

Course Catalog Winter Semester 2012/2013

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>

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Secretary's Office

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Advising

At the Institute for American Studies, students can rely on a comprehensive network of advisors to assist them with the organization of their programs of study. Please visit the ASL website for contact information and office hours of our faculty and staff.

These faculty members are available for the following concerns:

Questions relating to program requirements; general guidance and advice on how to organize your studies:

- Dr. Katja Schmieder, Sebastian Herrmann, MA, Anja Eifert, MA, Florian Bast, MA

General Advising

Mentoring "Qualitätspakt Lehre- Stil"

General study advising offered by "Philologische Fakultät"

Room: 3314

Tel: 97 37 464

www.uni-leipzig.de/~philolment

e-mail: philolment@uni-leipzig.de

Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12am, Thursday 1-3pm and by appointment

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

- 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 respective news item. As access to some classes is quite competitive, please take the procedures and deadlines for registration seriously.

American Studies Modules

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

International Students

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

Courses

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

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

Unless stated otherwise, **classes start in the week of October 8th 2012.**

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

Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5

HSG (Hörsaalgebäude), Universitätsstr. 7

2 BA Courses

Registration Guidelines:

For registration guidelines, please see this news item: americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/blogs/833/course-catalogue-winter-20122013

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.

Please note that the first session of the lecture will take place on **October 19**.

Seminar:

either a) Wednesday, 5-7 pm, GWZ 2.516
E. Ravizza
www.lehrbox.de/466

or b) Thursday, 11 am-1 pm, NSG 220
S. Herrmann
www.lehrbox.de/467

or c) Thursday, 3-5 pm, NSG 210
S. Herrmann
www.lehrbox.de/468

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 seminars will take place on **October 17** and **October 18**, respectively.

Tutorial (Übung):

either a) Tuesday, 9-11 am, NSG 224
C. Sharpe
lehrbox coming soon

or b) Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 220
C. Sharpe
lehrbox coming soon

or c) Wednesday, 11 am-1 pm, NSG 220
C. Sharpe
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.

Please note that the first session of the tutorials will take place on **October 16** and **October 17**, respectively.

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:

Monday, 3-5 pm NSG 327
C. Garrett
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/456

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 NSG 224
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 II - 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: Spoken English

Tuesday, 1-3 pm NSG 426
D. Schoenefeld

Literatur: The reader for the seminar will be provided in Moodle.

Prüfung: Hausarbeit

Until recently, most grammars of English have had a bias towards the written language. However, the availability of large amounts of spoken language data for all kinds of linguistic analyses has made it possible to also include findings about spoken language into grammatical descriptions of English.

The seminar will use a well-known publication in the field of such types of (corpus-based) descriptions of English, the *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. This grammatical description of English is based on the analysis of a very wide variety of texts, from spontaneous conversation in both the UK and the US, via novels and newspapers, up to academic articles and scientific textbooks. In our discussions of what is revealed in selected parts of the book, we shall focus on two things:

On a more coarse-grained level, we shall figure out what is common in the grammar of speech and writing, but also how in speaking people indeed make different choices of grammatical structure.

On a more fine-grained level, we shall become aware of the 'genre-specificity' of (some features of) English grammar, i.e. of the different choices speakers of English make in the production of different types of texts.

Seminar: Varieties of US-English

Friday, 9-11 am NSG 321

S. Reuter

Literatur: Reader bei Printy (Ritterstr. 5)

Prüfung: Referat

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, with special attention being given to the international themes and connections that have shaped the American experience.

The module consists of one lecture and two seminars

Lecture:

Wednesday, 5-7 pm HSG HS 4
C. Garrett
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/462

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

a) Wednesday, 3-5 pm GWZ 2.516
T. Schlobach
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/459

or)

b) Friday, 1-3 pm GWZ 2.516
T. Schlobach
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/458

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

a) Tuesday, 1-3 pm NSG 224

C. Sharpe

<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/227>

or)

b) Wednesday, 1-3 pm GWZ 2.516

K. Ullmann

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/460

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 Ethnicity and Diversity in US Culture (04-001-1018)

Module Coordinator: G. Pizarz-Ramirez

The goal of this module is to enable students to understand the United States as a multiethnic and multicultural space and to discuss on an academic level the cultural productions of various ethnic groups in the contexts of their specific historical and cultural development.

The module consists of one lecture and one seminar

Lecture:

Friday, 11 am-1 pm HSG HS 13
G. Pizarz-Ramirez

The lectures will discuss key concepts of and developments in race, ethnicity and minority studies as well as explore the cultures and literatures of ethnic groups in the U.S., focusing especially on U.S. Latinos/as, African Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans.

Lectures will start on **October 19**.

Seminar A: Defining and Redefining African American Literature

Wednesday, 11 am-1 pm GWZ 2.516
G. Pizarz-Ramirez
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/455

This course will explore “African American” as an unstable signifier that has been defined, redefined and questioned in the field of tension between normative literary expectations and individual expression throughout the history of African American writing. We will discuss texts from the 19th century to the present, including authors such as Harriet Jacobs, Charles Chesnutt, Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Sapphire, and Percival Everett.

Seminar B: African American Vampires

Block Seminar by Marie Löffler

Nov 10/11

Nov 30/Dec 1

Jan 25/26

“We live,” as Jeffrey J. Cohen has so eloquently pointed out, “in a time of monsters” (vii). Cohen’s comment has echoed hauntingly, particularly in the last few decades, which have witnessed an unprecedented upsurge of interest in monstrous figures. Vampires in particular have been unleashed within American popular culture—one need only think of Anne Rice’s novels, *The Vampire Diaries* or *True Blood*. Besides establishing a comprehensive background of both traditional and postmodern portrayals of the vampire, as well as of important themes and traditions within African American women’s literature, this class will primarily focus on analyzing representative texts of the long-neglected genre of African American women’s vampire fiction. In this regard, we will discuss the literary potentials and the cultural meanings the figure of the vampire brings to African American women’s fiction by focusing on these authors’ (de)constructions of Otherness (and monstrosity), as well as their explorations of history, cultural legacy and intersectionality - issues that have been at the heart of black women’s writing from its very beginnings. The seminar will be held as a block seminar. We will meet on three occasions for two days each.

2.6 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

Thursday, 1-3 pm GWZ 2.516

A. Koenen

lehrbox coming soon

This class takes place every two weeks.

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

Monday, 3-5 pm NSG 302

C. Garrett

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/452

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. Pizarz-Ramírez

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/463

This class takes place every two weeks.

The theme for Professor Pizarz-Ramírez' colloquium project will concern Minority and Migration Studies. This semester's course will focus on Hispanics as the largest ethnic minority in the U.S. 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.

2.7 Service Learning Project Seminar: Praktikum and Service Learning

Module Coordinator: Catherine Sharpe, BFA, RSA, TEFL

Monday, 9am-11am, GWZ 2.516

C. Sharpe

This class takes place every two weeks.

Service Learning has enjoyed a long and respected tradition in the United States as a form of community-based learning and professional development at leading universities. Recently service learning has become increasingly established at European and German universities in the wake of the Bologna reform process.

American Studies Leipzig offers a Service Learning module to allow students to earn credit for a community service project coupled with a scholarly framework. In a structured learning environment (the module involves a seminar, research, project, and scholarly paper), students design and carry out a community project that will allow them to earn 10 LP (10 ECTS) toward meeting their BA SQM requirements. Spanning 2 semesters, the Service Learning module begins in the Summer Semester and concludes at the end of the Winter Semester.

For more information, please visit the

project website at americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/service-learning

or email to aslservicelearning@uni-leipzig.de

Please note that the sessions will begin October, 8th.

2.8 Picador Seminar

Picador Professor Alexander Chee will be teaching the following seminars in the upcoming WS 2012/2013.

The following two seminars will be taught by Picador Professor Alexander Chee

The Graphic Novel

Mondays, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

A seminar reading contemporary graphic novels, memoirs, essays and stories, contextualizing them in relationship to both contemporary literary practice as well as comics, the German Expressionist picture novel, illustrated manuscripts, children's books and the illustrated novel. The course examines the literary modes of visual storytelling deployed in contemporary literary comics, and teaches students to read for technique. Also included: essays on visual culture and psychoanalysis. A midterm essay and final essay are required.

The readings for this class will include:

Best American Comics 2012 (this comes out Oct 2, 2012)

Portrait of the Artist as a Young %@&!*, by Art Spiegelman

Big Questions by Anders Nilsen

Logicomix, by Apostolos Doxiadis and Christos H. Papadimitriou

Fun Home by Alison Bechdel

Chicken with Plums by Marjane Satrapi

Some of these books have been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung and will be available there by mid-September. Whichever bookseller you plan to use, please make sure to procure these books ahead of time. The first two books to be discussed will be *Chicken with Plums* and *Logicomix*.

You can apply for this class via email.

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.

Imaginary Countries

Tuesdays, 1-3 pm, GWZ 3.515

Given that the future and the past are, for the living, seen through acts of imagination, writers of contemporary historical and speculative fiction all invent a country for their purposes. These invented histories are meant to portray great shifts within a culture's moral structure, and set characters within historic crises, imaginatively predicted ones, or imaginative acts that replace our history as a way to comment on it and our current culture both. We will read a sampling that makes use of the past, the future or an alternate present to reach past the conventional taboos of a culture—incest, murder, adultery—and find our way into other taboos, harder to speak of or to describe.

We will read for technique, as we write our way into the past or future or an imaginary present alongside this one, discussing the implications of inventing or reinventing a nation, the effects these novels achieve, their structures, and how we can learn from them to create our own. We will also dissect the narrative and aesthetic strategies employed in their creation, and workshop sections from the novels during the semester.

Students will be starting novels from scratch. The course will have weekly writing exercises in the first half, and exercises will focus on technique, based on the craft aspect we are discussing in the works we're reading. At the midterm, we'll move to workshopping excerpts from students, so they can give each other feedback. The idea is to experiment with writing in the first half, and build a common vocabulary around the texts we read, and then use that common vocabulary to address what we see in the things that have been written.

The readings for this class will include:

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

The Intuitionist by Colson Whitehead

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

Autobiography of Red by Anne Carson

The Passion by Jeanette Winterson

All of these books have been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung and will be available there by mid-September. Whichever bookseller you plan to use, please make sure to procure these books ahead of time. The first two books to be discussed will be *Autobiography of Red* and *The Handmaid's Tale*.

All students are welcome, but the number of spots is limited. 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 email.

3 MA Courses

Registration Guidelines:

For registration guidelines, please see this news item: americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/blogs/833/course-catalogue-winter-20122013

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, 11am-1 pm GWZ 3.515
K. Schmieder
lehrbox coming soon

This seminar will address major paradigms of and theories employed in American Studies, their evolution and contestation in the past sixty years 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 call(ed) 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 itself.

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: America and the Orient

Wednesday, 3-5 pm GWZ 3.515

G. Piszcz-Ramírez

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/453

In this course we will look at the Americans' engagement with Islam and the Orient from the early republican period to the present. We will investigate the Orient as a transnational discourse which has provided a powerful reservoir of rhetoric and imagery that Americans have appropriated to authorize and to criticize cultural constructions of national mission, religious faith, moral behaviours, ethnic identity, and gender performance. As Timothy Marr in *The Cultural Roots of American Islamicism* has argued, perceptions of the Orient, long viewed not only as both an anti-Christian and despotic threat but also as an exotic other, have held a larger place in domestic American concerns than previously thought. Literary and imagined encounters with 'Orientals' provided a backdrop for Americans' negotiations of nation, slavery, women's roles, sexuality, race and morality. We will explore texts by 18th and 19th century authors including Susannah Rowson, Washington Irving, John Riley, Herman Melville, Edgar Allan Poe, as well as contemporary constructions of Islam and the Muslim world in American fiction and film. In the last part of the course participants will work on their own projects which will then be presented in a colloquium at the end of the seminar.

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 5 – later applications will be rejected. 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. Students who plan to just „sit“ in the seminar without active participation need not apply.

Seminar: Presidential Elections

Tuesday, 11-3 pm GWZ 2.516

xxx

lehrbox coming soon

Tuesdays, double class sessions, beginning **16 October** and **30 October**, with six additional sessions thereafter, on dates to be announced.

This seminar seeks to combine history, sociology, and political science approaches along with mass media and journalistic methods to the study of presidential elections. The initial sessions of the seminar will focus on broad introductions and discussions about American political parties, election laws, political culture and mass participation, and an overview of key presidential elections during the 20th and 21st centuries. Thereafter, students will take on the key role of leading class session discussions on specific topics, such as ethnicity and voting pattern changes, changes in the ideologies of American political parties, the impact of population movements in American voting patterns, and transatlantic issues involving economic crises and political change. Students will be required to attend regularly, participate in class discussions and lead at least one discussion session, as well as preparing a semester paper.

Suggested Course Readings will be taken from (and will generally be available in e-book form):

Michael Barone, ed. *Almanac of American Politics*. 2012.

Curtis Gans, *Voter Turnout in the United States*. 2010.

David Magelby. *The Change Election: Money, Mobilization, and Persuasion in the 2008 Federal Elections*. 2010.

Louis Sandy Maisel. *American Political Parties and Elections: A Very Short Introduction*. 2007.

Theda Stocpol and Vanessa Williamson. *The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism*. 2012.

Ruy Teixeira. *America's New Swing Region*. 2012.

Julian Zelizer. *Governing America*. 2012.

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

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.

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

Lecture:

Tuesday, 3pm-5pm, GWZ 2.516
C. Garrett
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/461>

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 6th 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 3, 2012.

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 inter alia 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). Moreover, students will have the opportunity to discuss professional presentation skills, such as interviewing, proposal presentation, and networking.

First session will start **October, 15th**. For the first session, tutorial will be held in room 3.515.

3.4 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 to understanding it.

The module consists of two seminars

Seminar: Contesting Transatlantic Space

Thursday, 3-5 pm GWZ 2.516
C. Garrett
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/464

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 to understanding it.

Seminar: US-EU Relations and Cultures of Globalization

Friday, 1-3 pm GWZ 3.515
C. Garrett
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/465

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 EU 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 and in the EU can substantially enhance the ability to assess how these states and societies will engage the unfolding era of global politics.

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

Module Coordinator: C. Garrett

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.

The module consists of two seminars

Seminar: Of Monsters, Aliens, and Vampires: Representations of the Other in Popular Culture

Thursday, 9-11 am GWZ 2.516

A. Koenen

lehrbox.de/469

Political core concepts and agendas like citizenship, ethnicity, and immigration all depend on what concepts of the other circulate in a society/culture. And these concepts tend to be negotiated representations of the other in popular culture, like vampires, monsters, and aliens. We'll look at a variety of these texts in their socio-historical contexts, from Cold War anxieties expressed in SF horrors like *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers* to fear of strong women (specifically mothers?) in *Alien* to the desire to be "normal" (and not gay and not vampiric) in *Interview with the Vampire*.

This seminar is open to a strictly limited number of Magister students. Please apply by e-mail (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) by October 5, specifying your major and minor, the number of semesters you've studied, and whether you need to get a 'Schein.'

Seminar: Immigration and Ethnicity

NSG S 228
H. Keil
lehrbox coming soon

Block seminars „Religion, Ethnicity & Citizenship” Schedule:

12 October	1 pm -3 pm
26 October	1 pm - 4 pm
16 November	1 pm - 4 pm
30 November	1 pm - 5 pm
7 December	1 pm - 5 pm
14 December	1 pm - 5 pm
11 January	1 pm - 5 pm
25 January	1 pm - 5 pm

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. The contemporary immigration debate including the issue of illegal immigration will also be discussed.

In addition the seminar will focus on the role that religion has played for ethnic groups in the religious marketplace of the United States. Has religious affiliation contributed to, or prevented, the search for an American identity? Has religious orientation served as barrier, or ladder, to social mobility and status? Have ethnic groups isolated themselves, or been ostracized, because of their adherence to specific beliefs and traditional cultures?

The seminar will be a required course for students interested in participating in a study tour on “Religion in American Public Life” in the fall of 2013. It will be open for 2nd year BA students (in anticipation of SHP 3) and 1st year MA students (by special permission in anticipation of IEC).

Introductory reading: Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, New York 1990; Robert Wuthnow, *America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity*, Princeton and Oxford 2005.

3.6 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, the module provides a platform for graduate students to hone their professional skills in a project that combines their knowledge expertise with their international career skills such as (academic) tutoring, crosscultural communication, team management, leadership skills, project implementation, fundraising, and marketing. This year, iDEWEY will be implemented as part of the aspeers (iCAN) classroom.

3.7 Picador Seminar

Picador Professor Alexander Chee will be teaching the following seminars in the upcoming WS 2012/2013.

The following two seminars will be taught by Picador Professor Alexander Chee

The Graphic Novel

Mondays, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

A seminar reading contemporary graphic novels, memoirs, essays and stories, contextualizing them in relationship to both contemporary literary practice as well as comics, the German Expressionist picture novel, illustrated manuscripts, children's books and the illustrated novel. The course examines the literary modes of visual storytelling deployed in contemporary literary comics, and teaches students to read for technique. Also included: essays on visual culture and psychoanalysis. A midterm essay and final essay are required.

The readings for this class will include:

Best American Comics 2012 (this comes out Oct 2, 2012)

Portrait of the Artist as a Young %@&!*, by Art Spiegelman

Big Questions by Anders Nilsen

Logicomix, by Apostolos Doxiadis and Christos H. Papadimitriou

Fun Home by Alison Bechdel

Chicken with Plums by Marjane Satrapi

Some of these books have been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung and will be available there by mid-September. Whichever bookseller you plan to use, please make sure to procure these books ahead of time. The first two books to be discussed will be *Chicken with Plums* and *Logicomix*.

You can apply for this class via email.

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.

Imaginary Countries

Tuesdays, 1-3 pm, GWZ 3.515

Given that the future and the past are, for the living, seen through acts of imagination, writers of contemporary historical and speculative fiction all invent a country for their purposes. These invented histories are meant to portray great shifts within a culture's moral structure, and set characters within historic crises, imaginatively predicted ones, or imaginative acts that replace our history as a way to comment on it and our current culture both. We will read a sampling that makes use of the past, the future or an alternate present to reach past the conventional taboos of a culture—incest, murder, adultery—and find our way into other taboos, harder to speak of or to describe.

We will read for technique, as we write our way into the past or future or an imaginary present alongside this one, discussing the implications of inventing or reinventing a nation, the effects these novels achieve, their structures, and how we can learn from them to create our own. We will also dissect the narrative and aesthetic strategies employed in their creation, and workshop sections from the novels during the semester.

Students will be starting novels from scratch. The course will have weekly writing exercises in the first half, and exercises will focus on technique, based on the craft aspect we are discussing in the works we're reading. At the midterm, we'll move to workshopping excerpts from students, so they can give each other feedback. The idea is to experiment with writing in the first half, and build a common vocabulary around the texts we read, and then use that common vocabulary to address what we see in the things that have been written.

The readings for this class will include:

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

The Intuitionist by Colson Whitehead

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

Autobiography of Red by Anne Carson

The Passion by Jeanette Winterson

All of these books have been ordered at the Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung and will be available there by mid-September. Whichever bookseller you plan to use, please make sure to procure these books ahead of time. The first two books to be discussed will be *Autobiography of Red* and *The Handmaid's Tale*.

All students are welcome, but the number of spots is limited. 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 email.

4 Other Courses

Registration Guidelines:

Please note that the courses listed here are not part of a module (or can be attended without attending the entire module). Please find information on how to register below.

4.1 Kolloquium für ExamenskandidatInnen und DoktorandInnen

date and room t.b.a.

A. Koenen

For further information and application, please contact Prof. Koenen (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) personally.

4.2 Picador Seminars

Picador Professor Alexander Chee will be teaching the following seminars in the upcoming WS 2012/2013.

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4.3 Magister Seminars

The following seminars are available for Magister students

Seminar: Of Monsters, Aliens, and Vampires: Representations of the Other in Popular Culture

Thursday, 9-11 am GWZ 2.516

A. Koenen

lehrbox coming soon

Political core concepts and agendas like citizenship, ethnicity, and immigration all depend on what concepts of the other circulate in a society/culture. And these concepts tend to be negotiated representations of the other in popular culture, like vampires, monsters, and aliens. We'll look at a variety of these texts in their socio-historical contexts, from Cold War anxieties expressed in SF horrors like *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers* to fear of strong women (specifically mothers?) in *Alien* to the desire to be "normal" (and not gay and not vampiric) in *Interview with the Vampire*.

This seminar is open to a strictly limited number of Magister students. Please apply by e-mail (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) by October 5, specifying your major and minor, the number of semesters you've studied, and whether you need to get a 'Schein.'

Seminar: America and the Orient

Wednesday, 3-5 pm GWZ 3.515

G. Piszcz-Ramírez

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/453

In this course we will look at the Americans' engagement with Islam and the Orient from the early republican period to the present. We will investigate the Orient as a transnational discourse which has provided a powerful reservoir of rhetoric and imagery that Americans have appropriated to authorize and to criticize cultural constructions of national mission, religious faith, moral behaviours, ethnic identity, and gender performance. As Timothy Marr in *The Cultural Roots of American Islamism* has argued, perceptions of the Orient, long viewed not only as both an anti-Christian and despotic threat but also as an exotic other, have held a larger place in domestic American concerns than previously thought. Literary and imagined encounters with 'Orientals' provided a backdrop for Americans' negotiations of nation, slavery, women's roles, sexuality, race and morality. We will explore texts by 18th and 19th century authors including Susannah Rowson, Washington Irving, John Riley, Herman Melville, Edgar Allan Poe, as well as contemporary constructions of Islam and the Muslim world in American fiction and film. In the last part of the course participants will work on their own projects which will then be presented in a colloquium at the end of the seminar.

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 (pisarz@uni-leipzig.de) before October 5 – later applications will be rejected. 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. Students who plan to just „sit" in the seminar without active participation need not apply.

Seminar: Immigration and Ethnicity

room t.b.a.
H. Keil
lehrbox coming soon

Block seminars „Religion, Ethnicity & Citizenship” Schedule:

12 October	1 pm -3 pm
26 October	1 pm - 4 pm
16 November	1 pm - 4 pm
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7 December	1 pm - 5 pm
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25 January	1 pm - 5 pm

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. The contemporary immigration debate including the issue of illegal immigration will also be discussed.

In addition the seminar will focus on the role that religion has played for ethnic groups in the religious marketplace of the United States. Has religious affiliation contributed to, or prevented, the search for an American identity? Has religious orientation served as barrier, or ladder, to social mobility and status? Have ethnic groups isolated themselves, or been ostracized, because of their adherence to specific beliefs and traditional cultures?

The seminar will be a required course for students interested in participating in a study tour on “Religion in American Public Life” in the fall of 2013. It will be open for 2nd year BA students (in anticipation of SHP 3) and 1st year MA students (by special permission in anticipation of IEC).

Introductory reading: Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, New York 1990; Robert Wuthnow, *America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity*, Princeton and Oxford 2005.

Seminar: Contesting Transatlantic Space

Thursday, 3-5 pm GWZ 2.516

C. Garrett

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/464

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 to understanding it.

Seminar: US-EU Relations and Cultures of Globalization

Friday, 1-3 pm GWZ 3.515

C. Garrett

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/465

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 EU 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 and in the EU can substantially enhance the ability to assess how these states and societies will engage the unfolding era of global politics.

Seminar: Presidential Elections

Tuesday, 11-3 pm GWZ 2.516

P. Rundquist

lehrbox coming soon

Tuesdays, double class sessions, beginning 16 October and 30 October, with six additional sessions thereafter, on dates to be announced.

This seminar seeks to combine history, sociology, and political science approaches along with mass media and journalistic methods to the study of presidential elections. The initial sessions of the

seminar will focus on broad introductions and discussions about American political parties, election laws, political culture and mass participation, and an overview of key presidential elections during the 20th and 21st centuries. Thereafter, students will take on the key role of leading class session discussions on specific topics, such as ethnicity and voting pattern changes, changes in the ideologies of American political parties, the impact of population movements in American voting patterns, and transatlantic issues involving economic crises and political change. Students will be required to attend regularly, participate in class discussions and lead at least one discussion session, as well as preparing a semester paper.

Suggested Course Readings will be taken from (and will generally be available in e-book form):

Michael Barone, ed. *Almanac of American Politics*. 2012.

Curtis Gans, *Voter Turnout in the United States*. 2010.

David Magelby. *The Change Election: Money, Mobilization, and Persuasion in the 2008 Federal Elections*. 2010.

Louis Sandy Maisel. *American Political Parties and Elections: A Very Short Introduction*. 2007.

Theda Stocpol and Vanessa Williamson. *The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism*. 2012.

Ruy Teixeira. *America's New Swing Region*. 2012.

Julian Zelizer. *Governing America*. 2012.

Please also note the Picador seminars that are available for Magister students (see above).