

**Veranstaltungen**  
**Institut für Amerikanistik, Leipzig**

**(WS 2009/2010)**

## COURSE CATALOG WINTER TERM 2009/10

DOWNLOAD COURSE CATALOG WINTER 2009/10 INTRODUCTION (<a href="http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/system/files/Introduction%20course%20catalog\_0.pdf">pdf</a>)

Registration for Classes

Some classes require prior registration. To learn more about registration procedures for students in the Institute's different programs (Magister, BA, MA; service for Lehramt and IALT), please have a look at the Registration Information Sheet available at the <a href="http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/blogs/69/registration-information-winter-term-2009-10-ba-ma-and-magister">American Studies Website</a>.

For UPDATES, please check our Website.

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Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5

HSG (Hörsaalgebäude), Universitätsstr. 7

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## MAGISTER HAUPTSTUDIUM

### Literaturwissenschaft

#### 010 Crimes and Nameless Things: Realism and Fantasy (= 421)

Thursday, 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, GWZ 2 5.16, A. Koenen

The seminar will look at realism and fantasy as the dominant modes of writing in American literature. We will discuss periods (realism), genres indebted to the modes (detective fiction, science fiction) and theories that explore the potentials and concerns of the modes.

Texts: Henry James, Daisy Miller; The Turn of the Screw; Mark Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson; Ursula K. LeGuin, The Left Hand of Darkness; Stephen King, Pet Sematary; Anne Rice, Interview with the Vampire).

A reader with short stories (by Poe, Wharton, Perkins Gilman, Chopin, Hemingway, Alice Walker, Butler), excerpts from novels (O'Nan, Wish You Were Here), and theoretical approaches (Jackson, Freud) will be provided.

Enrollment: Prior enrollment via email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) is necessary for Magister students; deadline is September 30. In the first session, there will be a brief test on Mark Twain's Pudd'nhead Wilson. This seminar is open to those 30 Magister students who emerge as the best (prepared) in this test.

#### 011 Consumerism and Culture in the US (= 440)

Friday, 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, GWZ 2 5.16, A. Koenen

At the turn of the twentieth century, an emerging consumer culture in the United States promoted constant spending to meet material needs and develop social identity and self-cultivation. A century later, cultural critics have claimed that consumerism has become the dominant ideology of our times. In this seminar, we will read fictional representations as well as cultural manifestations of consumerism with the intention of analysing the emergence of the US as a consumer society and significant trends in the 20th century (like the malling of America, department stores versus mail-order, e-commerce). Against the background of various theories of consumerism, we will first, after a grounding in theory, discuss literature that celebrates or criticizes the re-interpretation of the American Dream in parameters of materialism. The second half of the seminar will be in the format of a "blockseminar" where students will present the result of workshops on various aspects of consumerism.

Purchase of novels (Dreiser, Sister Carrie; Lewis, Main Street) recommended.

A reader with short stories, excerpts (e.g. Updike, Rabbit at Rest), and criticism will be provided.

Enrollment: Prior enrollment via email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) is necessary for Magister students; deadline is September 30. In the first session, there will be a brief test on Lewis's Main Street. This seminar is open to those 30 Magister students who emerge as the best (prepared) in this test.

#### 012 The Spy Novel

Monday, 01:15 PM - 02:45 PM: GWZ 2 5.16

Steinhauer  
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/317

The perennially popular genre, the spy novel, gained ground with the two world wars and blossomed during the Cold War, at times achieving a level of sophistication and nuance to rival literary fiction. In *The Spy Novel*, we will read and discuss a selection of the best of the genre in English, with such writers as Eric Ambler, Graham Greene, Robert Littell, Charles McCarry, John Le Carre, Len Deighton and Alan Furst. What makes these works great? Do they ever "transcend the genre" to reach real literary status? Since your professor is a spy novelist himself--and not a lecturer--students will be encouraged and expected to take part in extensive discussions of the readings. Grades will be based on class participation and an end-of-term paper.

## **Kultugeschichte**

### **020 Contemporary America and the Writings that Have Made It (= 420)**

Tuesday, 03:15 PM to 06:45 PM, NSG S104, P. Rundquist

This seminar starts on October 13 and takes place every two weeks.

Tuesday, 03:15 PM to 06:45 PM, GWZ 2 5.16, P. Rundquist

This seminar starts on October 13 and takes place every two weeks.

This is a colloquium that focuses on discussion and analysis of various works that have had a significant impact on American life since the end of the Second World War. The works chosen are deliberately diverse in order to acquaint students with a variety of sources and methods which have been used to explain, maintain, or alter American society in the past half century.

Students in the colloquium will be asked to register to lead a class discussion on a specific work during a typical 90-minute class session. In addition to the specific reading for the class, the Semesterapparat will also include academic articles and other materials which put the specific reading into context.

The class readings include a diverse set of texts, including (but not limited to) major academic works: (for example, Samuel P. Huntington's *Clash of Civilizations*, Robert Putnam's *Bowling Alone*, Francis Fukayama *The End of History*), popular non-fiction works (for example, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, and Anthony Lewis' *Gideon's Trumpet*), journalistic treatments (for example, the *Pentagon Papers* and *Watergate*), Supreme Court arguments and decisions (the *Brown*, *Roe* and *Baake* decisions), and cultural-political monographs (for example, *The Feminine Mystique* by Friedan and Barry Goldwater's *Conscience of a Conservative*).

### **021 Transatlantic Encounters and Perceptions (= 450)**

Block seminar

Wednesday, 21 October, 1-5pm, 13 November, 1-5pm, 27 November, 18 December, 15 January 2010, 1 PM to 5 PM

Saturday, 16 January, 10 AM to 4 PM

GWZ 2 5.16, H. Keil

The course will try to understand the transatlantic space since the age of discovery as a market place for commercial, technological, social, cultural, and political exchange. However differently societies on both sides of the Atlantic developed, there were also common roots and interests that bound them together in various ways. The seminar will focus on some of these commonalities and differences by addressing the following issues: economic interdependence from the mercantile system to today; the slave trade and the creation of plantation societies; colonial competition; colonial and imperial outlooks; ideological foundations of emerging and traditional societies; technological transfer; isolationism and alliances; immigration and exiles; high culture and mass culture; divergent paths and mutual perceptions.

Prior registration by Lehrbox is required.

### **022 Contesting the Transatlantic Space (= 451)**

Thursday, 03:15 PM to 04:45PM, GWZ 2 5.16, C. Garrett

The United States and Europe are of fundamental importance to each other in terms of interests, influences, and their coinciding cooperation and competition in shaping global politics. The transatlantic space – or institutions, norms, and issues around which and with which the U.S. and Europe interact – is undergoing a dynamic phase of recalibration, or more pointedly, contestation. One overarching theme that underlines the challenges to the transatlantic space is security in its fullest sense. With the end of the cold war and in the context of 9-11 the United States and Europe are engaged in a fundamental discussion about what societies mean by security, and what priorities citizens and governments want to set for pursuing security. In this seminar we will focus on three types of security to explore the ongoing contesting of the transatlantic space: economic security, environmental security, and military security.

### **023 Immigration Policy and Politics: Past and Present (= 460)**

Organizational meetings: October 20 and November 3, 03:15 PM to 06:45 PM, NSG S104

Block Seminar Presentation Meetings: Friday, 05:15 to 08:45 PM (exact dates for November, December and January to be arranged through discussions with class), GWZ 2 5.16

## P. Rundquist

Immigration has been a vital and, at times, controversial aspect of American life from the colonial era to the present. This seminar will examine topics examining the shift in American immigration policy from one of general tolerance to one of prioritization, the first priorities based on race and ethnicity, to current priorities based on domestic labor market needs and migrant skills. The course will also treat the related concept of naturalization, the process of acquiring citizenship by the foreign-born. In this aspect, we will examine such issues as citizenship acquisition and loss through marriage, and other implicit and explicit naturalization barriers as political views, past life in native countries, and other disqualifying issues. And, certain topics to be covered in the course also offer a comparison of American immigration and naturalization policies with European policies, as well as examination of such contemporary issues as dual citizenship, and concerns about terrorism and border security following the 9/11 attacks.

The first several sessions of the course will be devoted to lectures by the professor followed by a sequence of seminar presentations by students, with classroom discussions based on the presentations and readings keyed to the topics presented.

Readings will include such works as: Alden, Edward H. *The closing of the American border*; Chebel d'Appolonia, Ariane (hrsg). *Immigration, integration and security: America and Europe in contemporary perspective*; Lee, Erika. *Chinese immigration during the exclusion era*; Hölbling, Walter (hrsg). *The European emigrant experience in the USA*; Diner, Hasia. *The Jews of the United States*; Handlin, Oscar. *The uprooted*; Franklin, Frank George. *The legislative history of naturalization in the United States from the revolutionary war to 1861*; and Rundquist, Paul. *A uniform rule: Congress and the Courts in American Naturalization*.

### 024 Race and Religion in the American South (= 461)

Thursday, 11:15 AM to 12:45PM, GWZ 2 5.16, J.Boles

Race (and racism) along with religion have played a major role in shaping the history and culture of the region and the nation. This course, utilizing readings and class discussion, will examine particular historical episodes to determine the rise of racism, the development of a certain style of religion that came to dominate the South, and the subsequent intertwined relationship of race and religion in such events as the defense of slavery, the beginning of the Civil War, Confederate nationalism and soldiers' morale, the rise of the myth of the Lost Cause, the development of segregation and the rise of the "Solid South," the history of the Civil Rights movement and white opposition to it, and the rise of fundamentalism and its role in politics. The course will conclude with consideration of the meaning of the election of Barack Obama. The workload for this seminar will include class readings, discussion, and a paper of approximately 15 typed pages, which will be discussed and critiqued by class participants during the final class meetings.

\*Enrollment will be limited to twenty students. Magister students wanting to take the course must submit a written application to the Secretariat of the Institute for American Studies ([americanstudies@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:americanstudies@uni-leipzig.de)) by Friday, 2 October. The written application should include (a) name (b) email address (c) hauptfach, and (d) reason for wanting to take the course, around fifty words.

MA students apply via the module process.

### 025 Slavery and the American South

Wednesday, 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM: GWZ 2 5.16

Boles

[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/333](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/333)

Through readings and discussion, this class will analyze the origins of chattel slavery in the U.S. South and the subsequent development of a slave society in the region. Topics will include the economics of slavery, the evolution of slave culture (naming practices, folktales, music, religion, aesthetic choices, etc.), slave living standards and work routines, and slave rebellion. The course will emphasize the variety in slavery urban slaves, industrial slaves, skilled slaves and include a discussion of free blacks, a seemingly anomalous population in the pre-Civil War South. Students will be expected to write a paper of approximately 15 typed pages based on the WPA Slave Narratives (interviews with former slaves), which are available on-line (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>). The papers will be discussed and critiqued by class participants during the final class meetings.

## Other courses

### 030 Applied Seminar (= 431)

t.b.a.

From identifying a topic of profound academic interest to writing a Call for Papers, from corresponding with authors to gathering financial support, from reviewing others' work to suggesting modifications, from grouping articles to sections to writing an introduction – editing a scholarly publication entails a wide range of professional skills central to the academia and to non-academic work settings alike.

In 2007/08, the first group of editors has founded and published *aspeers*, the first and currently only graduate-level peer-reviewed journal for European American Studies, i.e. a journal that publishes the critical work of pre-PhD authors from (other) European

universities.

This semester, we will work to edit the third issue of the journal and to refine its positioning in the market. This will include learning about different publication formats and about academic publishing in the US and Germany in general. Most of the time and workload, however, will go into the editing process outlined above. Mostly working in project groups, the module thus provides a truly unique opportunity to acquire and improve professional skills in areas such as critical reading and writing, word processing, public relations, and communication.

The course is part of the American Studies Leipzig MA professionalization module (SQM) iCAN, but it is open to advanced Magister students in their Hauptstudium as well. Anticipating strong interest in the course, students willing to participate have to apply by sending a 500-1000 word Statement of Purpose (including their motivation and previous experience, if any) to smherrmann@uni-leipzig.de by September 30, 2009.

Classes start in week of 12 Oct.

Find information on the project at [www.aspeers.com](http://www.aspeers.com)

### 031 The Collaborative Novel

Tuesday, 01:15 PM - 02:45 PM: NSG S226

Steinhauer

[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/318](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/318)

Writing a novel is one of the most solitary endeavors one can take on. Six months, or six years, with just you and the computer. In "The Collaborative Novel" we will try to turn this basic truth on its head by working together, in the classroom, to produce a full-length (80-100,000 word) novel, which we will then have printed and bound. Individual chapters will be assigned and then workshopped together. The story itself? That's up to you. Along the way, we'll discuss the craft of writing from a variety of perspectives, focusing on the stage we're at, and I'll bring in readings to help shine light on what is essentially a very mysterious craft.

Linguistics:

For courses in linguistics please check the website of the Institute for British Studies: <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~angl/studium/framesetstudium.htm>

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## BACHELOR

### - BA 1st year -

#### Module: Literature & Culture I

Module Coordinator: Anne Koenen.

This module acquaints students with the basic issues and techniques of American literary studies. It provides a survey of United States literary history as well as an introduction to the methods and theories employed in literary and cultural analysis.

#### 110 Lecture: American Literature, Beginnings to Present

Friday, 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, GWZ HS 2 0.10, A. Koenen

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

#### 111 Seminar 1

Tuesday, 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, NSG S410 (t.b.a.)

Based on American Studies' comprehensive notion of 'text' as referring to any complex cultural artifact, the class will focus on developing the skills required to analyze a wide range of different texts. Moreover, it will help develop a feeling for the questions and approaches typical of the field. Coursework will cover basic techniques of critically engaging texts, exemplary analyses and interpretations, as well as an overview of contemporary approaches in literary and cultural theory.

#### 112 Seminar 2

Thursday, 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, GWZ 2 5.16, K. Schmieder

Based on American Studies' comprehensive notion of 'text' as referring to any complex cultural artifact, the class will focus on developing the skills required to analyze a wide range of different texts. Moreover, it will help develop a feeling for the questions and approaches typical of the field. Coursework will cover basic techniques of critically engaging texts, exemplary analyses and interpretations, as well as an overview of contemporary approaches in literary and cultural theory.

**113 Tutorial 1**

Tuesday, 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, GWZ 2 5.16, C. Sharpe

This course deals with literary analysis from the language practice perspective. The writing skills required for the Module's seminar will be developed here through practical assignments given. There will be particular focus on the form, function, and structure of the English paragraph and also on providing a sound introduction on the how to write the English essay.

**114 Tutorial 2**

Wednesday, 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, NSG S110, C. Sharpe

This course deals with literary analysis from the language practice perspective. The writing skills required for the Module's seminar will be developed here through practical assignments given. There will be particular focus on the form, function, and structure of the English paragraph and also on providing a sound introduction on the how to write the English essay.

**Module: iTASK (international, interdisciplinary, integrated: Technical, Academic, Soft, and Career Skills)**

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett.

The goal of the module is to help students develop key skills to thrive in their studies and in their subsequent career choices. Leading reports from Germany and the United States show that a leading reason why students experience frustration in their studies and career pursuits is because of a relative lack of preparation in how to integrate personal and professional goals into a comprehensive plan for continuous individual development. For the generation of students beginning university, your learning and working life is expected to last approximately a half-century. This module is meant to help you prepare for that voyage. This module is thus meant to prepare you for the TASK ahead.

**121 Seminar**

Monday, 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, GWZ 2 5.16, C. Garrett

There are four types of skills that determine to a large degree a student's success at university, and in different careers after receiving a diploma. These are technical, academic, soft, and career skills. Moreover, the type of knowledge that one acquires at university plays a key role in how one thrives after leaving campus life. Especially important is knowledge that is international, interdisciplinary, and integrated into larger issues engaging societies worldwide. We will explore each set of skills, what they mean, and how to develop these further. We will do so by simultaneously exploring how they relate to the sort of knowledge and expertise expected across all sectors of the work world.

Lastly, we will integrate your learning experience together by developing your own studies-and-career-portfolio where you lay out goals, objectives, and plans for the next three years. This is the last but perhaps primary importance of the "i" before the TASK ahead, namely, it should be your individual experience that prepares you to thrive during your studies and career development.

**122 Tutorial**

Tuesday, 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, 2 5.16, C. Sharpe

The Tutorial will involve students discussing in further detail the broad themes broached during the lecture and integrating these discussions into various written and oral assignments to deepen communication, analytical, technical, and presentation skills.

**- BA 2nd Year -****Module: Society, History, and Politics II**

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett.

This module is meant to provide students with an interdisciplinary and integrated introduction to key developments and themes in the history, politics, and society of the United States from the Civil War to the present.

**210 Lecture: Society, History, & Politics II**

Wednesday, 05:15 PM to 06:45 PM, GWZ HS 2 0.10, C. Garrett

The lecture will explore the historical, political, and societal developments in the United States from the late nineteenth century to the emergence of the current century. While exploring the uniqueness of the "American experience," care will also be taken to place American society in an international context.

**211 Seminar 1: Issues in Contemporary American History, Politics, and Society**

Tuesday, 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, GWZ 2 5.16, t.b.a.

This proseminar will explore in more depth critical issues in contemporary American history, politics, and society, including the internationalization of American society, immigration, civil rights movements, the transformation of work, and America's role in the world. Students will improve their skills in research as well as in analysis and presentation.

### **213 Seminar 2: Key Documents in Contemporary American History, Politics, and Society**

Wednesday, 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, NSG S110, C. Sharpe

This seminar will complement the lecture and other seminar by offering students the opportunity to engage and discuss a diverse collection of primary documents from contemporary American history, politics, and society. These key documents will range from government reports, personal diaries, a variety of speeches, videos, and audio clips dealing with a wide range of issues also explored in the lecture and seminar.

### **Module: Language and Society – Applied Linguistics**

Module Coordinator: Sylvia Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

The objective of this module is to gain basic, but compared to module 04-001-1003 more extended, knowledge about the varieties as well as textlinguistics of US English.

### **10051 Lecture: Varieties of English**

Monday, 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, HSG HS 1, C. Pollner (Institut für Anglistik)

This lecture will introduce participants to national, local, social and stylistic varieties of English. Some topics to be included will be brief introductions to, among others, English as a Global Language, Standard English, other UK varieties, US English including African American Vernacular English, English in Australia, English in India, the Cockney dialect/accents, genderlects etc.

### **10052 Seminar: Varieties of US-English**

Tuesday, 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, NSG S114, S. Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

After the introduction into the concept of variation/varieties we will deal with language variation in contemporary American English/US-English. Regional variation will be the main issue as we learn about the history of US-English dialects and the contemporary dialect areas (e.g. Boston/New England and NYC) together with their features in pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary as compared with General American English (= Western Type). Current developments and ethnic variation are connected topics. As we proceed, insights into theoretical phenomena will be gained such as how to elicit spontaneous speech for research, why linguistic variables are important, or what isoglosses and hypercorrection tell us about variation in language.

Literatur: Reader bei Printy (Ritterstr. 5)

Prüfung: Referat (15 Minuten)

### **10053 Seminar: Textlinguistics: Cohesion and Coherence**

Friday, 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, NSG S103, B. Seidel (Institut für Anglistik)

After an introduction to basic concepts and domains of text linguistics, we will focus on two essential features of textuality: cohesion and coherence. Which elements of the language system serve as cohesive devices? How do they contribute to coherence and what else creates text-specific coherence? In which way are semantic relations in the lexicon "exploited" and modified for textual semantic relations?

We will apply relevant theories in the analysis of texts of your own choice; a wide range of text types is welcome for this purpose. Furthermore, insights into text structure will generally be helpful for the interpretation and production of texts.

Literatur: Ein Reader ist zu Semesterbeginn bei Printy (Ritterstr. 5) käuflich zu erwerben.

Prüfung: Hausarbeit (Bearbeitungszeit: 6 Wochen)

## **- BA 3rd Year -**

### **Module: Project Module**

Module Coordinators: Anne Koenen / Crister Garrett.

This module is meant to allow BA students to apply the analytical, presentational, and organizational skills that they have learned to this date in their studies with a concrete project in American Studies involving interdisciplinary, international, and integrative types of knowledge and learning. The module thus provides an interface between classroom skills and knowledge and preparation for professional international careers. The colloquium provides the forum in which students can pursue these learning goals.

Students may choose which one of the two Colloquia offered for the module they want to attend. For details about the registration please carefully read the registration information sheet, which will be available at the American Studies Website by September.

**310 Project Colloquium 1**

Friday, 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, GWZ 3 5.15, A. Koenen

In this colloquium we will bring together technology skills, analytical skills, organization and planning skills, and presentation skills in a project tentatively titled "symposium project."

First meetings of the colloquium will be used to create consensus around the concept and content of the (mini)-conference project. Thereafter students will "drive the project" with the professor acting as a type of consultant who then provides a final assessment of the project along with another colleague.

**311 Project Colloquium 2**

Tuesday, 03:15 PM to 04:45 PM, GWZ 2 5.16, C. Garrett

Students will practice skills of interdisciplinary learning, international learning, integrated learning, analysis, conceptualisation, and the expression of ideas and arguments in oral and written form.

By the end of the colloquium students should be able to carry out a sophisticated scholarly and professional project that includes a clear thesis/goal, original research, and the clear (and convincing) presentation of ideas. Students will practice other project-related skills, including team work, project organization and implementation, marketing, fund-raising, and meeting firm deadlines.

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**MASTER**

**- MA 1st Year -**

**Module: Methods and Theories in American Studies**

Module Coordinator: t.b.a.

This module provides students with an overview of key methods and theories employed in the interdisciplinary field of American studies. It is meant to prepare students for the program's advanced modules.

**410 Lecture: Methods and Theories in American Studies**

Thursday, 11:15 AM to 12:45 AM, GWZ 3 5.15, A. Koenen/ C. Garrett

The lecture series on "Methods and Theories in American Studies" will explore the various methodological and theoretical approaches to American Studies, the nature of the debate about the strengths and possible drawbacks of different methods and theories, and where the field of American Studies is today in its lively and open debate about the conceptualization, pursuit and results of diverse approaches in the field.

**411 Seminar**

t.b.a.

This seminar will address major paradigms of and theories used in American Studies, their evolution and contestation in the past half-century or so of scholarship traveling under the name of 'American Studies.' We will read and discuss critical writing that probes into the beginnings of American Studies in the so-called myth-and-symbol school and into the various ways in which this foundational paradigm has been challenged and expanded, e.g., by the group of scholars who called themselves the 'New Americanists.' We will explore some of the effects of the 'theoretical turn' on American Studies scholarship, its insistent call to reflect on basic assumptions, e.g., about culture, texts, nation, 'race,' gender, and, ultimately, the nature of scholarship.

**412 Tutorial**

Wednesday, 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, NSG S110, C. Sharpe

This course is aimed at assisting students in their writing assignments in their American Studies coursework. It focuses on the scholarly format of the research paper, its structure and conventions as well as the techniques of outlining, drafting, revising, and documenting it requires. Students will work on their individual problem areas in academic writing, accompanied by individual consultation time set aside in the semester, and much attention will be given to peer review work, too.



## **Module: Graduate Colloquium**

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett.

This module acquaints students with current issues and debates in American studies. Two exemplary seminars represent different academic traditions within this interdisciplinary field of inquiry, giving students an impression of their respective scholarly interests and approaches.

### **420 Seminar A: Contemporary America and the Writings that Have Made It (= 020)**

Tuesday, 03:15 PM to 06:45 PM, NSG S104, P. Rundquist

This seminar starts on October 13 and takes place every two weeks.

This is a colloquium for MA students that focuses on discussion and analysis of various works that have had a significant impact on American life since the end of the Second World War. The works chosen are deliberately diverse in order to acquaint students with a variety of sources and methods which have been used to explain, maintain, or alter American society in the past half century.

Students in the colloquium will be asked to register to lead a class discussion on a specific work during a typical 90-minute class session. In addition to the specific reading for the class, the Semesterapparat will also include academic articles and other materials which put the specific reading into context.

The class readings include a diverse set of texts, including (but not limited to) major academic works: (for example, Samuel P. Huntington's *Clash of Civilizations*, Robert Putnam's *Bowling Alone*, Francis Fukayama *The End of History*), popular non-fiction works (for example, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, and Anthony Lewis' *Gideon's Trumpet*), journalistic treatments (for example, the *Pentagon Papers* and *Watergate*), Supreme Court arguments and decisions (the *Brown*, *Roe* and *Baake* decisions), and cultural-political monographs (for example, *The Feminine Mystique* by Friedan and Barry Goldwater's *Conscience of a Conservative*).

### **421 Seminar B: Crimes and Nameless Things: Realism and Fantasy (= 010)**

Thursday, 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, GWZ 2 5.16, A. Koenen

The seminar will look at realism and fantasy as the dominant modes of writing in American literature. We will discuss periods (realism), genres indebted to the modes (detective fiction, science fiction) and theories that explore the potentials and concerns of the modes.

Texts: Henry James, *Daisy Miller*; *The Turn of the Screw*; Mark Twain, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*; Ursula K. LeGuin, *The Left Hand of Darkness*; Stephen King, *Pet Sematary*; Anne Rice, *Interview with the Vampire*).

A reader with short stories (by Poe, Wharton, Perkins Gilman, Chopin, Hemingway, Alice Walker, Butler), excerpts from novels (O'Nan, *Wish You Were Here*), and theoretical approaches (Jackson, Freud) will be provided.

## **Module: iCAN (international, interdisciplinary, integrated Career and Academic Networking)**

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett.

The module helps students to develop important learning and professional skills, and to strategize the integration of graduate studies with professional development. These skills include advanced study and research techniques, expert language acquisition, transcultural learning, analytical and writing skills, public speaking, debating, presentation skills, as well as team work and communication. The module addresses active career management by engaging the international career trends directly impacting American Studies, and by providing students with a forum in which to discuss and plan professional career development upon completion of their studies.

### **430 Professional Development Seminar**

Tuesday, 09:15 AM to 11:45 AM, GWZ 3 5.15, C. Garrett

Class starts on 14 October and takes place every two weeks.

This professional development seminar will introduce students to the professional context in which American Studies finds itself regarding major trends in international career development. What skills, what types of knowledge, are employers in education, international organizations, various professional branches (e.g., law), and the media looking for? How do these trends impact how one pursues graduate studies, and how one begins now to prepare for the period after graduate school?

### **431 Applied Seminar**

t.b.a.

From identifying a topic of profound academic interest to writing a Call for Papers, from corresponding with authors to gathering financial support, from reviewing others' work to suggesting modifications, from grouping articles to sections to writing an introduction – editing a scholarly publication entails a wide range of professional skills central to the academia and to non-academic

work settings alike.

In 2007/08, the first group of editors has founded and published *aspeers*, the first and currently only graduate-level peer-reviewed journal for European American Studies, i.e. a journal that publishes the critical work of pre-PhD authors from (other) European universities.

This semester, we will work to edit the third issue of the journal and to refine its positioning in the market. This will include learning about different publication formats and about academic publishing in the US and Germany in general. Most of the time and workload, however, will go into the editing process outlined above. Mostly working in project groups, the module thus provides a truly unique opportunity to acquire and improve professional skills in areas such as critical reading and writing, word processing, public relations, and communication.

The course is part of the American Studies Leipzig professionalization module (SQM) iCAN. Accordingly, participants are required to attend the module lecture as well and are expected to devote a significant amount of time and energy to the module. The expected workload for the semester is 300 hours per person. The course is open to advanced Magister students in their Hauptstudium as well. Anticipating strong interest in the course, students willing to participate have to apply by sending a 500-1000 word Statement of Purpose (including their motivation and previous experience, if any) to [smherrmann@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:smherrmann@uni-leipzig.de) by September 30, 2009.

Classes start in week of 13 Oct.

Find information on the project at [www.aspeers.com](http://www.aspeers.com)

#### **432 Tutorial**

Tuesday, 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, GWZ 2 5.16, C. Sharpe

This class starts on October 13 and takes place every two weeks.

The iCAN Tutorial is meant to provide students with advanced guidance on how to write analytical essays and to prepare professional documents such as cover letters, resumes, and job applications. It will also provide students a forum in which to practice professional writing skills associated with the *aspeers* project (see iCAN seminar).

#### **- MA 2nd Year -**

#### **Module: Consumption, Culture, and Identity**

Module Coordinator: Anne Koenen

This module focuses on the study of consumer and popular culture. The two seminars approach consumer culture from different academic perspectives, aiming to acquaint students with the respective research interests and methodologies they contribute to the exploration of consumption, culture, and identity.

#### **440 Seminar A: Consumerism and Culture in the US (= 011)**

Friday, 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, GWZ 2 5.16, A. Koenen

At the turn of the twentieth century, an emerging consumer culture in the United States promoted constant spending to meet material needs and develop social identity and self-cultivation. A century later, cultural critics have claimed that consumerism has become the dominant ideology of our times. In this seminar, we will read fictional representations as well as cultural manifestations of consumerism with the intention of analysing the emergence of the US as a consumer society and significant trends in the 20th century (like the mall of America, department stores versus mail-order, e-commerce). Against the background of various theories of consumerism, we will first, after a grounding in theory, discuss literature that celebrates or criticizes the re-interpretation of the American Dream in parameters of materialism. The second half of the seminar will be in the format of a "blockseminar" where students will present the result of workshops on various aspects of consumerism.

Purchase of novels (Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*; Lewis, *Main Street*) recommended.

A reader with short stories, excerpts (e.g. Updike, *Rabbit at Rest*), and criticism will be provided.

#### **441 Seminar B: Sociology of Consumption and Social Movements**

Friday, 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, NSG S122, H. Flam

The course will be held in English since most texts are also in English, but individual contributions can be made in German. The course will start with an overview of classic and modern theories of consumption, followed by an investigation of the modern forms of consumption, such as the mail order, department store or shopping mall. Relying on Hirschman the course will then shift focus to protest movements that challenge consumerism and its negative consequences, such as overeating, compulsion to consume, environmental destruction, "unsafe" reliance on nuclear power for civilian purposes or child labour. The course will then focus on the standard theories of social movements, to end up with a question of under what conditions civil disobedience is justified – this will

create an opportunity to discuss various concepts of democracy, citizenship and conflict.

## **Module: Transatlantic Space**

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

The construction of the United States has been from the beginning an exercise shaped by, in the context of, and opposed to, European influences. The history and contemporary nature of the United States is impossible to understand in any meaningful way without its transatlantic context. The influences, institutions, values, and issues that compel the United States and Europe to interact, to influence each other, to compete, can be defined as the transatlantic space. The transatlantic space, even in the unfolding transpacific era, continues to be central to the American experience and its understanding.

### **450 Transatlantic Encounters and Perceptions**

Keil

21.10.09, 01:15 PM - 04:45 PM: GWZ 2 5.16  
13.11.09, 01:14 PM - 04:45 PM: GWZ 2 5.16  
27.11.09, 01:15 PM - 04:45 PM: GWZ 2 5.16  
18.12.09, 01:15 PM - 04:45 PM: GWZ 2 5.16  
15.01.10, 01:15 PM - 04:45 PM: GWZ 2 5.16  
16.01.10, 10:15 AM - 03:45 PM: GWZ 2 5.16

[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/327](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/327)

The course will try to understand the transatlantic space since the age of discovery as a market place for commercial, technological, social, cultural, and political exchange. However differently societies on both sides of the Atlantic developed, there were also common roots and interests that bound them together in various ways. The seminar will focus on some of these commonalities and differences by addressing the following issues: economic interdependence from the mercantile system to today; the slave trade and the creation of plantation societies; colonial competition; colonial and imperial outlooks; ideological foundations of emerging and traditional societies; technological transfer; isolationism and alliances; immigration and exiles; high culture and mass culture; divergent paths and mutual perceptions.

### **451 Seminar B: Contesting the Transatlantic Space (= 022)**

Thursday, 03:15 PM to 04:45PM, GWZ 2 5.16, C. Garrett

The United States and Europe are of fundamental importance to each other in terms of interests, influences, and their coinciding cooperation and competition in shaping global politics. The transatlantic space – or institutions, norms, and issues around which and with which the U.S. and Europe interact – is undergoing a dynamic phase of recalibration, or more pointedly, contestation. One overarching theme that underlines the challenges to the transatlantic space is security in its fullest sense. With the end of the cold war and in the context of 9-11 the United States and Europe are engaged in a fundamental discussion about what societies mean by security, and what priorities citizens and governments want to set for pursuing security. In this seminar we will focus on three types of security to explore the ongoing contesting of the transatlantic space: economic security, environmental security, and military security.

## **Module: Immigration, Ethnicity, and Citizenship**

The United States is a country of immigration; Germany is not. Thus the standard line to contrast a basic difference between the two countries in terms of mobility and citizenship. Reality is of course considerably more complex for both countries. Human mobility and ethnic diversity stand at the center of how the United States has perceived itself from its earliest moments. The concept of citizenship, of the formal political and social contract involving rights and obligations for those born into citizenship, or granted citizenship, lies at the heart of how a country perceives its basic values, norms, institutions – in short, that for which it stands. The American story cannot be understood without a strong appreciation of how immigration and ethnicity and their importance for defining citizenship have infused the country's construction, and struggle with itself. In the debates about state, society, and citizenship, the United States and Europe have played a fundamental role in influencing each other's evolving models with which to regulate mobility, diversity, and belonging.

### **460 Seminar A: Immigration Policy and Politics: Past and Present (= 023)**

Organizational meetings: October 20 and November 3, 03:15 PM to 06:45 PM, NSG S104

Block Seminar Presentation Meetings: Friday, 05:15 to 08:45 PM (exact dates for November, December and January to be arranged through discussions with class), GWZ 2 5.16

P. Rundquist

Immigration has been a vital and, at times, controversial aspect of American life from the colonial era to the present. This seminar will examine topics examining the shift in American immigration policy from one of general tolerance to one of prioritization, the first priorities based on race and ethnicity, to current priorities based on domestic labor market needs and migrant skills. The course will also treat the related concept of naturalization, the process of acquiring citizenship by the foreign-born. In this aspect, we will examine such issues as citizenship acquisition and loss through marriage, and other implicit and explicit naturalization barriers as political views, past life in native countries, and other disqualifying issues. And, certain topics to be covered in the course also offer a comparison of American immigration and naturalization policies with European policies, as well as examination of such contemporary issues as dual citizenship, and concerns about terrorism and border security following the 9/11 attacks.

The first several sessions of the course will be devoted to lectures by the professor followed by a sequence of seminar presentations by students, with classroom discussions based on the presentations and readings keyed to the topics presented.

Readings will include such works as: Alden, Edward H. *The closing of the American border*; Chebel d'Appolonia, Ariane (hrsg). *Immigration, integration and security: America and Europe in contemporary perspective*; Lee, Erika. *Chinese immigration during the exclusion era*; Hölbling, Walter (hrsg). *The European emigrant experience in the USA*; Diner, Hasia. *The Jews of the United States*; Handlin, Oscar. *The uprooted*; Franklin, Frank George. *The legislative history of naturalization in the United States from the revolutionary war to 1861*; and Rundquist, Paul. *A uniform rule: Congress and the Courts in American Naturalization*.

## 461 Race and Religion in the American South

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/308

Race (and racism) along with religion have played a major role in shaping the history and culture of the region and the nation. This course, utilizing readings and class discussion, will examine particular historical episodes to determine the rise of racism, the development of a certain style of religion that came to dominate the South, and the subsequent intertwined relationship of race and religion in such events as the defense of slavery, the beginning of the Civil War, Confederate nationalism and soldiers' morale, the rise of the myth of the Lost Cause, the development of segregation and the rise of the "Solid South," the history of the Civil Rights movement and white opposition to it, and the rise of fundamentalism and its role in politics. The course will conclude with consideration of the meaning of the election of Barack Obama. The workload for this seminar will include class readings, discussion, and a paper of approximately 15 typed pages, which will be discussed and critiqued by class participants during the final class meetings.

### Module: iDEWEY (international, interdisciplinary, integrated Dewey Principle)

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

The module reflects the American philosopher John Dewey and a cornerstone of his philosophy of pragmatism involving "learning by doing." The "i" before his name is meant to reflect individual approaches to American Studies and the three cornerstones of the American Studies Leipzig approach to the field: interdisciplinary, international, and integrative learning and scholarship.

In this spirit and purpose, the module provides a platform for graduate students to organize a conference around a theme that they conceptualize. The theme should reflect the interdisciplinary, international, and integrative nature of American Studies. The conference also provides students with a substantial opportunity to implement a complex project that combines their knowledge expertise with their international career skills such as cross-cultural communication, team management, project implementation, fundraising, marketing, presentation, and negotiation.

## 470 Seminar

Monday, 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, GWZ 2 5.16, C. Garrett

The praxis seminar provides a space where students and faculty help conceptualize a conference, plan its implementation, and then carry out the international student conference. The role of the instructor is rather as a consultant, with students being encouraged to assume a leadership role.

### Registration for Classes

Some classes require prior registration. To learn more about registration procedures for students in the Institute's different programs (Magister, BA, MA; service for Lehramt and IALT), please have a look at the Registration Information Sheet available at the American Studies Website by March.

### Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5