

Courses Catalog Winter Semester 2014/2015

American Studies Leipzig

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

Unless stated otherwise, **classes start in the week of October 13, 2014.**

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

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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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Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

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Advising

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

These faculty members are available for the following concerns:

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

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

General Advising

Mentoring "Qualitätspakt Lehre- Stil"
General study advising offered by "Philologische Fakultät"

Julia Protze, Priska Fronemann, Miriam Speckmann
Room: 3314
Tel: 97 37 464
<http://mentoren.philol.uni-leipzig.de>
e-mail: philolment@uni-leipzig.de
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2-3 pm, and by appointment

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

- Dr. Katja Schmieder
- Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

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

- **SHP/Kulturgeschichte:** Prof. Crister Garrett; Anja Eifert, MA; Tobias Schlobach, MA
- **LC/Literaturwissenschaft:** Prof. Anne Koenen, Dr. Katja Schmieder, Dr. Sebastian Herrmann, 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 and at the appendix to our Conditions of Study in the Download & Resources Area.

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 13, 2014.**

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: Prof. 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, 9-11 am, GWZ 2.010

Anne Koenen

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

The first class will take place on **24 October**.

Seminar:

either a) Wednesday, 5-7 pm, NSG 320

Eleonora Ravizza

lehrbox coming soon

or b) Thursday, 11 am-1 pm, NSG 427

Sebastian Herrmann

www.lehrbox.de/551

or c) Thursday, 3-5 pm, NSG 403

Florian Bast

lehrbox coming soon

Based on American Studies' comprehensive notion of 'text' as referring to any complex cultural artifact and on an understanding of 'narrative' as a fundamental category of human existence, the seminar's underlying assumption is that the ability to 'read' texts is central to the ability to understand, analyze, and discuss culture more generally. To thus facilitate your ability to read complex texts, the seminar focuses on two main perspectives. It aims to help you develop an analytic vocabulary to talk about the specifics of narratives and their implementation into texts, and it aims to help you understand basic theoretical frameworks that discuss the connection between texts and culture in analytic terms. The seminar will moreover help you to develop a feeling for the questions and approaches typical of American Studies. Coursework will cover basic techniques of critically engaging texts, exemplary

analyses and interpretations, as well as an overview over contemporary approaches in literary and cultural theory.

Please note that the first session of the seminars will take place in the week of **13 October**.

Tutorial (Übung):

either a) Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
lehrbox coming soon

or b) Tuesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
lehrbox coming soon

or c) Tuesday, 3-5 pm, NSG 212
Erica Larson
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 in week from **13 October**.

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. Crister S. Garrett

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

The module consists of one Professional seminar and one Praxis Seminar

Professional Seminar

Monday, 3-5 pm, NSG 322
every two weeks
Prof. Crister S. Garrett
lehrbox.de/565

Classes start on **October 13**.

There are four types of skills that determine to a large degree a student's success at university, and in different careers after receiving an undergraduate 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.

Praxis Seminar

Monday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
lehrbox coming soon

The praxis seminar will involve students discussing in further detail the broad themes broached during the professional seminar 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: Dr. 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

Vorlesung Varietäten: Varieties of English

Tuesday, 7-9 pm, HS 3
Isabelle 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 Varietäten: Varieties of US-English

Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 210
Sylvia 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.

Seminar Textlinguistik: Cohesion and Coherence

Friday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 110
Beate Seidel

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

Prüfung: Hausarbeit

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

We will apply relevant theories to samples of different text types. In the assignment you are expected to analyze a text of your own choice with respect to features of textuality, coherence patterns and cohesive devices.

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. Crister Garrett

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

To complete the module, students need to attend the lecture, one Seminar I (A or B) and one Seminar II (A or B)

The module consists of one lecture and two seminars

Lecture

Wednesday, 11 am -1 pm, HS 10
Prof. Crister S. Garrett
www.lehrbox.de/559

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 and global context.

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

Seminar 1 A

Wednesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Tobias Schlobach
www.lehrbox.de/511

Seminar 1 B

Thursday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Eric Fraunholz
www.lehrbox.de/563

This seminar will explore in more depth critical issues in contemporary American history, politics, and society, including the internationalization of American society, the role of economics, and America’s role in the world. Students will improve their skills in research as well as in analysis and presentation. Along these lines, there will be two distinct seminars offered.

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

Seminar 2 A

Monday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516

Heather Pruessing
lehrbox coming soon

Seminar 2 B

Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2.516

Heather Pruessing
lehrbox coming soon

This seminar will complement the lecture and other seminar by offering students the opportunity to engage and discuss a diverse collection of primary and interpretive documents from contemporary American history, politics, and society. The purpose is to deepen and embed knowledge from the lecture and issue seminars while simultaneously practicing critical and analytical skills along with different forms of presentation skills.

2.5 Project Module (04-001-1009)

Module Coordinators: Prof. Anne Koenen, Prof. Crister S. Garrett

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

The module consists of one colloquium out of two

Project Colloquium 1

Monday, 3-5 pm, NSG 322

This class takes place every two weeks.

Crister S. Garrett

lehrbox.de/566

Classes start on **October 20**.

The theme for Professor Garrett's colloquium project will be contemporary history and politics with an emphasis on a transatlantic context. 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 research skills, analytical skills, organization and planning skills, technology skills, and presentation skills in a team-driven project that will also involve students preparing a paper on their own.

Project Colloquium 2

Friday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 2.516

This class takes place every two weeks.

Anne Koenen

lehrbox coming soon

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.

The first class will take place on **October 24**.

3 MA Courses

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, 1-3 pm GWZ 3.515
and Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 3.515
Anne Koenen/Crister S. Garrett
<http://www.lehrbox.de/558>

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.

Please Note: Professor Koenen will offer her lectures on Thursdays starting on **23 October**.

Starting in December, the lectures will take place Tuesdays, 11 am – 1 pm with Prof. Garrett.

Seminar:

Thursday, 11 am-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: Prof. Crister S. 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

The Internationalization, Transnationalization, and Globalization of Society, Politics, and History: The Case of the United States.

Monday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 3.515
Crister S. Garrett
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/557>

This seminar will explore with diverse readings the extent to which the “national” is being contextualized, re-configured, and re-imagined through international, transnational, and global themes and approaches for American Studies. Readings will come from such disciplines as history, political science, sociology, anthropology, and economics. We will explore prominent new book series from leading publishers that indicate new approaches to American Studies. These include Princeton University Press's “America in the World” series, the University of North Carolina's “New Cold War History”, Palgrave's “Rethinking World Politics”, and Routledge's “New International Relations”. These efforts to re-position American Studies, to complicate the field, have wide-ranging consequences for students seeking careers either in an academic or analytical setting and for students more interested in a professional and or policy field.

Seminar: Race Matters: African American Literature from Slave Narrative to New Black Renaissance

Friday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2 5.16
Anne Koenen
<http://www.lehrbox.de/555>

By looking at a variety of genres, we will analyze the representations of African American experiences, ranging from the Middle Passage and slavery to urban ghettos and the reclaiming of the American South. The aim of the seminar is to trace the heterogeneity of African American responses in the context of the most important literary and cultural movements (Abolitionism, Harlem Renaissance, Black Protest, Black Arts Movement, New Black Renaissance).

Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*; Linda Brent a.k.a Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (excerpt); Larsen, *Passing*; Hughes, “Who’s Passing for Who?”; Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (excerpt); Morrison, *Sula, Beloved* (excerpt); Wright, *Black Boy* (excerpt); as well as (additional) short stories and poems. Purchase of novels recommended. A reader with theory, short stories, essays, and poems will be provided.

The first class will take place on October 24.

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. Crister S. Garrett

iCAN is one of two professional skills modules in the American Studies Leipzig MA program. The module empowers students to organize their professional workflows, to work in teams, to set goals, and to achieve them. Built around a mix of workshops and continuous instruction, the module is customizable to what the students need to learn to work on their shared project and to build a vision for the coming semesters.

The module consists of an applied seminar, a tutorial, and substantial independent study

Applied Seminar: *aspeers*

Thursday, 3-5 pm, 2.516
Sebastian Herrmann
www.lehrbox.de/554

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 8th 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.

Tutorial

Tuesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
lehrbox coming soon

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.

3.4 Transatlantic Space (04-038-2010)

Module Coordinator: Prof. 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.

The module consists of two seminars

Seminar: Contesting the Transatlantic Space

Thursday, 5-7 pm, GWZ 3.515
Crister S. Garrett
lehrbox.de/564

The United States and Europe are of fundamental importance to each other in terms of interests, influences, and their coinciding cooperation and competition in shaping global politics. The transatlantic space – or the institutions, norms, and issues around which and with which the U.S. and Europe interact – is undergoing a dynamic phase of recalibration, or more pointedly, contestation. One overarching theme that underlines the challenges to the transatlantic space is security in its fullest sense. With the end of the cold war and in the context of 9-11 the United States and Europe are engaged in a fundamental discussion about what societies mean by security, and what priorities citizens and governments want to set for pursuing security. In this seminar the concept of security communities will play a central role. Students will have a wide space in which to explore their more focused interests in the context of security communities, including economic issues, environmental and energy issues, cultural issues, historical issues, religious issues, and of course more traditional military issues.

Immigration in American Society: History and Contemporary Issues

Block Seminar, GWZ 3.515

Hartmut Keil

lehrbox coming soon

The course will begin Friday, October 17, 10 am - noon. The other course dates will be: Friday, November 7, 1-6 pm; Friday, November 28, 1-6 pm; Friday, December 12, 1-5 pm; Friday and Saturday, January 23 and 24, 2015, from 10 am - 4 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 contemporary immigration groups will be undertaken to analyze typical immigration and settlement patterns (reasons for emigration, organized immigration, legal v. undocumented immigrants, emigrant social composition, geographic distribution, urban and rural settlement, neighborhood patterns), processes of economic, political, and social integration, as well as ethnic institutions (churches, labor unions, fraternal and aid associations). Additional central topics will be cultural transfer and ethnic cultures, and immigrants' search for identity as well as citizenship.

Required introductory reading: Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, New York, 2nd edition, 2002.

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. 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

“Reading” the American Family: The Private, the Public, the Nation

Wednesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 3.515
Antje Dallmann
lehrbox coming soon

Representations of families and of family life are ubiquitous particularly in popular American culture. Studying depictions of what family historian Stephanie Coontz has called the myth of the “true American family,” we shall seek to explore how mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion, othering, and naturalization determine the ways in which this stereotypic image of the American family shapes identity constructions at different, yet interrelated levels. Not only shall we trace how nineteenth-century changes of the family ideal were closely related to a growing social differentiation into gendered private and public spheres. We will also discuss how hierarchies of social class and race equally rely on practices associated with a modern American family ideal, how heteronormativity is formed along constructions of “true families,” and how notions of the American nation, likewise, are intricately related to the very rhetoric of familial belonging. Discussing, thus, the concept of “family” as a lens through which the intersectional interrelatedness of categories of social stratification, and of identity formation, become apparent, we shall also discuss which contestations and alternative interpretations of American families are offered, again particularly in popular culture (film; TV series; narrative and autobiographic literature). Please read Colson Whitehead’s *Sag Harbor*. All other course materials will be available from the course site on Lehrbox

Coming of Age in America: 21st Century Stories (Seminar)

Wednesdays, 3-6 pm, GWZ 3 5.15
Michael Lowenthal (Picador Guest Professor)
lehrbox coming soon

This class will only run until the end of the year 2014.

From *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Bluest Eye*, and many more of the greatest American novels, the coming-of-age story has held a special place in the nation's literature. By chronicling their protagonists' journeys from youth to maturity, writers in each successive generation have seized the opportunity to address our relatively young country's growing pains, adding their stories to the ever-evolving definition of what it means to be an American.

In this course, we will read some recent additions to this long literary tradition. Looking at a range of novels published within the last decade—a time of sweeping demographic shifts, new openness in sexuality, and unprecedented economic inequality—we will grapple with questions of identity and belonging, and see what these stories may have to tell us about contemporary American culture.

The following novels will be read in this course. They have all been ordered at The Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung:

Justin Torres, *We the Animals*

Sherman Alexie, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

NoViolet Bulawayo, *We Need New Names*

Peter Cameron, *Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You*

Jesmyn Ward, *Salvage the Bones*

Daniel Woodrell, *Winter's Bone*.

This seminar is part of MA Module "Consumption, Culture, and Identity." It is also open to advanced Magister students. Please note that the rules for using Picadorscheins apply for this course. Get in touch with your students advisors if you have any questions.

3.6 iDEWEY (international, interdisciplinary, integrated Dewey Principle)

Module Coordinator: Prof. 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.

The module consists of one tutorial

Tutorial (Übung):

Tuesday, 3-5 am GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
lehrbox.de/567

This class takes place every two weeks and starts on **October 14, 2014.**

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.

4 Other Courses

4.1 Picador Seminars

Picador Professor Michael Lowenthal will be teaching the following seminars in the upcoming WS 2014/2015.

The following two seminars will be taught by Picador Professor Michael Lowenthal

Coming of Age in America: 21st Century Stories (Seminar)

Wednesdays, 3-6 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

This class will only run until the end of the year.

From *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Bluest Eye*, and many more of the greatest American novels, the coming-of-age story has held a special place in the nation's literature. By chronicling their protagonists' journeys from youth to maturity, writers in each successive generation have seized the opportunity to address our relatively young country's growing pains, adding their stories to the ever-evolving definition of what it means to be an American.

In this course, we will read some recent additions to this long literary tradition. Looking at a range of novels published within the last decade—a time of sweeping demographic shifts, new openness in sexuality, and unprecedented economic inequality—we will grapple with questions of identity and belonging, and see what these stories may have to tell us about contemporary American culture.

The following novels will be read in this course. They have all been ordered at The Connewitzer Verlagsbuchhandlung:

Justin Torres, *We the Animals*

Sherman Alexie, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

NoViolet Buyawalo, *We Need New Names*

Peter Cameron, *Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You*

Jesmyn Ward, *Salvage the Bones*

Daniel Woodrell, *Winter's Bone*.

This seminar is part of MA Module "Consumption, Culture, and Identity." It is also open to advanced Magister students. Please note that the rules for using Picadorscheins apply for this course. Get in touch with your students advisors if you have any questions.

Sexuality and Storytelling: A Workshop in Fiction Writing (Workshop)

Thursdays, 3-5 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

This class will only run until the end of the year.

Whether or not we agree with Freud's comparison of creative writing to masturbation, fiction about sexuality and desire is a useful tool for the study of literary craft, because in such fiction, the technical questions writers often ask ("What does the main character want?" "Where's the climax?") are explored in strikingly literal fashion. In this workshop, we will read and write fiction about all aspects of sexuality and desire, using the magnified stakes of sexual drama to see more clearly the elements important to all dramatic narratives. Students will compose new works of short fiction; in an atmosphere of serious, respectful honesty, they will also respond, orally and in writing, to one another's work.

All students are welcome, but the number of spots is limited. Please sign up via e-mail to americanstudies@uni-leipzig.de. Please note that responses to sign-up request will go out no earlier than mid September.

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.

4.2 Lehramt Modules

Wednesday, 5-7 pm, 3.515
Prof. Crister Garrett

As Englisch Lehramt transitions from the BA/MA system to the Staatsexamen, American Studies Leipzig will offer both American Studies Lehramt modules *-1401 and *-2401 in both the Fall Term of 2014/15 and the Summer Term of 2015. (...)

Lehramt Modules in the Fall 2014/15

As Englisch Lehramt transitions from the BA/MA system to the Staatsexamen, American Studies Leipzig will offer both American Studies Lehramt modules *-1401 and *-2401 in both the Fall Term of 2014/15 and the Summer Term of 2015. In both semesters, the modules will be offered with limited capacity, and you are accordingly asked to enroll this term already if your schedule permits. Since we offer both modules in both semesters, we cannot guarantee that you will get a spot next semester, so if you can take the module now, do it.

4.2.1 Modul *-1401: "Literatures and Cultures of the USA"

The module consists of a lecture, a seminar, and a tutorial. Students must participate in all three parts. The module exam consists of two parts: a written exam on the tutorial (Übersetzen) and a written exam in the seminar that covers the content of both the lecture and the seminar.

Vorlesung "Literatur der USA" (Prof. Dr. Anne Koenen)

[first session on 23. October]
Thu, 9-11 am
GWZ 2 0.10

Seminar "Kultur und Diversität der USA" (Anne Grob, MA)

Thu, 3-5 pm
NSG 322
or
Fri, 1-3 pm
NSG 304

Übung "Übersetzen"

Birte Möpert
Tue, 5-7 pm
HS 003

or

David Rush
Thu, 11-1 pm
HS 003

or

David Rush
Fri, 11-1 pm
HS 003

4.2.2 Modul *-2401: "American Literatures, American Societies"

The module is designed specifically to train future teachers in utilizing electronic resources, e-teaching, and e-learning to teach American Studies material in the classroom. For more information on this innovative format, cf. our project homepage. The module consists of a seminar and a lecture. The module exam consists of an extensive e-teaching project prepared by the students in the seminar.

Seminar "Teaching America" (Anne Grob, MA)

Wed, 5-7 pm
GWZ 2 5.16

or

Thu, 11-13 pm
GWZ 2 5.16

Lecture

(choose either of the lectures as inspiration for your seminar project)

"Literature and Culture I"

(Prof. Dr. Anne Koenen)
Fri 9-11 am
GWZ 2 0.10

or

"Society, History, and Politics II"

(Prof. Crister Garrett)
Wed, 11-1 pm
HS 10

Both modules already follow as much as legally possible the new and improved Studien- and Prüfungsordnungen that are currently under way and that we expect to come into effect as part of the Staatsexamen model during the next semester. For both modules, these new versions reduce the amount of exams students need to take, they reduce in-class workload and put more emphasis on self-study and independent project work.