

Courses Catalog Winter Semester 2015/2016

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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Regular office hours:
Monday - Thursday: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Email to: americanstudies@uni-leipzig.de

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;
- LC/Literaturwissenschaft: Prof. Anne Koenen, Dr. Katja Schmieder, Dr. Sebastian Herrmann, Stefan Schubert, 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 12, 2015.**

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

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

Module Coordinator: N.N.

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

Tuesday, 11 am -1 pm, HS 10
Prof. Carsten Junker
www.lehrbox.de/612

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

Seminar:

either a) Wednesday, 11 am-1 pm, NSG 301
Eleonora Ravizza
<http://www.lehrbox.de/611>

or b) Thursday, 11 am-1 pm, NSG 320
Dr. Sebastian Herrmann
lehrbox coming soon

or c) Thursday, 3-5 pm, NSG 426
Stefan Schubert
<http://www.lehrbox.de/599>

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.

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 303
Erica Larson
lehrbox coming soon

This course focuses on the language skills necessary for successful literary analysis. The tutorial will focus particularly on the form, function, and structure of the traditional English essay. Through various writing activities, which will progress in difficulty and length, students will gain the writing skills required to complete the module seminar's final assignment.

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 and set-backs 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 at least 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

Wednesday, 3-5 pm, NSG 304
every two weeks
Prof. Crister S. Garrett
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/618>

Classes start on October 14th.

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. The type of knowledge that one engages and acquires at university plays moreover 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. During the course of our eight sessions together, you will experience first-hand and through diverse assignments how individual interests, advanced learning, professional development, and personal realization are all intimately related.

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-to-five 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

Using the broad themes discussed in the professional seminar, the module tutorial will delve into more practical detail. Through various written and oral assignments, students will deepen their professional skill set. Course goals include: cultivating skills for creating a persuasive CV and cover letter, for optimizing an internship or job search, for and acing an interview.

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

Tuesday, 7 - 9 pm, room tba
Prof. Isabelle Buchstaller
(Institut für Anglistik)

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

Tuesday, 9 - 11 am, room tba
Dr. Sylvia Reuter
(Institut für Anglistik)

Reading list: Reader at Printy`s (Ritterstr. 5)

Exam: oral presentation

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:

Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, room tba
Dr. Sylvia Reuter
(Institut für Anglistik)

Reading list: Students are asked to purchase the course material at Printy`s (Ritterstr. 5) with syllabus, guidelines, and texts.

Exam: written examination (60 min)

The seminar introduces into the earlier periods of all Englishes, i.e. into Old and Middle English, followed by Early Modern English as the decisive period for the birth of US-English. It then examines the most important factors that have shaped US-English from its beginnings in colonial times up to the present. Yet, as we move from the past into the present we will not only discuss changes on all language levels, i.e. vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation, but also investigate what authentic texts of various times teach us linguistically.

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. Crister S. 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 the Reconstruction period to the present.

To complete the module, students need to attend the **Lecture**, one **Issues Seminar** (Seminar #1, A or B) and one **Key Documents Seminar** (Seminar #2, A or B)

The module consists of one lecture and two seminars

Lecture

Monday, 11 am -1 pm, HS 10
Prof. Crister S. Garrett
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/610>

The lecture will explore the historical, political, and societal developments in the United States from the later nineteenth century to the unfolding of the current century. While exploring the “uniqueness” of the “American experience”, care will be taken to place American society in an international, transnational, and global context. Themes include the nature of political culture, the emergence of economic systems, cultures of security, the politics and policies of immigration and diversity, the politics and policies of civil rights, and the notion and relationship between different “eras” of history, including progressivism, the inter-war years, the cold war, post cold war period, and post 9-11 politics.

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

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.

either

Seminar #1 A: US Foreign Policy and Diplomacy in the 20th Century

Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Anja Eifert
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/515>

The following seminar investigates the development of US foreign policy and diplomacy in the 20th century. Since the Age of Imperialism, US foreign relations have undergone a shift in foreign policy from isolationism and non-interventionism throughout the interwar years towards internationalism and the promotion of American values and ideals abroad in the aftermath of World War II. With the end of the Cold War, the US emerged as a 'hyperpower' in an increasingly globalized and multipolar world. The seminar will explore different themes in US foreign relations and place it in a historical and contemporary global context with focus on specific regions and countries. It will provide a historical

overview of US diplomatic practice with more in-depth analysis of specific developments and issues in US foreign relations throughout the 20th century by means of primary documents and historiographic essays. Students will improve their skills in research and presentation as well as develop a comprehensive and critical understanding of US foreign policy.

or

Seminar #1 B: “Commerce Pervades the World — A Survey of American and International Economic History”

Thursday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Tobias Schlobach
lehrbox

With multiple ongoing economic and financial crises at hand, a plethora of questions arise about the nature, mode of operation, composition and history of our current economic system. This course offers a survey of international economic history, designed to introduce students to the world of economics and the implications it had—and has—for our living environment. For this purpose, the seminar will explore the historical development of economic thought and theory, its terminology and the mechanisms at play. A distinct focus will be laid on the United States and its development from being a mere component of the British economic empire to becoming one of its own, including the challenges and (r)evolutions involved in this process. Within this context, additional emphasis will be put on the changing patterns of trade and the geopolitics of resources, from sugar islands over cotton fields to oil wells and knowledge industries. Topics are chosen to show a wide variety of historical examples to students and to provide an understanding of the history and working principles of modern economies. Through argumentative essays and short presentations, students will additionally sharpen their competence in critical and analytical thinking, thus enabling them to come up with their own answers to the battery of questions mentioned initially.

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

either a) Seminar #2 A
Monday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
lehrbox coming soon

or) Seminar #2 B
Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Heather Pruessing
lehrbox coming soon

This tutorial will complement the module’s lecture and seminar by offering further exposure to a diverse collection of primary documents from contemporary American history, politics, and society. The goal of this course is to solidify students’ understanding of the lecture and seminar content, while simultaneously improving critical and analytical skills through discussion and written assignments.

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

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 20
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/627>

This lecture starts on **October 23**.

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

Seminar: Introduction to American Indian Studies

either a) Friday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2.516
Anne Grob
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/496>

or b) Friday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Anne Grob
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/496>

Introduction to American Indian Studies

This seminar explores a range of current issues pertaining to and affecting American Indians in the United States. In order to familiarize students with contemporary Indigenous concerns, historical developments that influenced and shaped the present situation will also be examined. The course is meant to provide a solid foundation to the understanding of Native American nations and cultures, emphasizing Indigenous paradigms, concepts, methodologies and viewpoints. Through its interdisciplinary character, students will learn to critically examine, analyze and discuss key economic, educational, social, cultural, and political issues faced by American Indian communities today. The seminar furthermore seeks to improve students' oral presentation-, discussion and writing skills. A reader with texts will be provided in Lehrbox.

2.6 Project Module (04-001-1009)

Module Coordinators: Prof. Crister S. Garrett

This module is meant to allow BA students to apply the analytical, organizational, and presentation skills that they have learned to date in their university career 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)

either: Project Colloquium 1

Tuesday, 5 - 7 pm, GWZ 3.515
Prof. Carsten Junker
www.lehrbox.de/615

Classes start on October 13th.

The thematic focus of this project-driven colloquium lies on various cultural framings – visual, literary, performative – of war. Starting from the assumptions that we live in a time of war and that wars are not simply historical phenomena but events that are always already mediated through particular perspectives, this colloquium seeks to address literature, film, journalism etc. as sites which shape the ways in which armed conflicts are focalized, shown, narrated, and enacted – in different historical as well as transnational perspectives. Two formats will be juxtaposed: group work and individual work, with the professor acting as a consultant. During the first sessions, participants will jointly identify their objects of research-based study; subsequently they will prepare their projects in small groups and on an individual basis; finally, they will present their work to the larger group in a concluding session that brings together Professor Garret's and this colloquium.

or: Project Colloquium 2

Wednesday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 304
Prof. Crister S. Garrett
lehrbox coming soon

Classes start on October 21st.

The theme for Professor Garrett's colloquium project will be contemporary history and politics with an emphasis on international, transnational, and global dynamics. 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 & coach 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. The Project Module thus involves students practicing over an extended and focused period a set of skills deemed essential by experts for advanced and independent learning along with initiating and completing team-driven projects involving complex themes.

3 MA Courses

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Pisarz-Ramírez

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

Seminar: Methods and Theories I

Thursday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 3.515
Prof. Gabriele Pisarz-Ramírez /Prof. Carsten Junker
www.lehrbox.de/625 / www.lehrbox.de/613

This course starts on **October 22**.

The seminar "Methods and Theories in American Studies I" 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: Methods and Theories II

Thursday, 11 am-1 pm GWZ 3.515
Dr. Katja 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

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

Tuesday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 3.515
Prof. Crister S. Garrett
<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/617>

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, cultural studies, 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, Duke University Press's “New Americanists”, the University of North Carolina's “New Cold War History”, Palgrave's “Rethinking World Politics”, University of Minnesota Press's “Critical American Studies”, Routledge's “New International Relations”, and the University of Michigan Press's “Configurations: Critical Studies of World Politics”. These efforts to re-position American Studies, to complicate and innovate the field, have fundamental consequences for students seeking careers either in an academic or analytical setting and for students more interested in a more practice-oriented professional and or policy field.

Seminar: Deviance and Difference in American Culture

Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez
www.lehrbox.de/622

This course starts on **October 21**.

This course will address the construction and negotiation of deviance and difference in American literature and culture from the early 19th century to the present time. We will look at novels, films, plays, visuals and other material to discuss how notions of deviance and difference have changed, which function the figure of the outcast has had in various periods and how the definition as outcast has impacted on identity constructions and group and self-representation. Our discussion of difference and deviance will be concerned with social non-conformism and crime, as well as with physical and mental disability and will address configurations of deviance such as the pariah, the outlaw, the freak, the extremist, and others. Novels: Stewart O'Nan, *The Speed Queen*, *Sapphire*, *Push*. All other course materials will be available from the course site on Lehrbox.

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. Crister S. Garrett

The two seminars complement each other to introduce and embed for students how American Studies relates to major trends in international career development. What skills, knowledge, and experience are employers in such diverse professional sectors as education, media, international organizations, business, government branches, cultural exchange, and journalism 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? Repeated international studies confirm that students should be defining and designing their graduate school objectives and strategy from the outset of their graduate program. This goal is the purpose of requiring all students in the MA American Studies program at Leipzig to enroll in iCAN.

The module consists of a professional seminar, a praxis or applied seminar, and a tutorial

Professional Seminar

Thursday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516

—
lehrbox coming soon

—

Applied Seminar (aspeers)

Monday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 3.515

Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

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 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 (Übung):

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

This class takes place every two weeks.

The iCAN tutorial seeks to “fine tune” students’ professional skill sets. In addition to advanced writing guidance, students will also receive assistance in preparing professional documents such as cover letters, resumes, and job-specific applications. The course will also touch on professional presentation skills, interviewing, and networking.

3.4 Transatlantic Space (04-038-2010)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Crister S. 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 contest, compete, and cooperate, 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. Students can choose two out of the three seminars listed below

Seminar #1: The Emerging Transatlantic Space

Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 304
Prof. Crister S. Garrett
lehrbox coming soon

The United States and Europe are of fundamental importance to each other in terms of interests, influences, and interdependencies. From these interactions emerge contestations, competitions, and diverse forms of cooperation. 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 reconsideration and recalibration. One overarching theme that underlines the challenges to the transatlantic space is the concept of 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.

Seminar #2: American Political Dissent on the Internet, a Survey

Monday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 3.515
Picador Guest Professor Linh Dinh
lehrbox coming soon

Students will examine alternative websites such as the Unz Review, Vdare, Prison Planet, Information Clearing House and CounterPunch, and read writers such as Joe Bageant, James Howard Kunstler, Paul Craig Roberts, John Michael Greer, Dmitri Orlov, Chris Hedges and Fred Reed, etc. The class will identify and discuss the most prominent themes and topics of American dissent, and how these underground, virtual conversations differ from what can be found in the mainstream media. Students will also debate about the effectiveness of this dissent, and what can be done differently.

Seminar #3

Prof. Hartmut Keil

Blockseminar

first session: October 16, 10 am to 12 pm

coming soon

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Pisarz-Ramirez

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

The module consists of two seminars

Seminar: America and Orientalism: Representations of the Imaginary East

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 3.515

Prof. Gabriele Pisarz-Ramírez

<http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/621>

This course starts on **October 20**.

In this course we will address Americans' engagement with the "Orient" and with Islam from the early republican period to the present. Images of the East and the "Orient" have 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 behaviors, 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 early as well as contemporary constructions of the East, of Asian America, of Islam and the Arab 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 one day colloquium at the end of the seminar.

Seminar: Mapping Migration in the Contemporary Novel

Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 3.515

Prof. Carsten Junker

www.lehrbox.de/614

Debates about globalization and postcoloniality are current and ongoing; they find their expression not least in literary studies that draws attention to the ways in which fictional writing approaches questions of migration, diaspora, and mobility. The recent pronouncement of the so-called “transnational turn in literary studies” (Paul Jay, 2010) is only one indication of such shifts in scholarly attention to issues including forced migration and displacement as well as voluntary forms of global movement implied in a concept such as cosmopolitanism. While this wide range of transnational phenomena challenges nation-based paradigms of literature, a large body of recent fiction points to the continuing relevance of the U.S. as a nation state. Numerous texts reinforce the significance of the U.S. by depicting national citizenship as desirable and framing the U.S. as a land of promise and as a place of arrival—as an attractive “place called home” (Doreen Massey, 1992). We will study a select number of contemporary novels in light of current debates about migration; in a mode of research-based learning, students will develop their own research agendas which integrate transnational perspectives into American Studies scholarship.

Students are asked to purchase their own copies of the following novels and read them in advance of our classroom discussions:

- 1) Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Namesake* (2003)
- 2) Edwidge Danticat, *The Dew Breaker* (2004)
- 3) Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007)
- 4) Teju Cole, *Open City* (2011)
- 5) Tayie Selasi: *Ghana Must Go* (2013)

3.6 iDEWEY (international, interdisciplinary, integrated Dewey Principle) (04-038-2013)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

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 seminar and one tutorial

Seminar

Wednesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez / Prof. Carsten Junker
www.lehrbox.de/624 / www.lehrbox.de/616

Students will be able to choose from two seminars-formats:

- a praxis seminar which provides a space where they conceptualize a symposium-like event, plan its implementation, and then carry it out. The role of the instructor is rather as a consultant, with students being encouraged to assume a leadership role.
- an MA and doctoral thesis colloquium where participants develop, present and discuss their MA thesis and doctoral thesis projects. As a forum for the exchange of work in progress (preferably for those students who are planning to write their MA thesis with the instructor of this course), the seminar will allow participants to share their ideas and get feedback on the development of their thesis from their peers and from the instructor.

Tutorial (Übung):

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

This class takes place every two weeks.

This tutorial provides students with a forum for the evaluation and editing of the iDEWEY conference components including: the conference proposal, call for papers, funding applications, correspondence with participants, and conference general documents. In this sense, the larger goal of the tutorial is to provide students with praxis and feedback on their developing professional skills.

4 Lehramt

4.1 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 – E-Teaching, E-Learning, Best Practice”

Thursday, 9 - 11 am, GWZ 2.516
Anne Grob, MA

or

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2.516
Anne Grob, MA

This seminar focuses on e-learning /e-teaching in the high school classroom. In this practical class, students will get to know the online platform “Teaching America,” which bridges the gap between university learning at American Studies Leipzig and high school instruction in the state of Saxony. In order to be able to teach American Studies content at the high school level, the students will learn how to select appropriate e-learning/e- teaching resources on topics such as American history, politics, literature, culture, economics, diversity, and global/transatlantic issues. In applying their knowledge from the module’s lectures, students will also create their own e-learning resources and in their final presentations demonstrate their newly developed resources for the high school classroom. In a final project, they will assess and explain how their newly developed, innovative tools can be used in Saxony’s classrooms by applying various e-learning/e-teaching strategies.

Lecture

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

“Literature and Culture I”

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, HS 10
N.N.

or

“Society, History, and Politics II”

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, HS 10
Prof. Crister Garrett

or

“Ethnicity and Diversity in US Culture”

Friday, 11 am – 1 pm, HS 20

Prof. Pisarz-Ramírez

5 Other Courses

Grounded: Place Specific Creative Non-Fiction, a Writing Workshop

Tuesday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 3.515
Picador Guest Professor Linh Dinh

Students will be encouraged and challenged to claim, infiltrate and investigate places both familiar and alien. Assignments will be given that expand their writing repertoire. Samples from American literature will be used for inspiration. Brief passages from Jack London, Tennessee Williams and Annie Proulx, etc., will be read. What does it mean to have direct experiences instead of virtual ones? Who are often left out of literature? Who are consistently misrepresented? How well do you know your own community, or any other communities? These and other questions will be asked to make students more conscious of their writing practice.

All students are welcome, but the number of spots is limited. Please sign up via e-mail to americanstudies@uni-leipzig.de.