Keil
[lehrbox coming soon]

This course will evaluate the impact of different religious traditions on American society, politics, and culture. After looking at the historical context of religious transfer to the United States as well as the emergence of specific religious traditions in the New World socio-political environment, we will analyze topics of particular relevance for contemporary America, 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 the religious confrontation between the Judeo-Christian and the Islamic worlds.

Students who want to participate in the study tour on „Religion in American Society“ which is scheduled for this fall are required to attend the seminar.

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).

Seminar sessions:

Friday, 17 April, 10 am – 12 noon
Thursday, 7 May, 5 – 7 pm
Friday, 8 May, 10 am – 2 pm
Friday, 22 May, 10 am – 2 pm
Friday, 5 June, 10 am – 2 pm
Friday, 26 June, 10 am – 2 pm
Thursday, 9 July, 5 – 7 pm
Friday, 10 July, 10 am – 4 pm

Office hours:

Thursday, 4 – 5 pm

Cultures of Capitalism in a Transatlantic and Global Context

Tuesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 3.515

Prof. Crister Garrett

<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/575>

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

Mediating American Politics and Society

Monday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 3.515

Prof. Crister S. Garrett

[lehrbox coming soon]

Politics involves the mediating of ideas, identities, and interests within an identifiable societal space. Ultimately politics reflects competition between contrastive narratives of order that have been constructed to pursue power for diverse purposes. The media through which politics is pursued — from materiel means to institutional initiatives to normative negotiation — become communicated in a wide variety of formats ranging from evolving technology to complex systems of societal interaction at the national, transnational, international and global levels. Thus one can speak of media ecosystems in which politics is constructed, practiced, and communicated.

Considering what is “American” is fundamentally an extension of such mediation and media ecosystems. Nowhere is this more evident than in the construction and communication of foreign policy. By definition foreign policy involves the creation of an “other” to practice politics in the interest and legitimization of “self” (national interests). As America mediates itself it engages the international community to distill what it sees as “exceptional” or unique to the American experience and thereby the foundation for international politics and policy. Naturally such practices of identity construction and politics inform mediation exercises in societies around the world. Central for the United States and its engagement with the international media ecosystems are contrastive and comparative models from Europe and elsewhere globally. Thus while exploring the media of American foreign policy this seminar will integrate comparative examples from such countries as Germany, France, and China.

Fact Panic? Discourses of Truth in Contemporary US News Programs

Thursday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 3.515

Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

www.lehrbox.de/585

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. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

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

The 19th century in American female fiction

Wednesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 3.515
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz Ramírez
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/593>

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 course will start on Wednesday, **April 15**.

The Power of Sympathy: Reading Affect(ion) in American Literature

Thursday, 1-3 pm, HS 18
Dr. Antje Dallmann
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/591>

William H. Brown's *The Power of Sympathy*, published in 1789, is a novel that adapts the enormously influential and successful movement of literary sentimentalism into American writing: Brown's book, in fact, is often considered to be the first American novel. Sentimentalism, the eighteenth-century "school" of writing, relied on and celebrated emotional responses, both at the level of the text and from its readers. Gothic fiction as well as the domestic novel in the first half of the nineteenth century continue using sentimental strategies. Criticized at the century's end as "cheap sentiment," sentimental strategies broadly survive not only in popular such as detective fiction.

This seminar pursues a twofold aim. First, we are going to trace, in an exemplary fashion, the histories of sentiment, emotion, feeling, and affect in American literature. Starting with extracts from Brown's early novel, we will read texts by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott, Horatio Alger, John Steinbeck, Nella Larsen, and Bharati Mukherjee, thus developing insights into generic and gender-specific ascriptions of "emotions" in literature at the levels of both plot and function. Second, we will locate historically the modes of articulating and instrumentalizing "emotions" within what cultural studies scholar Raymond Williams has famously called "structures of feeling," tracing what Glenn Hendler terms the "logic of sympathy" as a "public sentiment." Following Lauren Berlant, we will discuss how "cultures of affect," specific historical "affect worlds," contribute to the construction and consolidation of classed, gendered, and raced social relations.

Over the last twenty years, in fact, cultural and literary studies have increasingly turned to questions of the body, to embodiment, to feelings, sentiments, and affect and to their relations to concepts of identity and to cultural constructions of difference. One of the most recent "turns" in cultural studies, in fact, is the turn to the affective, and closer inspection reveals a broad spectrum of theories and approaches that have been developed under its critical umbrella. To bring the two above strands together, this seminar's main aim is to investigate which insights into cultural texts the discussion of affect and emotion in their relatedness to specific historical bodies and structures allows, particularly in their relation to the categories of race, gender, sexuality, and class. All course materials (extracts, short stories, and articles) will be available from the course site on Lehrbox.

This course will start on Thursday, **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 3.515
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/590>

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 14.**

Frontier, Borderlands, Nation: Imagining Inter-American Space

Wednesday, 9 – 11 am, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/592>

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 15.**

4 Other Courses

4.1 Picador Seminars

Picador Professor Lauren K. Alleyne will be teaching the following seminar in the upcoming Summer Semester 2015.

The following seminar will be taught by Picador Professor Lauren K. Alleyne

Picador Workshop: Introduction to Poetry

Tuesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 3.515

Dylan Thomas says, “you can tear a poem apart to see what makes it tick... but you’re back with the mystery of being moved by words.” In this class, we will engage both the mystery and the analysis of poems with the goal of understanding how poems work. We will read essays on poetics, a wide selection of classic and contemporary poems, and write poems in an array of forms and subjects. Readings in this course will include *The Poet’s Companion* by Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux, which has been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung and will be available at the beginning of April. Please make sure to have it in time for the first session.

All students are welcome, but the number of spots is limited. Please sign up via e-mail to americanstudies@uni-leipzig.de.

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.

First session on **April 14**.