

Courses Catalog Summer Semester 2016

American Studies Leipzig

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

Table of Contents

1	Information	2
2	BA Courses	5
2.1	Society, History, Politics I (04-001-1002)	5
2.2	Introduction to Linguistics for American Studies (04-001-1003)	7
2.3	Literature & Culture II (04-001-1007)	9
2.4	The Anglo-American World in a Global Context (04-001-1008)	11
2.5	Society, History, and Politics III (04-001-1010)	14
2.6	Literature & Culture III (04-001-1011)	15
2.7	Ethnicity and Diversity in US Culture II: Multicultural and Multilingual America	16
3	MA Courses	18
3.1	Political Cultures in a Transatlantic Context (04-038-2005)	18
3.2	Media and Society (04-038-2006)	19
3.3	Difference and Literature (04-038-2007)	21
3.4	Interamerican Studies and Latino Cultures (04-038-2008)	22
4	Lehramt	23
4.1	04-AME-1401: Literatures and Cultures of the USA	23
5	Other Courses	25
5.1	Fiction Writing Workshop	25

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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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; Stefan Schubert, 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

<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, Stefan Schubert, 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 4, 2016.**

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.

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, HS 5
Prof. Crister Garrett
www.lehrbox.de/630

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
Heather Pruessing
[lehrbox coming soon]

or b) Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Eric Fraunholz
First session: 13 April
Lehrbox course page

or c) Wednesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Tobias Schlobach
lehrbox course page

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]

Within the context of American society, history, and politics, students in the Praxis Seminar (Tutorial/Übung) will work to improve their writing and argumentation skills in academic English. The goal of this course is to solidify students' understanding of the lecture and analytical seminar content, while simultaneously improving critical and analytical skills through discussion and written assignments.

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, HSG HS 3
Doris Schönefeld (Institut für Anglistik)

Exam: class test (120 min) covering the lecture and the seminar

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) Friday, 9 - 11am, NSG 112
Sylvia Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

or b) Friday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 112
Sylvia Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

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

Exam: cf. lecture "Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics"

This seminar is conceived together with the introductory lecture as the 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.

1003-3 Übung Sprachpraxis für Amerikanisten: Spoken Academic Discourse

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

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

or b) Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 329
Peter Tasic (Institut für Anglistik)

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

Exam: Presentation with discussion and summary

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. Carsten Junker

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

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, HS 10
Prof. Carsten Junker
[lehrbox coming soon]

The lectures will conceptualize the relation between so-called 'high' and popular culture; they will explore theoretical implications of the canon debates and theories of popular culture and use these theoretical groundings to raise questions about ways in which canonical texts are translated into popular ones, address popular genres and media ranging from the sentimental to the graphic novel, as well as examine diverse areas of cultural studies (such as, for instance, violence, food, and visual culture).

Seminar: Twists, Mindgames, Metatexts: (Narrative) Uncertainty and Anxiety in Contemporary US Popular Culture

Wednesday, 1-3 pm, NSG 428
Stefan Schubert
<http://www.lehrbox.de/639>

Expressions of uncertainty and anxiety—along with similar terms and concepts, such as crisis, panic, insecurity, disruption, disorientation, or instability—characterize contemporary US popular culture. Significantly, in many texts, moments of uncertainty do not only stem from the plot or the characters but also, and especially, from the plane of narration, from the way such stories are told to their audiences. In recent years, texts engaging with these topics have attracted widespread appeal, leading to the popularization of genres such as so-called 'twist' or 'mindgame' films and spreading onto a variety of other media as well.

This seminar will focus on carving out the cultural work that such representations do. As these texts feature fragmented and unstable narrations, they express cultural concerns about textuality, mediality, and representation that seem to respond to contemporary audiences. At the same time, such moments are tied to negotiations of identity and difference, particularly in terms of 'race,' class, and gender, which the seminar will equally focus on.

Accordingly, we will use theory on topics such as narrative complexity, transmedia storytelling, the crisis of representation, or storyworlds and possible-worlds theory to discuss films like *Fight Club*, *Memento*, or *Black Swan*, novels like *House of Leaves* or *The People of Paper*, and video games like *Alan Wake* or *The Stanley Parable*.

The first session of this seminar will take place on **April 13**.

Seminar: A Multitude of Gardeners: The American Landscape as Cultural Image

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 103

Thorsten Burkhardt

<http://www.lehrbox.de/636>

In his famous “The Machine in the Garden”, Leo Marx notices the Industrial Revolution as being conspicuously absent in explicit form in 19th century American literature and, instead, being mainly implemented in the form of “ideas and emotions” that are expressed in representations of the landscape. This exemplary observation sets the tone for this seminar, in which we will examine the literary use of the physical reality of the landscape in what Marx called “collective representation” or “cultural images.” From conceptualizations of the American landscape as a virginal garden to its supposed taming or destruction at the hands of man, from the idea of nature as a spiritual place of self-realization to nature as an indifferent killer, American writers have demonstrated a wide range of interpretations of the natural landscape and its various symbolic dimensions. From Thoreau's cabin at Walden Pond, to Melville's hellish paper factory, from the merciless Yukon wilderness that kills Jack London's protagonist to the freedom that Brokeback Mountain means to two now famous cowboys, American authors have shown the range of settings that nature provides and the many ways in which dreams, hopes, doubts, and fears have been projected onto the landscape throughout American (literary) history.

This seminar examines different images of and ideas about the landscape that are predominant in American literature and thought. We will look at different texts from various periods in American literary history, among them e.g., Henry David Thoreau's *Walden; or, Life in the Woods* (1854), Herman Melville's “The Tartarus of Maids” (1855), Jack London's “To Build a Fire” (1908), to more recent works like Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild* (1996) and *Brokeback Mountain* (1997) by Annie Proulx. We will also read secondary sources, e.g., Leo Marx's “The Machine in the Garden” (1956) and address the issue of researching and writing a scholarly paper.

The first session for this class will take place on **April 11**.

* * *

*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 8 and July 10. 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 The Victorians Go West: Nineteenth-Century British Writers and America

Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 304
Dietmar Böhnke (Institut für Anglistik)

Recommended preparation: Auffrischen der Kenntnisse zur viktorianischen Epoche in Literatur und Geschichte; Lektüre einiger Primärtexte

Reading list: Primary texts: Dickens, Charles: *American Notes* (1842); Martin Chuzzlewit (1843-4); Pearl, Matthew: *The Last Dickens* (2009); Satterthwait, Walter: *Wilde West* (1991); Wilde, Oscar: “The Canterville Ghost” (1887).

Secondary texts: Hofer, Matthew and G. Scharnhorst, eds. (2010), *Oscar Wilde in America: The Interviews*. University of Illinois Press; Pachter, Marc and F.S. Wein, eds. (1976), *Abroad in America: Visitors to the New Nation, 1776-1914*. Addison-Wesley; Slater, Michael, ed. (1979), *Dickens on America & the Americans*. Harvester Press.

Exam: oral presentation and essay in this class or in 1107-2

The nineteenth century, and the Victorian Age (1837-1901) in particular, was the first truly global and transatlantic era in history, thanks to improved transport and communications (railways, steamships, popular press, telegraph) and the development of mass commercial tourism (Thomas Cook, Baedeker etc.). The UK and the USA were both relatives and rivals in this period, and consequently interest and curiosity about the other country was high on both sides. Little wonder, therefore, that innumerable accounts and reports were written and published by travellers and writers throughout the century. In this course, we will start by briefly surveying the phenomenon from a British perspective (mentioning writers such as Frances Trollope, Harriet Martineau, Isabella Bird and R.L. Stevenson) and then focus on two high-profile case studies, Charles Dickens (in the US in 1842 and 1867-8) and Oscar Wilde (1882), who both commented on their experiences in non-fictional as well as fictional form (e.g., in Dickens’s *Martin Chuzzlewit* and Wilde’s *Canterville Ghost*). We will attempt to illuminate the

background of the two countries at each of these points in time, analyse both writers' views and concerns, and discuss their reception by the Americans. In a last step, we will be interested in the literary reworking of these experiences, in their own works as well as more recent rewritings in which they appear as characters in an American setting, such as Satterthwaite's *Wilde West* and Pearl's *The Last Dickens*.

1107-1b Negotiating terrorism in film and TV

Thursday, 11-1 pm, NSG 410
Jonathan Steller (Institut für Anglistik)

Reading list: Primary works: *Children of Men* (2006), *Spooks* (series 7, 2008), *The Dark Knight* (2008), *Four Lions* (2010), *Skyfall* (2012), *Star Trek Into Darkness* (2013), *Kingsman: The Secret Service* (2015)

Exam: oral presentation and essay in this class or in 1107-2

The last decade has seen a vast amount of portrayals of global terrorism in film and TV. This class is designed to analyse figurations of terrorists and their counter-terrorist doubles across a variety of genres, ranging from social-realist drama to superhero narratives. After a brief introduction to film studies and key terminology, each session will focus on an article and its application to one of the films/shows mentioned above. A reader will be provided on Moodle; some of the films will be shown in Screening Britain.

1107-2 Seminar Literatur oder Kulturgeschichte der USA:

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

1107-2a Seminar "Anglo-American Economics and the European Union"

Monday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 103
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 in Europe and globally that together comprise what is often referred to as the "Anglo-American World". Since the Industrial Revolution, 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, in turn, 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 economic ideology and cultural norms in the EU. Emphasis will be placed on forms of "soft power" that have gradually (and sometimes imperceptibly) exerted an incalculable impact on how citizens of European countries define and debate their concepts of economic governance and activity.

1107-2b Ideologies of Reproduction in Anglo-American Fiction

Thursday, 1-3 pm, NSG 220

Dr. Katja Schmieder

www.lehrbox.de/646

Prüfung:

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

From the political influence on the composition of a society (e.g., settlements, eugenics, enforced sterilization) to feminist constructs like “heteronormativity” and economic considerations of midwifery and medical technologies (e.g., IVF) – debates about human reproduction are as manifold as they are permeated by different ideologies and agendas. With rising social tensions in the Anglo-American world, the problem of reproduction (re)gains center stage.

In the seminar we will focus on Anglo-American narratives about human procreation, and we will discuss how these texts contribute to cultural, political, and religious constructions of birth control, pregnancy, and childbirth. We will further interrogate the literary strategies by means of which they contradict or support historical and recent ideologies. As we trace crucial moments in Anglo-American reproductive history (the Common Law, *Roe v. Wade*, etc.), we will take a decidedly interdisciplinary approach in our analyses.

Our readings will include Nathaniel Hawthorne's “The Birthmark,” Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Dorothy Parker's “Mr. Durant,” and John Irving's *The Cider House Rules*.

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.

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

Wednesday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 328
Prof. Crister Garrett
www.lehrbox.de/640

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.

The Changing Nature of US Public Diplomacy: Historical Developments and Current Trends

Wednesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Dr. Anja Eifert
www.lehrbox.de/641

The following seminar explores the significance and scope of US public diplomacy in international politics from a historical and a contemporary perspective. With the election of Barack Obama as US president in 2008, the US entered a phase of political reorientation, domestically and internationally. In regard to US foreign policy, this reorientation centers on a change from unilateralism to multilateralism and on a renewed emphasis on smart power and public diplomacy. At the beginning, this seminar will outline US foreign policy traditions and define public diplomacy in the context of international relations theory and diplomatic studies. After an excursion into the origin and historical development of US public diplomacy, this seminar will investigate US public diplomacy in a worldwide context with focus on specific regions and countries. It will also address the role of governmental vis-à-vis non-governmental actors and the significance of public diplomacy for the current and past US presidential administrations. Finally, this seminar will discuss various public diplomacy strategies and their impact upon public diplomacy theory and practice and outline prospective challenges for US public diplomacy in the 21st century.

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

The View from the Margins: Outsider Fiction

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

The idea of a 'literary center' is a persistent one in American fiction. We will look at texts that position themselves outside that center. Some of the work we will consider addresses marginalization thematically, focussing on issues of social exclusion—racial, sexual, economic—but we will also consider fiction that is 'outside' stylistically, fiction which experiments with structure, plot, and language. Very often the work will be innovative in both form and content. From writers like James Baldwin, Dorothy Allison, and John Rechy, to Donald Barhtleme, Grace Paley, and Jamaica Kincaid, we will study those writers who seek to expand, or explode, the very notion of the American literary center.

The first session takes place on **April 11**.

Big Data Fears: Surveillance, Privacy, and the (Big) Data Imaginary in Contemporary American Popular Culture

Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Dr. Sebastian Herrmann
[lehrbox coming soon]

When Edward Snowden uncovered the NSA's massive spying operation in 2013, many were shocked at the sheer scope of the data gathering and the seemingly all-encompassing quality of the surveillance. At the same time, the idea that the government is listening to every conversation, reading every email, tapping every phone is a long-standing trope of American popular culture, and Snowden's revelations accordingly seemed eerily familiar in how they echoed this cultural landscape.

In this seminar, we will explore this trope of government spying, data-gathering, and surveillance to analyze its poetics, its narrative appeals, its history, its politics, and the cultural work it does. To do so, we will read and discuss secondary texts to support the premise that 'surveillance' and the 'data imaginary' form two independent yet intersecting strands of modernity, and we will 'read' and discuss a range of primary texts, such as *Enemy of the State*, *Person of Interest*, *The Circle*, or *Minority Report*. Texts that speak of American (popular) culture's long-standing fascination with and fear of the power of (big) data.

The first session of this seminar will be on **April 14**.

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

[...]

The module consists of two seminars and one Tutorial

1012-1 Mixed Race America in U.S. Literature

Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 3.515
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
[lehrbox coming soon]

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 Crevecoeur, L.M. Child, Ch. Chesnutt, K. Chopin, H. Jacobs, G. Anzaldúa, and others, as well as texts from the field of critical mixed-race studies.

The first session of this seminar will be on **13 April**.

1012-2 English in the Pacific

Thursday, 1 - 3, NSG 320
Isabelle Buchstaller (Institut für Anglistik)

Exam: written assignment (Hausarbeit)

The Pacific is a highly multilingual and multicultural area with a long history of English influence. In this seminar, we will examine the spread of English, which is nowadays spoken in a wealth of varieties, including English as a native Language (ENL), English as a second Language (ESL), Pidgins and Creoles, as well as many learner varieties. We will examine different models of language spread and imposition before applying theories of language contact to individual varieties. The course covers both American-lexified Englishes as well as varieties that have developed under the influence of Britain and New Zealand / Australia. Geographical areas to be considered include California, Hawaii, (American) Samoa, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Japan as well as a range of other language contact situations.

1012-3 Übung Sprachpraxis: Written Academic Discourse I

Tuesday, 9-11 am, NSG 329
Peter Tomic (Institut für Anglistik)

Reading list: Williams, Joseph M. *Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace*. Ed. Joseph Bizup. 5th ed. London: Pearson, 2014. Print. [ISBN-13: 978-0-321-95330-8 / ISBN-10: 0-321953304]

Please purchase Williams before the beginning of this course.

Exam: class test (90 min)

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 Courses

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. Crister S. Garrett

This module is meant to provide students with a deeper understanding of the concept of political culture in a transatlantic context. Political culture is generally defined as the traditions, practices, and values that shape how a society practices politics and prioritizes in its political process, for example, in the case of governing. Political culture involves the fields of cultural history, 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

Constructing and Contesting Policy Communities in a Transatlantic and Global Context

Tuesday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 428
Prof. Crister Garrett
www.lehrbox.de/635

It has become a truism of the twenty-first century that whether for America or any other nation-state, key issues of societal well-being can no longer be framed in purely national terms. Scholars and practitioners are thus increasingly turning to the study and use of international, multinational, and transnational policy architectures to address complex issues impacting fundamentally the security of a society. This seminar will explore how three such core issues — migration, environmental policy, and trade — are placed in international policy communities to construct new forms of political practice. The seminar will focus especially on contemporary EU-US relations, with the transatlantic policy community arguably the most important for America in terms of reassessing and recalibrating national norms, institutions, and political practices.

Cultures of Capitalism in a Transatlantic and Global Context

Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 224
Prof. Crister Garrett
www.lehrbox.de/643

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

Constituting Public Spheres and Selves in Genres and Media

Tuesday, 5 - 7 pm, NSG 112

Prof. Carsten Junker

[lehrbox coming soon]

This seminar examines how public spheres and selves are constituted in various genres and media in historical and transnational perspective. For instance, eighteenth-century scholars have recognized the significance of letters as a driving motor of the formation of gendered, raced, and classed concepts of the self, as an instrument of staking out claims to subject positions in public discourses and thus accessing and establishing public spheres in the first place. Equally, the proliferation of newspaper publishing during the Enlightenment has been credited for creating public spheres. More recently, what parameters has the Internet provided for constituting notions of selves and public/private spheres? Questions such as this one will be at the core of the seminar, in which students will be required to develop their own research agendas.

The Numbers (Don't) Speak for Themselves: Data Driven Journalism and the History of Objectivity

Thursday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 3.515

Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

[lehrbox coming soon]

During the run-up to the 2008 election, Baseball analyst Nate Silver perplexed the American public with his precise forecasting, complex statistical models, and nerdy explanations of his electoral math. Where other media outlets reported the horse race, the daily events, and the common wisdom, Silver’s fivethirtyeight.com presented a cool, reliable, and steady numbers-based view on the unfolding election.

To many, Silver’s election blog marks one of the foundational moments of data-driven journalism (ddj), a new form of journalism that promises to offer a factual and objective view, to make sense of a reality marked by information overflow and data clutter, or to even transcend political interests by way of its objectivity. At the same time, ddj stands at the intersection of at least two historical lines: a long-standing American fascination with data and statistics, and an historically contingent set of (textual) conventions that define ‘objectivity.’

In this seminar, we will work together to explore the current cultural fascination with ddj and to historicize both 'data' and 'objectivity.' Since this is a Research Seminar, and since much of what we will be doing is academically uncharted territory, participants are expected to make a sustained commitment to contributing to the ongoing development of the seminar's research trajectory.

The first session of this seminar will be on **April 14.**

3.3 Difference and Literature (04-038-2007)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Carsten Junker

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 Local and the Global – Literary Regionalism Revisited

Tuesday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 3.515
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz Ramírez
[lehrbox coming soon]

What is the relationship between a particular geographical framework or “mapping” of the world and the ways in which people perceive and respond to their surroundings? How does a regionalist sensibility manifest itself in narrative? How can regional literature remain relevant in a modern global community? And why should we continue to read regionalist fiction in an age of expanding international communications and increasing nonlocal forms of affiliation? In this course we will address these and other questions, reading the regionalist tradition of the late 19th and early 20th century as well as more contemporary writings about regions such as the West, the South, or the Pacific Northwest in American and global contexts.

This course will start on Tuesday, **April 12**.

Literature and the Concept of Difference

Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 305
Prof. Carsten Junker
[lehrbox coming soon]

This seminar addresses various approaches to the ‘concept of difference’ that consider cultural processes—and in particular the ways in which these are negotiated in and as effects of literature—as heterogeneous, contradictory and contested. A special focus lies on contextualizing the establishment, institutionalization, and contestations of scholarship on difference(s) as a result of social movements and as a critique of universalisms. The seminar will address how various differences, understood as categories of socio-cultural stratification and literary analysis, have been framed as historically situated, culturally constructed, and categorically interrelated. We will examine what repercussions this has had on conceptualizations of literature and its manifold functions as well as on reading practices of primary texts, not least our own in the seminar.

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, 9 - 11 am, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
[lehrbox coming soon]

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. 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; it is considered a liminal zone between the Anglo and the Latin worlds; it has been framed as one of the most exotic but also the most abject places within the national body of the U.S., linked to contagious tropical diseases as well as to racial contamination. In this course we will discuss representations of New Orleans in fiction and film from the 19th to the 21st centuries, including texts/films by George Washington Cable, Kate Chopin, Tennessee Williams, Dave Eggers, Spike Lee, and others.

Please buy Dave Eggers, *Zeitoun*.

This course will start on Tuesday, **April 12**.

People on the move – Borders, nations, and migrations

Thursday, 5 - 7 pm, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
[lehrbox coming soon]

This course will discuss migration, borders, and the biopolitics of the nation from a cultural studies perspective. We will address issues such as displacement, citizenship, marginality, and transnationalism and their representation in fiction, documentary film, essays, and autobiographical writing, as well as in historiography and cultural theory. While the American hemisphere will be our focus, the seminar will also include a comparative border studies component, where we will consider the U.S. borderlands in the context of global migratory movements and the current refugee crisis in Europe.

A number of guest lectures by international and German experts on migration will enrich our discussions.

4 Lehramt

4.1 04-AME-1401: Literatures and Cultures of the USA

Module Coordinator: Prof. Carsten Junker, Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

für Lehramt Englisch Gym, MS, Sonderpäd. (Pflicht 5./6. Semester)

für M.Sc. Wirtschaftspädagogik (Wahlpflicht 1./2.Semester)

Dieses Modul und das Fachdidaktikmodul sind über das 5. und 6. Semester verteilt. Lehramtsstudierende müssen daher in beiden Semestern die jeweils angebotene Hälfte beider Module belegen.

The module consists of one lecture and one seminar

1401-2 Vorlesung Literatur der USA: American Literary History

Wednesday, 5 - 7 pm, HS 2

Prof. Carsten Junker

[lehrbox coming soon]

The lectures will provide an overview of central literary movements, authors, and texts of American literary history against the background of influential socio-cultural developments.

Exam: class test (90 min) covering the entire module

1401-3 Seminar Kultur und Diversität der USA:

Von den folgenden Angeboten (1401-2a-d) ist ein Kurs zu belegen.

either a) Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 324

Eleonora Ravizza

<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/631>

or b) Thursday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 225

Eleonora Ravizza

<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/632>

or c) Friday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2.516

Eleonora Ravizza

<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/633>

or d) Friday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2.516

Eleonora Ravizza

<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/634>

Historical, political, and societal developments in the United States were and are influenced by the rapidly changing national demographic landscape. In this seminar-style lecture, we will discuss select developments with regard to race, gender, class, religion, and multilingualism. In addition to gaining knowledge about the historic background, students will also have the opportunity to apply their

findings in group discussions about a variety of texts, such as short stories, movies, and TV shows. The seminar thus invites an interdisciplinary dialog between history, cultural studies, and minority studies.

Exam: class test (90 min) covering the entire module

The first session of the seminars will take place in the week of **April 11**.

5 Other Courses

5.1 Fiction Writing Workshop

Tuesday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 3.515
Picador Guest Professor Justin Torres

Each meeting students will turn in stories to be read and discussed by the class. The goal of these discussions is to identify important themes in the story as well as memorable moments. How and why was a certain image or turn of phrase successful? The hope is that we describe to the author the work they have created thus far, and that we encourage and support them in deepening the story and building on its strengths.

The first session takes place on **April 12**.

All students are welcome, but the number of spots is limited. Please sign up via e-mail to americanstudies@uni-leipzig.de by March 30, 2016. In your e-mail, please indicate your name, your student ID number, as well as the program in which you're currently studying. You will receive an e-mail from us informing you whether you secured a spot in the workshop after March 30.