

AMERICAN STUDIES LEIPZIG

COURSE CATALOG WINTER TERM 2010/11

INTRODUCTION

I. CONTACT INFORMATION

The Institute for American Studies is located at the University's Humanities Building (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum, GWZ), Beethovenstraße 15, on the 5th floor – house 3.

For details on our programs and faculty, please visit the American Studies Leipzig (ASL) website at <http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de>

Name	Room	Phone
Prof. Dr. Crister Garrett crister.garrett@uni-leipzig.de	3505	97 37 335
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Sebastian Herrmann , M. A. smherrmann@uni-leipzig.de	3502	97 37 334
Anja Eifert , M. A. anja.eifert@uni-leipzig.de	3501	97 37 336
Catherine Sharpe sharpe@rz.uni-leipzig.de	3501	97 37 336

II. SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Anne Keyselt
Room 3506

Phone: 97 37 330
Fax: 97 37 339
Email: americanstudies@uni-leipzig.de

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9.30 am – 14.30 pm

III. 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, Sebastian Herrmann, M.A., Anja Eifert, M.A.

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

- Prof. Crister Garrett
- Dr. Katja Schmieder
- Sebastian Herrmann

Questions relating to specific fields of study, including format of exams:

- **SHP/Kulturgeschichte:** Prof. Crister Garrett, Anja Eifert, M.A.
- **LC/Literaturwissenschaft:** Prof. Anne Koenen, Dr. Katja Schmieder, Sebastian Herrmann, M.A.

IV. 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 by September on the American Studies website. As access to some classes is quite competitive, please take the procedures and deadlines for registration seriously.

V. 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 **pre-requisites**. 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).

VI. 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, partici-

pating in an international degree program). We will do our very best to include you in our courses.

VII. COURSES

You can conveniently browse and download the American Studies course offerings from the American Studies website at <http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/curriculum/courses>. Please check the course listings for any news and updates.

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 October 11, 2010.

COURSE CATALOG WINTER TERM 2010/11

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 September.

ADDRESSES

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15
NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5
HSG (Hörsaalgebäude), Universitätsstr. 7
Dresdner Bank (Interim), Dittrichring 5 - 7

I. MAGISTER HAUPTSTUDIUM

Literaturwissenschaft

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

Thursday, 09:15 am to 10:45 am, GWZ 2.516, 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.

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.

Purchase of Henry James' The Turn of the Screw, Mark Twain's Pudd'nhead Wilson, Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Herland, and Anne Rice's Interview with the Vampire recommended.

This seminar is open to a strictly limited number of Magister students. Please apply by email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) till September 30, specifying your major and minor, the number of semesters you've studied, and whether you need to get a 'Schein'.

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

Friday, 09:15 am to 10:45 am, NSG 215, A. Koenen

Some 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 results of workshops on various aspects of consumerism.

Purchase of *Sister Carrie* (Theodore Dreiser) recommended. A reader with excerpts from novels (*Main Street*, *American Psycho*, *Rabbit at Rest*) as well as theoretical texts and short stories will be provided.

This seminar is open to a strictly limited number of Magister students. Please apply by email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) till September 30, specifying your major and minor, the number of semesters you've studied, and whether you need to get a 'Schein'.

Kulturgeschichte

020 Seminar: US-EU Relations and Cultures of Global Governance (= 450)

Tuesday, 03:15 pm to 04:45 pm, GWZ 2.516, C. Garrett

Debates about global governance are shaping more than ever the evolution of US-EU ties. In this seminar we will explore how the United States constructs strategy toward the E.U. in the context of global governance and what this reveals about the values, norms, and institutions structuring more broadly America's engagement with Europe. American policies toward the EU also have of course to do with European approaches to cooperation (and competition) with the United States, especially in a global context. The seminar will thus explore at a more basic level how cultures of politics and policy – in this case cultures of global governance emerging from the United States and the EU – are shaped by the interplay of values and norms, institutions, and interests.

021 Seminar: Contesting the Transatlantic Space (= 451)

Wednesday, 01:15 pm to 02:45pm, GWZ 2.516, C. Garrett

The transatlantic space – or the values and norms, institutions, 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 basic discussion about what societies mean by security, and what priorities citizens and governments want to set for pursuing security. In this seminar we will explore cultures of security in the United States and Europe that lead to cooperation, competition, and the contestation of the transatlantic space.

022 Seminar: "We never crossed the border, the border crossed us": Mexican American cultural productions (= 460)

Wednesday, 09:15 am to 10:45 am, GWZ 2.516, G. Pisarz-Ramírez

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

023 Seminar: African-Americans in the U.S. South: History and Culture (= 461)

Blockseminar, H. Keil (with Elisabeth Thiele, Institut für Ethnologie)

Sessions:

Friday, 15 October 2010, 1 – 4 pm, NSG 204

Friday, 29 October, 1 – 5 pm, NSG 201

Friday, 12 November, 1 – 5 pm, NSG 201

Friday, 3 December, 1 – 5 pm, NSG 203

Friday, 17 December, 1 – 5 pm, NSG 204

Friday, 21 January 2011, 1 – 5 pm, NSG 201

Saturday, 22 January, 10 am – 4 pm, GWZ 2.516

The seminar will focus on the history and culture of African-Americans. A collaborative endeavor of the Institute of American Studies and of the Institute of Ethnology, it will explore the history and legacy of slavery and emancipation. We will look at: the institutionalization of segregation after the Civil War; the resistance of the African-American community against discrimination; the rise of the "long" Civil Rights Movement; the contemporary situation of the African-American community in the South. Special attention will be given to the role of African derived traditions and the emergence of an African-American culture, its religious expressions and syntheses, and its impact on American popular culture.

The seminar will also serve as preparation for a study tour to the American South in September 2011.

024 The President and Congress - Sharing Power in a Divisive Era

Blockseminar, P. Rundquist

Session:

Friday, 22 October 2010, 1 – 5 pm, GWZ 2.516

Friday, 5 November, 1 – 5 pm, GWZ 2.516

Friday, 14 January, 1 – 6 pm, GWZ 2.516

Saturday, 15 January, 10 am – 6 pm, GWZ 2.516

Sunday, 16 January, 10 am – 6 pm, GWZ 2.516 (if necessary for student presentations)

Friday, 28 January, 1 – 6 pm, GWZ 2.516

Saturday, 29 January, 10 am – 6 pm, GWZ 2.516

The framers of the Constitution sought a government that combined divided authorities and shared responsibilities in which “ambition must be made to counter ambition.” This seminar seeks to examine various topics of both historical and contemporary relevance concerning relations between the President and Congress. Among the topics are: the impact of mid-term elections on national parties, on current and future representation in Congress, and on presidential governing styles and the quantity and quality of lawmaking by Congress; the constitutional and practical resources available to the Congress and the President to defend their various powers from challenge by other branches; the role of Congress in representing various interests present among American voters; the role of the established media in presidential and congressional actions; the impact of new media and the Internet in public discourse; and examination of case studies focusing on presidential success and failure in dealing with Congress and the corollary of congressional limits imposed on the executive.

Books on reserve for course at Uni-Leipzig Library:

Wilfried Mausbach, Hrsg. *The American Presidency: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. Universitätsverlag Winter, 2010.

Andrew Rudalevige. *The new imperial presidency: renewing presidential power after Watergate*. University of Michigan Press, 2006.

Robert C. Byrd. *Losing America: confronting a reckless and arrogant presidency*. Norton, 2004.

Charles O. Jones. *Separate but equal branches: Congress and the presidency*. Chatham House, 1999.

David R. Mayhew. *America's Congress: Congress in the public sphere: James Madison through Newt Gingrich*. Yale University Press, 2000.

Gary C. Jacobson. *The politics of congressional elections*. Longman's, 1997.

Paul S. Herrnson. *Congressional elections: campaigning at home and in Washington*. CQ Press, 1995.

Additional articles, both scholarly and journalistic, will be available in electronic form.

Course format:

The seminar will be conducted as a block seminar. The first two class meetings will focus on organizational matters (such as the assignment of presentation topics to students in the seminar), and on summary lectures by the professor setting the stage for further examination of topics connected to legislative-executive relations. These first two class meetings will be for a double-length lecture period, with a coffee-break between class periods. The remaining sessions will be over weekends during which students will deliver presentations on their chosen topics, with discussions led by the professor to which seminar members are expected to contribute.

Course grades:

The overall student grade will be determined as follows: 20%--class attendance and participation; 30%--oral presentation; 50%--semester paper (due not later than 15 March, with grade reduction for late submission).

II. 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, HSG HS 2, 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

Thursday, 11:15 am to 12:45 pm, NSG 227 (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, NSG 227, (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.

113 Tutorial 1

Tuesday, 09:15 am to 10:45 am, Dresdner Bank 3-01, 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 415, 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

Wednesday, 03:15 pm to 4:45 pm, NSG 127, C. Garrett (1 SWS)

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, 11:15 am to 12:45 pm, Dresdner Bank 3-01, 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

Thursday, 11:15 am to 12:45 pm, HSG HS 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 1a: Issues in Contemporary American History, Politics, and Society

Monday, 11:15 am to 12:45 pm, GWZ 2.516, A. Eifert

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.

212 Seminar 1b: Issues in Contemporary American History, Politics, and Society

Thursday, 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm, NSG 115, M. Walter

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 2a: Key Documents in Contemporary American History, Politics, and Society

Wednesday, 11:15 am to 12:45 pm, NSG 415, 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.

214 Seminar 2b: Key Documents in Contemporary American History, Politics, and Society

Thursday, 09:15 am to 10:45 am, NSG 123, 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.

1005-1 Lecture: Varieties of English

Monday, 09:15 am to 10:45 am, HSG HS 3, 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.

1005-2 Seminar: Varieties of US-English

Wednesday, 09:15 am to 10:45 am, NSG 304, 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)

1005-3 Seminar: Textlinguistics: Pragmatics

Tuesday, 11:15 am to 12:45 pm, NSG 220, S. Fiedler (Institut für Anglistik)

Pragmatics is the study of meaning in context. It is one of the most dynamic and widely studied branches of linguistics today. This seminar intends to provide students with an introduction to its basic concepts (e.g. deixis, reference, presupposition, context, entailment, politeness). Furthermore, we will discuss Speech Act Theory and the Gricean theory of conversational implicatures. We will conclude the seminar by having a look at conversational structure and intercultural pragmatics.

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, organizational, and presentational skills that they have learned to date in their studies by pursuing a 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.

There will be three sections for the colloquia. These will be offered by Professor Anne Koenen, Professor Gabriele Pizarz-Ramirez, and by Professor Crister Garrett. Each professor will have a theme for their colloquium (please see descriptions below).

Students may choose which one of the three Colloquia sections 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, NSG 228, A. Koenen (1 SWS)

The theme for Professor Koenen's colloquium project will concern literature and culture with an emphasis on popular literature and culture.

First meetings of the colloquium will be used to create consensus around the concept and content of the colloquium 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.

The colloquium will allow students to deepen technology skills, analytical skills, organization and planning skills, and presentation skills in a team-driven project.

311 Project Colloquium 2

Wednesday, 03:15 pm to 04:45 pm, NSG 127, C. Garrett (1 SWS)

The theme for Professor Garrett's colloquium project will be contemporary history and politics with an emphasis on transatlantic relations.

First meetings of the colloquium will be used to create consensus around the concept and content of the colloquium 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.

The colloquium will allow students to deepen technology skills, analytical skills, organization and planning skills, and presentation skills in a team-driven project.

312 Project Colloquium 3

Thursday, 01:15 pm to 02:45 pm, GWZ 2.516, G. Pizarz-Ramírez (1 SWS)

The theme for Professor Pizarz-Ramírez's colloquium project will be Literary and Cultural Studies with an emphasis on Minority and Migration Studies.

First meetings of the colloquium will be used to create consensus around the concept and content of the colloquium 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.

The colloquium will allow students to deepen technology skills, analytical skills, organization and planning skills, and presentation skills in a team-driven project.

III. MASTER

- MA 1st Year -

Module: Methods and Theories in American Studies

Module Coordinator: Anne Koenen

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 pm, GWZ 2.516, A. Koenen/G. Piszcz-Ramírez

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: Methods and Theories in American Studies

Thursday, 01:15 pm to 02:45 pm, GWZ 3.515, K. Schmieder

This seminar will address major paradigms of and theories used in American Studies, their evolution and contestation in the past half-century of scholarship within the field. 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 "New Americanists." We will explore some of the effects of the "theoretical turn" in 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.

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: The Myth of the Savage in American Culture

Tuesday, 11:15 am to 12:45 pm, GWZ 2.516, G. Piszcz-Ramírez
Course starts on Oct. 19

This course will focus on the savage as a powerful trope in U.S. literature and culture. We will analyze European ideas of savagery that structured the reports of the early explorers of the American continent, as well as the specific manifestations of that concept in American discourses of expansionism, independence, slavery, modernism, and globalization. Tracing the changing meanings of "savagery" throughout American literature, we will consider traditional binarisms such as wilderness/civilization, self/other, nature/culture, as well as the ways in which these binarisms have been deconstructed in writings that have "talked back" to the trope of savagery.

Novels: Lydia Maria Child, *Hobomok*; Herman Melville, *Typee*. A reader with additional course materials will be provided.

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

Thursday, 09:15 am to 10:45 am, GWZ 2.516, 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.

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.

Purchase of Henry James' *The Turn of the Screw*, Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland*, and Anne Rice's *Interview with the Vampire* recommended.

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

Thursday, 03:15 pm to 04:45 pm, GWZ 2.516, C. Garrett (1 SWS)
Class starts on 21 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

Monday, 03:15 pm to 04:45 pm, GWZ 3.515, S. Herrmann

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 by September 30, 2010.

Find information on the project at www.aspeers.com

432 Tutorial

Tuesday, 01:15 pm to 02:45 pm, Dresdner Bank 3-01, C. Sharpe (1 SWS)

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).

This tutorial starts on October 19 and takes place every two weeks.

- 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, NSG 215, A. Koenen

Some 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 results of workshops on various aspects of consumerism.

Purchase of *Sister Carrie* (Theodore Dreiser) recommended. A reader with excerpts from novels (*Main Street*, *American Psycho*, *Rabbit at Rest*) as well as theoretical texts and short stories will be provided.

441 Seminar B: Selling Ethnicity: Culture, Commodity, Performance

Wednesday, 03:15 pm to 04:45 pm, GWZ 2.516, G. Pisarz-Ramírez

While theoreticians such as David Hollinger have recently envisioned a "post-ethnic" turn in America, it cannot be denied that ethnicity "sells": as the buying power of African Americans, Latinos, Asians and Native Americans is increasing faster than that of white households, ethnic la-

bels have become an important economic factor. This course will explore the production and performance of ethnic identities as well as the consumption of “ethnic products” in the complex field between representational politics, economics, and consumerism. Among the issues we will explore are ethnic stardom, the marketing and self-marketing of ethnic bodies, the changing image of particular ethnic groups in the media, as well as particular sites of ethnic performance such as blaxploitation movies, ethnic beauty pageants, telenovelas, etc.

The first seven sessions of this course will be taught as regular class sessions, followed by a project phase in which participants will be expected to investigate a research project of their own choice. The course will conclude with a full-day colloquium dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the student projects.

A reader with course materials will be provided.

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 Seminar A: US-EU Relations and Cultures of Global Governance (= 020)

Tuesday, 03:15 pm to 04:45 pm, GWZ 2.516, C. Garrett

Debates about global governance are shaping more than ever the evolution of US-EU ties. In this seminar we will explore how the United States constructs strategy toward the E.U. in the context of global governance and what this reveals about the values, norms, and institutions structuring more broadly America’s engagement with Europe. American policies toward the EU also have of course to do with European approaches to cooperation (and competition) with the United States, especially in a global context. The seminar will thus explore at a more basic level how cultures of politics and policy – in this case cultures of global governance emerging from the United States and the EU – are shaped by the interplay of values and norms, institutions, and interests.

451 Seminar B: Contesting the Transatlantic Space (= 021)

Wednesday, 01:15 pm to 02:45pm, GWZ 2.516, C. Garrett

The transatlantic space – or the values and norms, institutions, 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 basic discussion about what societies mean by secu-

riety, and what priorities citizens and governments want to set for pursuing security. In this seminar we will explore cultures of security in the United States and Europe that lead to cooperation, competition, and the contestation of the transatlantic space.

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: "We never crossed the border, the border crossed us": Mexican American cultural productions (= 022)

Wednesday, 09:15 am to 10:45 pm, GWZ 2.516, G. Piszcz-Ramírez

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

461 Seminar B: "African-Americans in the U.S. South: History and Culture" (= 023)

Blockseminar, H. Keil (with Elisabeth Thiele, Institut für Ethnologie)

Sessions:

Friday, 15 October 2010, 1 – 4 pm, NSG 204

Friday, 29 October, 1 – 5 pm, NSG 201

Friday, 12 November, 1 – 5 pm, NSG 201

Friday, 3 December, 1 – 5 pm, NSG 203

Friday, 17 December, 1 – 5 pm, NSG 204

Friday, 21 January 2011, 1 – 5 pm, NSG 201

Saturday, 22 January, 10 am – 4 pm, GWZ 2.516

The seminar will focus on the history and culture of African-Americans. A collaborative endeavor of the Institute of American Studies and of the Institute of Ethnology, it will explore the history and legacy of slavery and emancipation. We will look at: the institutionalization of segregation after the Civil War; the resistance of the African-American community against discrimination; the rise of the "long" Civil Rights Movement; the contemporary situation of the African-American community in the South. Special attention will be given to the role of African derived traditions and the emergence of an African-American culture, its religious expressions and syntheses, and its impact on American popular culture.

The seminar will also serve as preparation for a study tour to the American South in September 2011.

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

Thursday, 03:15 pm to 04:45 pm, GWZ 2.516, 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.

471 Tutorial

Tuesday, 01:15 pm to 02:45 pm, Dresdner Bank 3-01, C. Sharpe (1 SWS)

The iDEWEY tutorial is meant to provide students a learning environment in which they can have the various components of the conference project – conference proposal, call for papers, funding applications, correspondence with participants, planning documents, conference documents – evaluated and edited by the tutorial supervisor. In this sense the tutorial is meant to provide students with hands-on practice and feedback with which to improve concrete, essential professional skills.