

Course Catalog Winter Semester 2011/2012

American Studies Leipzig

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

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1 Information

Contact Information

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

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

Name	Room	Phone
Prof. Dr. Crister Garrett crister.garrett@uni-leipzig.de	3505	97 37 335
Prof. Dr. Anne Koenen koenen@uni-leipzig.de	3507	97 37 331
Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pisarz-Ramírez pisarz@uni-leipzig.de	3508	97 37 343
Dr. Katja Schmieder schmieder@rz.uni-leipzig.de	3502	97 37 334
Sebastian Herrmann, MA smherrmann@uni-leipzig.de	3503	97 37 337
Florian Bast, MA florian.bast@uni-leipzig.de	3502	97 37 334
Anja Eifert, MA anja.eifert@uni-leipzig.de	3501	97 37 336
Catherine Sharpe sharpe@uni-leipzig.de	3501	97 37 336

Secretary's Office

Isabel Holzke
Room 3506

Phone: 97 37 330

Fax: 97 37 339

Email: americanstudies@uni-leipzig.de

Office Hours:

Monday: 9:30 am - 3 pm

Tuesday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Friday: 9:30 am – noon

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, MA, Anja Eifert, MA, Florian Bast, MA

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, MA

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

- SHP/Kulturgeschichte: Prof. Crister Garrett, Anja Eifert, MA
- LC/Literaturwissenschaft: Prof. Anne Koenen, Dr. Katja Schmieder, Sebastian Herrmann, MA, Florian Bast, MA

Registration for Classes

Most classes require prior registration. To learn more about registration procedures for students in different ASL programs (Magister, BA, MA; service for Lehramt), please have a look at the Registration Information Sheet available in the following news item: <http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/blogs/15/registration-information-winter-term-201112>. As access to some classes is quite competitive, please take the procedures and deadlines for registration seriously.

American Studies Modules

Modules in the BA and MA programs are designed to achieve specific learning goals, they entail a specific amount and specific types of coursework and examinations, and they may have prerequisites. To learn more about these, we strongly encourage you to have a look at our program's Module Catalog (BA; MA) and at the appendix to our Conditions of Study (BA; MA).

International Students

International Students are very welcome in the courses offered by the Institute for American Studies. To learn more about places available in individual courses, please contact the instructor, and describe your situation briefly (i.e., exchange student, international guest student, participating in an international degree program). We will do our very best to include you in our courses.

Courses

Course catalogs of past semesters can be found in the Downloads and Resources Area.

For course offerings in Linguistics, please consult the British Studies course catalog, available at the website of the Institute for British Studies (<http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~angl>).

Unless stated otherwise, **classes start in the week of October 10th 2011.**

Students are responsible for keeping track of updates on actual course dates (some are alternating).

Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5

HSG (Hörsaalgebäude), Universitätsstr. 7

Commerzbank (formerly Dresdner Bank) (Interim), Dittrichring 5 – 7

2 BA Courses

Registration Guidelines:

For registration guidelines, please see this news item: <http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/blogs/15/registration-information-winter-term-201112>

2.1 Literature and Culture I (04-001-1001)

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.

The module consists of one lecture, one seminar, and one tutorial

Lecture: American Literature, Beginnings to Present

Friday, 11 am-1 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.

Seminar:

either a) Wednesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

E. Ravizza

www.lehrbox.de/424

or b) Thursday, 11 am-1 pm, GWZ 2.516

S. Herrmann

www.lehrbox.de/426

or c) Thursday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516

S. Herrmann

www.lehrbox.de/427

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.

Please note that the first session of the seminar will take place in the week of **October 17**.

Tutorial (Übung):

either a) Tuesday, 9-11 am, Commerzbank 201

C. Sharpe

lehrbox coming soon

or b) Wednesday, 9.15 -10.45 am, Commerzbank 101

C. Sharpe

lehrbox coming soon

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

S. Kleff

lehrbox coming soon

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.

2.2 iTASK (international, interdisciplinary, integrated: Technical, Academic, Soft, and Career Skills) (04-001-1004)

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 central 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, ongoing learning and working life is expected to last approximately a half-century. This module is meant to help prepare for that voyage. This module is thus meant to prepare for the TASK ahead.

The module consists of one seminar, and one tutorial

Seminar:

Wednesday, 3-5 pm NSG 402
C. Garrett
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/425

This class takes place every two weeks.

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.

Tutorial (Übung):

Tuesday, 11 am-1 pm Commerzbank 201
C. Sharpe
lehrbox coming soon

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.

2.3 Language and Society - Applied Linguistics (04-001-1005)

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.

The module consists of one lecture and two seminars

Lecture: Varieties of English

Tuesday, 7-9 pm HSG HS 3
I. Buchstaller

This lecture provides an overview of the syntactic, lexical and phonological variation across different varieties of English. It introduces participants to varieties in the UK, the US, Australia/New Zealand and other localities in the English-speaking world. We will also consider the issues of standards and standardisation, language contact, as well as ethnic, social and stylistic varieties of English.

Seminar: Textlinguistics

Thursday, 9-11 am NSG 320
W. Lörcher

In this seminar an overview of the basic concepts and domains of text linguistics will be given. Furthermore, the branches of this discipline, i.e. textology, text typology, text reception and text production, will be discussed in detail. This should be of help for text analysis, interpretation and production.

Seminar: Varieties of US-English

Friday, 9-11 am NSG 222
S. Reuter

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.

2.4 Society, History, and Politics II (04-001-1006)

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.

The module consists of one lecture and two seminars

Lecture:

Wednesday, 5-7 pm HSG HS 2
C. Garrett
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/422

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.

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

Monday, 11 am-1 pm GWZ 2.516
A. Eifert
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/319

or)

Monday, 3-5 pm GWZ 2.516
T. Schlobach
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/420

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.

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

Tuesday, 1-3 pm Commerzbank 101

C. Sharpe

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/227

or)

Wednesday, 11 am-1 pm Commerzbank 101

C. Sharpe

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/227

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.

2.5 Project Module (04-001-1009)

Module Coordinator: A. Koenen, C. Garrett, G. Piszcz-Ramírez

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.

The module consists of one colloquium (out of three)

Project Colloquium 1

Friday, 1-3 pm NSG 228
A. Koenen
www.lehrbox.de/413

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.

Project Colloquium 2

Wednesday, 3-5 pm NSG 405
C. Garrett
www.lehrbox.de/429

This class takes place every two weeks.

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.

Project Colloquium 3

Thursday, 1-3 pm GWZ 3.515

G. Piszcz-Ramírez

www.lehrbox.de/423

This class takes place every two weeks.

The theme for Professor Piszcz-Ramírez' colloquium project will concern 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.

3 MA Courses

Registration Guidelines:

For registration guidelines, please see this news item: <http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/blogs/15/registration-information-winter-term-201112>

3.1 Methods and Theories in American Studies (04-038-2001)

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.

The module consists of one lecture and one seminar

Lecture:

Thursday, 11-1 pm GWZ 3.515
A. Koenen/G. Piszcz-Ramírez
lehrbox coming soon

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.

Seminar

Wednesday, 1-3 pm GWZ 3.515
K. Schmieder
lehrbox coming soon

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.

3.2 Graduate Colloquium in American Studies (04-038-2002)

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.

The module consists of two seminars

Seminar: The Real Thing: American Realism and Naturalism

Tuesday, 11-1 pm GWZ 2.516

G. Piszcz-Ramírez

www.lehrbox.de/417

The terms “Realism” and “Naturalism” describe the dominant literary styles of American fiction during the period between the Civil War and the beginning of the Twentieth Century. As literary movements they were, to varying degrees, committed to “photographic truth” and “objectivity” in writing- or “the real thing,” as many nineteenth-century Americans termed it. This course investigates the development of Realism and Naturalism in the United States in relation to social and political changes in the U.S. in this period: the increasing rate of literacy, industrialization and urban growth, an expanding population base due to immigration, the rise in middle-class affluence and redefinitions of race, class, and gender. Authors will include Harding Davis, Howells, James, Wharton, Crane, Dreiser, London, and others.

Novels: William Dean Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham*; Willa Cather, *O Pioneers*; Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*. All other reading materials will be available from the course site on [lehrbox](http://lehrbox.de).

This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar for Literary Studies. Please apply for this seminar by email (piszcz@uni-leipzig.de) before October 7. In your application, please specify 1) your program of studies (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach, Lehramt), 2) the semester in which you study, and 3) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

Seminar: Contesting America: Contemporary Scholarly Debates About American History, Politics, and International Relations

Friday, 11-1 pm GWZ 3.515

C. Garrett/ H. Keil/ P. Rundquist

[lehrbox](http://lehrbox.de) coming soon

This seminar will explore contemporary scholarly debates about how to better understand key aspects of American history, politics, and international relations. Engaging scholarship published recently, participating professors in this seminar will explore with students the efforts to “complicate” our understanding of the American experience, to contest narratives about the unfolding of, for example, the cold war, the role of immigration in society, race and citizenship, national elections, political cultures and institutions, and America’s role in the world. Issues of methods and theories will be addressed, but the focus will be on how scholars and scholarship contest “settled” or “standard” approaches to understanding contemporary America.

Readings for the seminar will be either online or on reserve at the University Library.

3.3 iCAN (international, interdisciplinary, integrated Career and Academic Networking (04-038-2003))

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.

The module consists of one lecture, one seminar and one tutorial

Lecture:

Tuesday, 3-5 pm GWZ 2.516
C. Garrett
lehrbox coming soon

This class 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?

Seminar:

Monday, 3-5 pm GWZ 3.515
F. Bast
lehrbox coming soon

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 academia and to non-academic work settings alike.

In 2007/08, the first group of editors 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 5th 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 florian.bast@uni-leipzig.de by October 7, 2011.

Find information on the project at www.aspeers.com.

Tutorial (Übung):

Monday, 9-11 am GWZ 2.516
C. Sharpe
lehrbox coming soon

This class 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).

3.4 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.

The module consists of one seminar and one tutorial

Seminar:

Tuesday, 3-5 pm GWZ 3.516

C. Garrett

lehrbox coming soon

This class takes place every two weeks.

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.

Tutorial (Übung):

Monday, 9-11 am GWZ 2.516

C. Sharpe

lehrbox coming soon

This class takes place every two weeks.

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.

3.5 Transatlantic Space (04-038-2010)

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.

This module consists of two seminars

Seminar: Americanization and Its Discontents

Thursday, 9-11 am GWZ 2.516

A. Koenen

www.lehrbox.de/414

Have we been too Americanized by American culture, and: Is there such a thing as American culture? And: What exactly is Americanization, and how does it work?

The seminar will investigate these and related issues in the context of theories such as Kulturkritik, Kulturindustrie, and Kulturstudien, and by exploring Americanization in the areas of politics, music, dress, etc. The format will be weekly sessions for the (roughly) first half of the semester, followed by a hiatus during which students can work on presentations followed by a 'Blockseminar' in which students can present their research.

A reader with short stories, excerpts, and criticism will be provided.

This seminar is open to a strictly limited number of Magister students. Please apply by e-mail (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) by October 7, specifying your major and minor, the number of semesters you've studied, and whether you need to get a 'Schein.'

Seminar: US-EU Relations and Cultures of Globalization

Thursday, 3.15-4.45 pm Commerzbank 101

C. Garrett

www.lehrbox.de/430

The United States engagement with globalization today and historically involves basic societal debates about what should be American involvement in world affairs, and what it means to preserve or to enhance "the American way of life". This national debate takes place however in a global context, and involves fundamentally an engagement with the European Union and its own involvement in world affairs. This is no different for the member states of the EU, for which the United States is in turn the most important "other" in assessing and constructing strategies for globalizing societies. Thus for students of the United States and of Europe, and of global governance in general, getting a deeper and more thorough understanding of the cultures of globalization influencing politics in the US, the EU, and in a transatlantic context can substantially enhance the ability to assess how these states and societies will engage the unfolding era of global politics, and thus shape its basic course.

3.6 Consumption, Culture and Identity (04-038-2011)

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.

The module consists of two seminars

Seminar: Deviants and Outcasts in American Culture:

Wednesday, 3-5 pm GWZ 2.516
G. Piszcz-Ramírez
www.lehrbox.de/418

This course will address the ways in which deviance and difference have been represented and negotiated in American literature and culture from the early 19th century to the present time. We will look at novels, films, plays, visuals and other material to discuss how notions of deviance have changed, which function the figure of the outcast has had in various periods and how the definition as outcast has impacted on identity constructions and group and self-representation. Our discussion of deviance will be concerned with social nonconformism and crime, as well as with physical and mental disability and will address configurations of deviance such as the pariah, the outlaw, the monster, the freak, the extremist, and others.

Novels: Stewart O’Nan, *The Speed Queen*, *Sapphire*, *Push*. All other course materials will be available from the course site on Lehrbox.

Seminar: Consumerism and Culture in the US

Friday, 9-11 am NSG 401
A. Koenen
www.lehrbox.de/415

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 analyzing 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 reinterpretation 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.

A reader with short stories, excerpts, and criticism will be provided.

This seminar is open to a strictly limited number of Magister students. Please apply by e-mail (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) by October 7, specifying your major and minor, the number of semesters you’ve studied, and whether you need to get a ‘Schein.’

3.7 Picador Seminar

Picador Professor Porochista Khakpour will be teaching the following seminars in the upcoming WS 2011/2012.

This module consists of two seminars

Seminar: The Hyphenated American: Contemporary American Immigrant Narratives

Monday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

P. Khakpour

lehrbox coming soon

In this introduction to select 20th and 21st century American immigrant narratives, we will explore short and long fiction and creative nonfiction by an eclectic array of first and second generation immigrant writers. Latino, African-American, Asian-American, and Middle Eastern-American literature will be among the many traditions explored. Students will be responsible for the close reading of essays and stories and novels, the writing of substantial critical essays, and response papers. Class activities may also include personal narrative and creative writing exercises to supplement issues and ideas illuminated by the readings. Students can also expect to receive a scholarly foundation in the regional histories, the writers and their works, and the relevant literary movements.

Students in this class are expected to purchase the following books:

Daniel Halpern (Editor), *The Art of the Story: An International Anthology of Contemporary Short Stories*.

Gish Jen, *Typical American*.

Junot Diaz, *Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.

Gary Shteyngart, *Absurdistan*.

The books have been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung and should be available for purchase there around 20 September.

In order to attend this seminar bachelor students need to have passed the LC-II module. Master students and Magisterstudents in the Hauptstudium are welcome. Bachelor students may seek an Äquivalenzanerkennung to have this seminar count as one seminar of a later LC-III module. Magisterstudents, please note that the rules for using Picadorscheins apply for this course. Get in touch with your students advisors if you have any questions.

You can apply for this class via e-mail.

Workshop in Short Literary Prose

Tuesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

P. Khakpour

lehrbox coming soon

This class will explore the short story and the personal essay the diminutive siblings of the novel and the memoir and their relationships to each other. We will discuss issues of prose conception and creation and explore the seemingly opposing modes of fiction and nonfiction. We will examine the role of recreation and fabrication in narratives based on our “real lives” just as we will tackle how to best serve fictions with the stuff of our own personal experience.

As reading and writing are inextricably linked, of course, this class intertwines reading and writing assignments to expand your range of techniques in both. We’ll read the course materials and each other’s pages with equal care, and with precise attention to what has been created and how. We’ll read (and re-read) as *writers*, asking practical questions of craft, and we’ll write (and rewrite) as *readers*, taking the time to reflect and revise.

Students in this class are expected to purchase

Joyce Carol Oates (Editor), Robert Atwan (Consultant Editor), *The Best American Essays of the Century* (The Best American Series).

The book has been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung and should be available for purchase there around 20 September.

All ASL students are welcome. Magisterstudents, please note that the rules for using Picadorscheins apply for this course. Get in touch with your students advisors if you have any questions.

You can apply for this class via e-mail.

3.8 Immigration, Ethnicity, and Citizenship (04-038-2012)

Module Coordinator: H. Keil, C. Garrett, P. Rundquist and G. Pizarz-Ramirez

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.

This module consists of two seminars

Seminar: Ethnicity and Commodification: cultural imaginaries, representational politics and consumerism

Wednesday, 11-1 pm GWZ 3.515

G. Pizarz-Ramírez

www.lehrbox.de/419

While theoreticians such as David Hollinger have 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 labels 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 MA 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 half-day colloquium dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the student projects.

Reading materials for this course will be available from Lehrbox.

Seminar: Immigration and Ethnicity

GWZ 2.516
H. Keil
lehrbox coming soon

Following block seminar sessions:

Friday afternoons: October, 21th 1-4pm, October 28th 1-4pm, November, 11th 1-5pm, December, 2nd 1-5pm, December, 16th 1-5 pm, January, 6th 1-5pm, January 20th 1-5 pm, January,27th 1-5 pm

Saturday: January, 28th 10am-4pm

The course will discuss theories of immigration and integration before looking at United States immigration policy, and at specific problems that immigrants faced in the 19th and 20th centuries during periods of mass immigration. Case studies of the most important ethnic immigration groups will be undertaken to analyze typical immigration and settlement patterns and processes of economic, political, and social integration. Emphasis will also be placed on contemporary immigration groups and issues.

Introductory reading: Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, New York 1990.

4 Magister Courses

Registration Guidelines:

As a general rule, classes for Magister Hauptstudium require prior enrollment, usually via lehrbox or via email to the seminar instructor. There are no Magister Grundstudium courses any more. Students still in need of Grundstudium credit must attend the office hours of one of the study advisors. Students in the Hauptstudium may choose from the selection below.

4.1 Literaturwissenschaft

Following Seminars

Picador Seminar: The Hyphenated American: Contemporary American Immigrant Narratives

Monday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516
P. Khakpour
lehrbox coming soon

In this introduction to select 20th and 21st century American immigrant narratives, we will explore short and long fiction and creative nonfiction by an eclectic array of first and second generation immigrant writers. Latino, African-American, Asian-American, and Middle Eastern-American literature will be among the many traditions explored. Students will be responsible for the close reading of essays and stories and novels, the writing of substantial critical essays, and response papers. Class activities may also include personal narrative and creative writing exercises to supplement issues and ideas illuminated by the readings. Students can also expect to receive a scholarly foundation in the regional histories, the writers and their works, and the relevant literary movements.

Students in this class are expected to purchase the following books:

Daniel Halpern (Editor), *The Art of the Story: An International Anthology of Contemporary Short Stories*.

Gish Jen, *Typical American*.

Junot Diaz, *Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.

Gary Shteyngart, *Absurdistan*.

The books have been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung and should be available for purchase there around 20 September.

In order to attend this seminar bachelor students need to have passed the LC-II module. Master students and Magisterstudents in the Hauptstudium are welcome. Bachelor students may seek an Äquivalenzanerkennung to have this seminar count as one seminar of a later LC-III module. Magisterstudents, please note that the rules for using Picadorscheins apply for this course. Get in touch with your students advisors if you have any questions.

Picador Workshop in Short Literary Prose

Tuesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

P. Khakpour

lehrbox coming soon

This class will explore the short story and the personal essay the diminutive siblings of the novel and the memoir and their relationships to each other. We will discuss issues of prose conception and creation and explore the seemingly opposing modes of fiction and nonfiction. We will examine the role of recreation and fabrication in narratives based on our “real lives” just as we will tackle how to best serve fictions with the stuff of our own personal experience.

As reading and writing are inextricably linked, of course, this class intertwines reading and writing assignments to expand your range of techniques in both. We’ll read the course materials and each other’s pages with equal care, and with precise attention to what has been created and how. We’ll read (and re-read) as writers, asking practical questions of craft, and we’ll write (and rewrite) as readers, taking the time to reflect and revise.

Students in this class are expected to purchase

Joyce Carol Oates (Editor), Robert Atwan (Consultant Editor), *The Best American Essays of the Century* (The Best American Series).

The book has been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung and should be available for purchase there around 20 September.

All ASL students are welcome. Magisterstudents, please note that the rules for using Picadorscheins apply for this course. Get in touch with your students advisors if you have any questions.

You can apply for this class via e-mail.

Seminar: The Real Thing: American Realism and Naturalism

Tuesday, 11-1 pm GWZ 2.516

G. Pisarz-Ramírez

lehrbox coming soon

The terms “Realism” and “Naturalism” describe the dominant literary styles of American fiction during the period between the Civil War and the beginning of the Twentieth Century. As literary movements they were, to varying degrees, committed to “photographic truth” and “objectivity” in writing- or “the real thing,” as many nineteenth-century Americans termed it. This course investigates the development of Realism and Naturalism in the United States in relation to social and political changes in the U.S. in this period: the increasing rate of literacy, industrialization and urban growth, an expanding population base due to immigration, the rise in middle-class affluence and redefinitions of race, class, and gender. Authors will include Harding Davis, Howells, James, Wharton, Crane, Dreiser, London, and others.

Novels: William Dean Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham*; Willa Cather, *O Pioneers*; Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*. All other reading materials will be available from the course site on lehrbox.

This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar for Literary Studies. Please apply for this seminar by email (pizarz@uni-leipzig.de) before October 7. In your application, please specify 1) your program of studies (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach, Lehramt), 2) the semester in which you study, and 3) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

Seminar: Consumerism and Culture in the US

Friday, 9-11 am NSG 401
A. Koenen
lehrbox coming soon

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 analyzing 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.

A reader with short stories, excerpts, and criticism will be provided.

This seminar is open to a strictly limited number of Magister students. Please apply by e-mail (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) by October 7, specifying your major and minor, the number of semesters you've studied, and whether you need to get a 'Schein.'

Seminar: Americanization and Its Discontents

Thursday, 9-11 am GWZ 2.516
A. Koenen
lehrbox coming soon

Have we been too Americanized by American culture, and: Is there such a thing as American culture?
And: What exactly is Americanization, and how does it work?

The seminar will investigate these and related issues in the context of theories such as Kulturkritik, Kulturindustrie, and Kulturstudien, and by exploring Americanization in the areas of politics, music, dress, etc.

The format will be weekly sessions for the (roughly) first half of the semester, followed by a hiatus during which students can work on presentations followed by a 'Blockseminar' in which students can present their research.

A reader with short stories, excerpts, and criticism will be provided.

This seminar is open to a strictly limited number of Magister students. Please apply by e-mail (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) by October 7, specifying your major and minor, the number of semesters you've studied, and whether you need to get a 'Schein.'

4.2 Kulturgeschichte

Following Seminars

Seminar: US-EU Relations and Cultures of Globalization

Thursday, 3.15-4.45 pm Commerzbank 101

C. Garrett
lehrbox coming soon

The United States engagement with globalization today and historically involves basic societal debates about what should be American involvement in world affairs, and what it means to preserve or to enhance “the American way of life”. This national debate takes place however in a global context and involves fundamentally an engagement with the European Union and its own involvement in world affairs. This is no different for the member states of the EU, for which the United States is in turn the most important “other” in assessing and constructing strategies for globalizing societies. Thus, for students of the United States and of Europe, and of global governance in general, getting a deeper and more thorough understanding of the cultures of globalization influencing politics in the US, the EU, and in a transatlantic context can substantially enhance the ability to assess how these states and societies will engage the unfolding era of global politics, and thus shape its basic course.

Seminar: Immigration and Ethnicity

GWZ 2.516
H. Keil
lehrbox coming soon

Following block seminar sessions

Friday afternoons: October, 21st 1-4pm, October 28th 1-4pm, November, 11th 1-5pm, December, 2nd 1-5pm, December, 16th 1-5 pm, January, 6th 1-5pm, January 20th 1-5 pm, January, 27th 1-5 pm

Saturday: January 28th 10am-4pm

The course will discuss theories of immigration and integration before looking at United States immigration policy, and at specific problems that immigrants faced in the 19th and 20th centuries during periods of mass immigration. Case studies of the most important ethnic immigration groups will be undertaken to analyze typical immigration and settlement patterns and processes of economic, political, and social integration. Emphasis will also be placed on contemporary immigration groups and issues.

Introductory reading: Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, New York 1990.

Seminar: Government Crises and Reform

NSG S425
P. Rundquist
lehrbox coming soon

Mondays, 11 am - 3 pm. First session of the seminar Monday, October 17th, 2011.

In August, the bond rating firm, Standard & Poor's, criticized the American government and its officials: "America's governance and policymaking is becoming less stable, less effective, and less predictable." Another well-regarded analyst said, "American government is broken." If something is broken, it needs to be fixed, and its processes reformed. But a long-ago American politician once defined reform as "an indefinable something to be done, at a time nobody knows when, that will achieve nobody knows what." Current events and policies in American government (and elsewhere) encourage demands for change in government, change in the political elites that form government, and change in the rules and laws under which government works. The seminar will focus on the following issues: can government be made to work better? Are political parties a cause of government failures, or a solution? Are some problems too complex for successful government action? Can national constitutions make government function better? The course will focus primarily on American government, politics, and political traditions, but will also make use of comparative approaches to political institution change.

The course will meet for the first time on 17 October, for a double class period from 11 am - 3 pm. This session will focus on seminar organization and also preliminary remarks by the professor.

An additional lecture session touching on key topics in the seminar will occur on November 1.

Thereafter, course presentations will begin on December 5, and continue weekly until all class presentations have been completed.

Readings will include: Sartori, *Comparative Constitutional Engineering*; Zelizer, *On Capitol Hill: the Story of Congressional Reform*; Mayhew, *Divided We Govern*; Ornstein, *Political Power and Social Change*; Davies, *Banking on the Future: The Future, Rise, and Fall of Central Banks*; Sundquist, *Reform and Effective Government*; Valelley, ed. Princeton Readings in American Politics. Additional readings, such as electronic versions of articles, will also be available.

Students must complete a semester paper on a relevant topic of their choice. They will also be expected to deliver an in-class presentation on a subject related to the overall theme of the seminar. Such topics will include, for example, prior crisis-driven reforms, contemporary proposals to change the electoral system, change parliamentary rules of the House or Senate, alter power relationships in the constitution, alter presidential management of the bureaucracy, proposals to change governmental structures (including, for example, the banking system, the national security structure, or other Federal government bureaus). Registering for presentation topics will take place during the first class period.

Addresses:

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