

## Courses Catalog Winter Semester 2017/2018

### American Studies Leipzig

Below please find our course catalog. We will update these pages throughout the break and the semester. Unless stated otherwise, **classes start in the week of October 9, 2017.**

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, in house 3, which is opposite the elevators/stairs.

Contact information on individual faculty members can be found on the faculty page.

## 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 ([anglistik.philol.uni-leipzig.de](http://anglistik.philol.uni-leipzig.de)).

Unless stated otherwise, **classes start in the week of October 9, 2017.**

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: Prof. Carsten Junker

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**

Wednesday, 1 pm - 3 pm, HSG HS 2  
Prof. Carsten Junker  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/714](mailto:lehrbox.de/714)

The lectures will provide an overview of central literary movements, authors, and texts of American literary history against the background of influential socio-cultural developments. In this semester, ASL will offer lecture sessions for the module lectures in LC-I and SHP-II. These sections are voluntary, and they will take place after each lecture session. Details will be announced in the first session of the lecture.

Lecture starts on **October 11th**.

Vorlesungsbegleitendes Tutoriat [Student-Led Tutorial Accompanying the Lecture]

Wednesday, 3 pm - 5 pm, NSG 414  
Jakob Semmer

This optional Tutoriat accompanies the lecture in the module Literature & Culture I. Guided by a senior student, students can meet to discuss the weekly contents of the lecture, providing them with the opportunity to inquire about and discuss specific aspects of the topics covered in the lecture. Through mutual discussions, the Tutoriat thus serves to intensify and deepen your understanding and learning experience of the lecture's contents.

You do not have to sign up in advance to take part in the Tutoriat. Instead, please just show up for the first session on **October 11th**.

## Seminar:

**either a)** Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 414

Annika Schadewaldt

Lehrbox: lehrbox.de/726

**or b)** Thursday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 412

Carlo Becker

Lehrbox: lehrbox.de/728

**or c)** Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 412

Stefan Schubert

Lehrbox: lehrbox.de/717

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.

Seminar sessions start in the week of **October 16th**.

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## Tutorial (Übung):

**either a)** Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 105

Heather Prüßing

Lehrbox: lehrbox.de/604

**or b)** Monday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 105

Heather Prüßing

Lehrbox: lehrbox.de/605

**or c)** Tuesday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 122

Thorsten Burkhardt

Lehrbox: lehrbox.de/721

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.

Tutorial sessions start in the week of **October 16th**.

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

Module Coordinator: Heather Prüßing

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**

Tuesday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
every two weeks  
Heather Prüßing  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/602](mailto:lehrbox.de/602)

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.

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### **Praxis Seminar**

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
Heather Prüßing  
Lehrbox: see above

The praxis seminar will involve students discussing in further detail the broad themes broached during the professional seminar and integrate these discussions into various written and oral exercises and assignments to deepen communication, analytical, technical, and presentation skills to enhance and empower learning and professional development.

## **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, HSG HS 3  
Prof. Dr. Doris Schönefeld  
(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.

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### **Seminar Varietäten: Varieties of US-English**

Tuesday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 112  
Anne Lerche  
(Institut für Anglistik)

Reading list: Readings will be distributed via moodle

Exam: oral presentation (15 min)

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. Current developments and ethnic variation are connected topics. As we proceed, insights into theoretical phenomena will be gained such as research methods in dialectology, the importance of linguistic variables, or what isoglosses and hypercorrection tell us about variation in language.

## **Seminar Geschichte des US-Englisch: Historical Roots of Present-Day US-English**

Friday, 9 - 11 am, NSG 222

Dr. Sylvia Reuter  
(Institut für Anglistik)

Reading list: Reader 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: Tobias Schlobach

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, 9 am - 11 am, HSG HS 6  
Dr. Frank Usbeck  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/711](mailto:lehrbox.de/711)

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.

In this semester, ASL will offer lecture sessions for the module lectures in LC-I and SHP-II. These sections are voluntary, and they will take place after each lecture session. Details will be announced in the first session of the lecture.

Vorlesungsbegleitendes Tutoriat [Student-Led Tutorial Accompanying the Lecture]

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 101  
Anna-Krystina Ramacher

This optional Tutoriat accompanies the lecture in the module Society, History, and Politics II. Guided by a senior student, students can meet to discuss the weekly contents of the lecture, providing them with the opportunity to inquire about and discuss specific aspects of the topics covered in the lecture. Through mutual discussions, the Tutoriat thus serves to intensify and deepen your understanding and learning experience of the lecture's contents.

You do not have to sign up in advance to take part in the Tutoriat. Instead, please just show up for the first session on **October 9th**.

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

either Seminar #1 A:

### **Commerce Pervades the World - A Survey of International and American Economic and Social History**

Wednesday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Tobias Schlobach

Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/725](https://lehrbox.de/725)

With multiple recent and ongoing economic and financial crises at hand, a plethora of questions arise about the nature, mode of operation, composition and history of the current economic system and its impact on society and culture during its development. This course offers a survey of international economic and social 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, as well as their interplay and interconnection with social and societal history. 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 digital industries.

Topics are chosen to show a wide variety of historical examples to students and to provide an understanding and critical perspective 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 host of abovementioned questions.

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or Seminar #1 B:

### **Self-Observations from the Distance: The Transatlantic Imagination in History**

Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 414

Eric Fraunholz

Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/729](https://lehrbox.de/729)

“In the beginning, all the world was America.” With this marginal note on the American project, John Locke aptly outlined the transatlantic imagination of the New World. In front of the Old World, world history started anew in America. Since the beginning of transatlantic exchange, America has been conceived of as either an avant-garde model of a future Europe, or as an unfinished Europe of the past. In the transatlantic imagination, we cannot understand and describe America without describing ourselves as Europeans first. In this course, we will investigate how European observations of the American social experiment have always stimulated closer examinations about self-conceptions of European identity.

Seminar starts on **October 18th.**

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

**either Seminar #2 A**

Monday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 105

Heather Prüßing

Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/606](https://lehrbox.de/606)

**or Seminar #2 B**

Tuesday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Heather Prüßing

Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/606](https://lehrbox.de/606)

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 Project Module (04-001-1009)**

Module Coordinators: Prof. Gabriele Piszcz-Ramírez & Prof. Carsten Junker

The module is designed to facilitate the acquisition of skills that prepare students to write a BA thesis in the near future. It will assist them in taking the necessary steps for developing a research project. This includes adequate ways of identifying the subject matter of a research project; researching relevant scholarship; formulating a research question; delimiting the body of material to be analyzed, determining appropriate research methods, and thus finding the topic for a scholarly project. Students will be required to design a research project; this includes submitting a short annotated bibliography during the course of the semester and a poster presentation at the end of the term.

**The module consists of one colloquium (out of two)**

### **Project Colloquium 1**

Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 405  
Prof. Carsten Junker  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/713](mailto:lehrbox.de/713)

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### **Project Colloquium 2**

Wednesday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 3 5.15  
Prof. Gabriele Piszcz-Ramírez  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/724](mailto:lehrbox.de/724)

## 2.6 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, one seminar, and one tutorial**

### Lecture

Friday, 11 am – 1 pm, HSG HS 20  
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/727](https://lehrbox.de/727)

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.

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### Seminar: Mapping Diversity: Imaginations of Race and Space in Historical and Contemporary US Literature

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 101  
Steffen Wöll  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/710](https://lehrbox.de/710)

In this seminar, we will explore how the concepts of race/ethnicity and space/geography are imagined, connected, and represented throughout the history of American literature. In the early 1990, the 'spatial turn' in the humanities expanded and theorized the idea of space as a productive signifier, providing scholars with new analytical tools to tackle long-standing issues of American politics, gender roles, class relations, as well as ideas of ethnicity and race. Over the centuries, the interactions of different peoples with the American landscape and with each other have produced a multitude of ways in which places and spaces are imagined and used to create meaning and identity, resulting in concepts like wilderness, frontier, manifest destiny, separatism, borderlands, or thirdspaces. Discussing these and other concepts, we will engage texts from the nineteenth century to the present day that take into account a variety of ethno-spatial perspectives, including those of Native Americans, African Americans, and Latin Americans.

All book chapters and essays can be accessed online via Lehrbox. The novel *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi must be purchased.

## **Tutorial (Übung): Spoken Academic Discourse**

Monday, 3 pm - 5 pm, NSG 305

Peter Tasic

Exam: oral examination (30 min)

This course focuses on equipping students to improve their command of the processes involved in organizing clear, effective academic presentations as well as those practical language skills most frequently needed in spoken English as used in the context of research-based academic discourse. The exercises have been designed to promote students' intercultural communicative competence while critical insight into the linguistic relevance of cultural determinants is gained by engaging in inquiry and reflection on past and present English usage.

### **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**

##### **Lecture: Methods and Theories I**

Thursday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 3 5.15  
Prof. Gabriele Pisarz-Ramírez & Prof. Carsten Junker  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/722](mailto:lehrbox.de/722) & [lehrbox.de/723](mailto:lehrbox.de/723)

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.

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##### **Seminar: Methods and Theories II**

Monday, 5 - 7 pm GWZ 2 5.16  
Dr. Antje Dallmann  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/712](mailto:lehrbox.de/712)

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. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez & Prof. Carsten Junker

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: Deviance and Difference in American Culture**

Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/715](mailto:lehrbox.de/715)

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.

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##### **Seminar: Revisiting Literary Theory**

Wednesday, 5 - 7 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

Prof. Carsten Junker

Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/719](mailto:lehrbox.de/719)

This graduate colloquium will facilitate a (re)consideration of much-debated central concepts in literary theory such as authorship/authority, genre/framing, and discourse/apparatus. It will introduce canonical positions and examine current debates on these concepts, thus re-evaluating their usefulness for current scholarship in American Studies, not least for the participants' own work.

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

Module Coordinator: N.N.

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 an applied seminar with two sessions each week**

#### **Applied Seminar (*aspeers*)**

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 3 5.15  
Dr. Sebastian M. Herrmann

**and**

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
Dr. Katja Schmieder  
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 11th 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.

### 3.4 Consumption, Culture and Identity (04-038-2011)

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sebastian M. Herrmann

This module focuses on the study of consumer and popular culture. The two seminars approach consumer culture from different academic perspectives, aiming to acquaint students with the respective research interests and methodologies they contribute to the exploration of consumption, culture, and identity.

**The module consists of two seminars**

**Seminar: Cultural Repertoires of Human Commodification: Enslavement, Capitalism, and Resistance**

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 3 5.15  
Prof. Carsten Junker  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/720](mailto:lehrbox.de/720)

The transatlantic slave trade and enslavement of African-descended people in the Americas entailed the large-scale commodification of human beings. Historiographical publications like *Slavery's Capitalism: A New History of American Economic Development* (ed. Sven Beckert and Seth Rockman. Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania P, 2016) explore the constitutive nexus between enslavement and capitalism. Recent critical-theoretical approaches in the field of Black Studies have conceptualized enslavement less as a matter of the reparative exploitation of labor and human alienation than of terminal "accumulation and fungibility" (Frank Wilderson. *Red, White & Black*. Durham: Duke UP, 2010. 14)—with large-scale repercussions for notions of humanity, subjectivity, and the configuration of modern Western civil societies.

The seminar builds on the assumption that the apparatus of enslavement could not be known outside its textual and visual representations; human commodification and resistance to it were given shape in a set of formalized practices. This is where the seminar sets in: it seeks to approach human commodification—its structural and discursive impact as well as its legacies and fierce contestations—by way of critically engaging its formalized manifestations in literary and visual culture. Students will examine a wide variety of texts produced from various perspectives, genres, and media that span several centuries. The study of literary and visual material will be complemented by a discussion of recent historiographical and critical approaches.

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**Seminar: Advertising, the Other (of) Literature?**

Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 3 5.15  
Dr. Sebastian M. Herrmann  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/716](mailto:lehrbox.de/716)

Advertising may well constitute the most prolific form of mass communication, yet it is often shunned as an inferior form of writing. In this seminar, we will use this observation as a starting point to think about advertising as a textual system that, in many ways, rivals other forms that come with considerably more social prestige—not least among them: literature, understood in a more traditional sense, and journalism. We will work based on the assumption that these three textual systems are, in

many ways, more similar to one another than we usually assume, and that, accordingly, a lot of energy is expended in keeping them apart. Taking this perspective will allow us to think more about the similarities between these textual systems, and it will allow us to think more about how, for example, literature has used advertising as a foil to understand and articulate its own workings.

Our seminar will engage this topic by

- historicizing advertising as a cultural practice that is inextricably bound to the development of literature and journalism as crucial textual-cultural systems of modernity,
- looking at advertising as a (literary) trope that can speak about the nexus of capitalism, commercialization, creativity, art, writing, the social impact of texts, and related topics,
- looking at how more 'legitimate' textual systems have worked to distance themselves from advertising, effectively 'othering' it, even though (or precisely because) their own success was so tightly
- looking at examples that blur the line between advertising and literature (or: advertising and journalism).

We will begin by setting up a shared conceptual framework based on a cluster of canonical readings, but a significant part of our conversation will be driven by student input and student exploration. This will entail considerable and sustained independent research, as well as ongoing written contributions by all members of the seminar. Among other things, you will 'adopt' a particular, evolving interest early on and keep thinking, writing, and talking about how this aspect relates to (and continues to develop in line with) the ongoing seminar discussion.

Please note: the first day of classes for this seminar is on **18 October**.

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

Module Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

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 1: Fictions of (Un)belonging: Citizenship in US literature**

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 3 5.15  
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez  
Lehrbox: [lehrbox.de/718](http://lehrbox.de/718)

When white supremacists at the recent “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville spoke out against immigration and “pro-white rights”, they expressed ideas that are neither new nor uncommon. The debates and anxieties about who belongs and who does not, what an “American” should look like, sound like, worship like, think like, etc.—who s/he should be—raise questions about citizenship and belonging that in a globalized world are of pressing importance. What does it mean to be American? How is citizenship defined, and who defines it? And how is this definition shaped by our relationships to other human beings? This course will consider the concept of citizenship by examining how writers have used literature to represent and think the meaning of nationhood, race, migration, and belonging. We will discuss texts by, among others, Walt Whitman, Rudolph Fischer, James Baldwin, Chang Rae-Lee, and Leslie Marmon Silko, along with critical essays on the concept of citizenship.

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#### **Seminar 2: Chicano Literature**

Monday, 1 - 3 pm (partly 1 - 5 pm)\*  
GWZ 2 5.16  
Daniel Peña (Picador Guest Professor)  
Lehrbox coming soon

What is Chicano Literature and who writes it? In this course we will explore the writers and activists who worked to transform an ethnic stereotype into a term of empowerment and who also, in turn, challenged assumptions about what is and is not “American.” We will consider how Chicano literature might challenge us to redefine American literature, discussing such intellectual and social movements as Latinidad, the Chicano Movement, Pochos, Aztlan and the Librotraficante Caravan. Texts that will

be read include Jimmy Santiago Baca's *Healing Earthquakes*, Helena Maria Viramontes' *The Moths and Other Stories*, Gloria Anzaldua's *La Frontera/The Borderlands*, and Sandra Cisneros' *Woman Hollering Creek*. Four essays will be assigned, one of which will be creative in nature.

\* Please note: The first class will take place on October 30, and the last classes will take place in the week of January 8. A number of classes in this seminar will take place as block sessions, from 1.15-4.45 pm. The exact dates and times will be agreed upon with students in the first class.

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

Module Coordinator: Heather Prüßing

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 praxis seminar**

**Praxis Seminar**

Tuesday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
Heather Prüßing  
Lehrbox coming soon

The praxis seminar provides a space where students and faculty help conceptualize a conference, plan its implementation, and then carry out the international student conference. The role of the instructor is rather as a consultant, with students being encouraged to assume a leadership role.

Seminar sessions start on **October 17th**.

## 4 Lehramt Courses

### 4.1 Modul \*-2401: “American Literatures, American Societies”

Module Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Pisarz-Ramírez

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 exam consists of an extensive e-teaching project prepared by the students in the seminar.

**The module consists of one seminar and one lecture**

**Seminar “Teaching America – E-Teaching, E-Learning, Best Practice”**

Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Eleonora Ravizza

**or**

Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Eleonora Ravizza

**or**

Thursday, 9 - 11 am, NSG 222

Eleonora Ravizza

**or**

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, HSG HS18

Eleonora Ravizza

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”**

Wednesday, 1 pm - 3 pm, HSG HS 2  
Prof. Carsten Junker

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

Lecture starts on **October 11th**.

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or

### **“Society, History, and Politics II”**

Monday, 9 am - 11 am, HSG HS 6  
Dr. Frank Usbeck

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.

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or

### **“Ethnicity and Diversity in US Culture”**

Friday, 11 am – 1 pm, HSG HS 20  
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

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.

## 5 Creative Writing

### 5.1 BA Professional Skills Module “Creative Writing: Imagining America” (04-001-1019) (5 credits)

Tuesday, 3 - 7 pm\*, GWZ 3 5.15  
Daniel Peña (Picador Guest Professor)

#### Seminar: Writing Trauma

Tuesday, 3.15-4pm, GWZ 3 5.15

#### Tutorial: Creative Writing

Tuesday, 4-4.45pm, GWZ 3.5.15

\*Both classes partly take place as **block seminars: Tuesday, 3.15-6.45pm**

What are the origins of trauma and where does it come from? What centers it? Who is allowed to write it and what happens when writing it becomes dangerous? How can trauma (our own or not) help us think about gender, race, and class systems in the larger superstructure of globalization? Moreover, how can we use trauma as an engine within our own stories? We'll begin to answer these questions by engaging such texts as *Sold* by Patricia McCormick, *Narcopolis* by Jeet Thayil, *Affections* by Rodrigo Hasbun, and *No Country for Old Men* by Cormac McCarthy as well as various photo essays and articles throughout this course. This course is a creative writing workshop though readings and craft discussions will be key to concept building in this course.

\* **Please note:** The **first class** of this module will take place on **November 7**, and the last classes will take place in the week of January 8. A number of classes in this module will take place as **block sessions, from 3.15-6.45pm**. The exact dates and times will be agreed upon with students in the first class.

Please also see our news item for more information on this new module.