

Course Catalogue Winter Semester 2022/23

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 10, 2022.**

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 (will be available later). 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).

Unless stated otherwise, **classes start in the week of October 10, 2022**. Students are responsible for keeping track of updates on actual course dates (some are alternating).

Please keep checking our website for up-to-date information on how classes will take place.

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)

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Katja Kanzler

Module organization & coordination: Dr. Stefan Schubert

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: US-American Literature: Beginnings to Present

Tuesday, 9 - 11 am, HS 12

Prof. Dr. Katja Kanzler

This lecture will provide a survey of American literary history from its colonial beginnings to the present. It will discuss important themes, modes, and genres that characterize American literature throughout its history, its cultural contexts, and the literary periods into which these developments have been organized. In the course of this survey, we will explore the – partly very different, partly continuous – ways in which texts across these periods define ‘Americanness,’ in which they approach human nature and social differences, and the ideas about the role and operations of literature that they reflect.

Seminar:

either a) Monday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 320

Dr. Stefan Schubert

or b) Tuesday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 405

N.N.

or c) Wednesday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 304

Prof. Dr. Katja Kanzler

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) Wednesday, 9 - 11 am, GWZ 2 5.16
Heather Pruessing

or b) Wednesday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2 5.16
Heather Pruessing

or c) Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2 5.16
Heather Pruessing

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)

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

Module organization & coordination: Heather Pruessing

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 lecture and one praxis seminar

Lecture

Wednesday, 5 - 7 pm (**every other week**), NSG 102

Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

The lecture series brings in several speakers from outside academia to introduce students to relevant professional opportunities in areas such as journalism, employment in foundations, or businesses. It imparts orientation knowledge about the competencies with which potential occupational fields in American Studies can be developed as well as about current discourses regarding development trends in the international job market in the humanities and social sciences. Within the framework of the lectures, students can enter an exchange with experts from relevant professional fields.

Praxis Seminar

Thursday, 11am – 1 pm, NSG 324

Heather Pruessing

or Thursday, 1 – 3 pm, NSG 324

Heather Pruessing

Using the broad themes discussed in the lecture, the module praxis seminar 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 II - Applied Linguistics (04-001-1005)

The module consists of one lecture and two seminars

1005-1 Vorlesung Varietäten: Varieties of English

Tuesday, 7 - 9 pm, HS 3
Prof. Dr. Ole Schützler

Reading list: will be provided in the course

This lecture broadly focuses on (predominantly synchronic) variation in English and some models and theories that have been advanced to account for it. We will look at variable properties of language at different levels (e.g. phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicon, etc.) as well as different dimensions along which such properties can vary. These include region (traditional rural dialects, modern urban dialects, postcolonial varieties), mode (written vs. spoken language), as well as social factors like gender, age and socio-economic status. We will discuss how those dimensions overlap, talk about issues like language attitudes and standardisation, and we will generally keep an open eye for interesting research areas in present-day English.

1005-2 Seminar Varietäten: Canadian English

Tuesday, 5 - 7 pm, NSG 124
Prof. Dr. Ole Schützler

Exam: oral presentation

Reading list:

Boberg, Charles. 2008. English in Canada: Phonology. In: Edgar Schneider (ed.), *Varieties of English*, vol 2: The Americas and the Caribbean. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. 144–160.

Boberg, Charles. 2010. *The English Language in Canada. Status, history and comparative analysis.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Brinton, Laurel J. & Margery Fee. 2001. Canadian English. In John Algeo (ed.), *The Cambridge History of the English Language*, vol. 6: English in North America. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 422–440.

In this seminar, we will have a look at the history, current status and structural features of Canadian English (CanE). Our point of departure will be the standard variety and its position relative to French, other Canadian languages, and particularly US-American English. On this basis, we will have a look at sociolinguistic variation within CanE, and we will learn to use corpus resources such as the Strathy Corpus and the Corpus of Global Web-based English to pursue small-scale research projects of our own, which can then form the basis of presentations.

1005-3 Seminar Geschichte des US-Englisch: Historical Roots of Present-Day US-English

Wednesday, 9 - 11 am, NSG 303
Prof. Dr. Ole Schützler

Exam: written examination (60 min)

Reading list:

Algeo, John. 2001. External history. In John Algeo (ed.), *The Cambridge History of the English Language*, vol. 6: English in North America. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1–58. Baugh, Albert C. & Thomas Cable. 2013. *A history of the English language* [6th ed.]. London: Routledge. [Ch. 11]

Rohdenburg, Günter & Julia Schlüter (eds.), *One Language, Two Grammars? Differences between British and American English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Svartvik, Jan & Geoffrey Leech. 2016. *English. One tongue, many voices*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. [Ch. 5]

The seminar first traces the general history of the English language from its beginnings in the fifth century. From the Early Modern English period onwards, we will increasingly focus on how American English emerged, how it has continued to develop up to the present day, and how it has risen from a colonial variety to what is now generally regarded as the most influential variety of English. At every stage, our focus is both on socio-historical background and on concrete structural changes that took place at all linguistic levels (i.e. vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation). Our acquisition of general knowledge is complemented by the inspection of data, in the form of period texts and evidence from corpora.

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

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

Module organization & coordination: 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.

The module consists of one lecture and two seminars

To complete the module, students need to attend the lecture and choose two out of three seminars.

Lecture: Constructing North American History II: From the Civil War to 2001

Monday, 5 - 7 pm, HS 4

Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

The lecture explores how the unfolding of American history after the Civil War shaped American society and thus the country's political culture, its institutions, and the different social groups living together in the United States. Topics to be covered include Reconstruction politics in the South, the rise of corporate America, the changing international role of American politics and culture, mass immigration and its impact, reform and civil rights movements, the globalization of American culture, and many more. The course thus integrates global, transatlantic, and international developments to better understand the nature of the American experience and its impact on international affairs.

To get full credit for this class, students must pass a final written exam (in-class or at home test) in form of an essay; the exam usually takes place in the final class meeting.

Seminars:

Each of the seminars offered in the module share two central goals: First (1), they deepen the content of the lecture in the module by exploring and discussing important concepts and developments through select examples and approaches, thus combining a survey perspective with case study work to further the understanding of United States' history, politics, and society in the 20th and 21st centuries. Second (2), and most importantly, the seminars serve to teach and reinforce techniques and methods essential to scholarly work in American Studies in general, and to historical, political, and societal content in particular. In doing so, these praxis-oriented seminars pick up on what has already been learned in the module SHP I and are designed to enable students towards independently developing a scholarly project that leads to an analytical term paper.

Seminar 1: Over There, But Can't Happen Here – The Making and Shaping of US History and the Context of (Global) Economic, Social, and Political Currents

Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Tobias Schlobach

This seminar will explore US history along key aspects and issues in the country's development, contextualized by the global settings in which it unfolded, and informed by select approaches and perspectives from political, social, and economic lines of inquiry.

Seminar 2: Tensions and Turbulences: The Social Movements of the 1960s and 1970s

Wednesday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 301

Vivian Sadlik

Experienced and remembered as a period of cultural revolution, social disillusionment, and civil unrest, the 1960s and early 1970s saw a vast variety of movements fueled by anger at political developments and an emerging and renewed sense of injustice within the spheres of political, economic and social life. In this seminar we will take a closer look at and explore the emergence, growth, and legacy of the New Left and Counter Culture, the Civil Rights Movement and Black Power, the ambiguity of the Second Wave feminist movement(s), the struggle for the liberation of LGBTQ+ people, El Movimiento, as well as the fight for rights of Native Americans. In the praxis-oriented frame of the seminar, students will learn how and along which lines these movements can be historically analysed and compared. With the help of a variety of primary and secondary sources students will be trained to raise critical questions concerning form, intent, and effect of historical (re)sources and will be asked to share their insights in discussion, presentations, and written assignments.

Seminar 3: American Eras

Thursday, 9 – 11 am, NSG 324

Heather Pruessing

This seminar aims to give students a broad understanding of crucial moments in American history during the 20th and 21st centuries. Starting with the Industrial Revolution and ending with the Biden Presidency, we will explore overarching historical themes such as political conflict, social revolutions, and evolving cultural norms. "American Eras" complements the module's lecture and other seminars by offering exposure to a diverse collection of primary and secondary documents. These sources will span contemporary American history and will provide students with opportunities for improving their critical and analytical skills through a mix of verbal and written engagement.

2.5 Project Module (04-001-1009)

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

Module organization & coordination: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

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 as well as a term paper at the end of the term.

The module consists of one colloquium

Project Colloquium

Tuesday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 404
Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

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 as well as a term paper at the end of the term.

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

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Piszcz-Ramírez

Module organization & coordination: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Piszcz-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

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, HS 6
Prof. Dr. Gabriele Piszcz-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.

Seminar: Youth Cultures, Ethnicity, and Protest in the United States

Thursday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 122
Dr. Steffen Wöll

For many, teenage angst and rebellion against mainstream culture remain personified in J.D. Salinger's depiction of Holden Caulfield and his cynical disdain for the philistine hypocrisy of American postwar society. As the new phenomenon of youth culture emerged in subsequent decades, Bennett and Roberts note that it was generally "regarded as something bound by geographical proximity and a collective affinity confirmed by collective visual displays of taste." Today's digital age continues to witness the rise of community-driven platforms such as Twitter, Reddit, and Discord that have transformed into both laboratories and sanctuaries for almost any imaginable community of likeminded individuals, including many youthful voices that call for change in the face of various social ills. Interfacing the dynamics of these ongoing developments with the legacies of past and resurgent youth cultures, the seminar explores the diverse and intersecting histories of anti-establishment groups, minority protest, nonconformity, and social deviance in the United States. While taking into account instances of individual dissent such as Caulfield's, we will work towards diversifying the spectrum to include, among others, Black, LatinX, feminist, queer, and environmental countercultures together with their diverse identities, sociopolitical messages, visual styles, and artistic modes of expressions.

Tutorial (Übung): Spoken Academic Discourse

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 115
Dr. Patrick McAfferty (Institut für Anglistik)

Exam: oral examination (15 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 researchbased academic discourse. The exercises will engage with different media used for academic conference presentations.

3 MA Courses

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

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Katja Kanzler

Module organization & coordination: Dr. Stefan Schubert

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 two seminars

Seminar: Methods and Theories I

Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 304

Prof. Dr. Katja Kanzler

This seminar is dedicated to some of the 'grand' theories of the humanities and social sciences that are both utilized and shaped by American Studies scholarship. We will read and discuss a selection of theoretical writings on narrative, media, 'race,' gender/sex, and justice. The selection will aim to strike a balance between classics in the field of American Studies and approaches that have recently come to the fore. Additionally, it will make a point in exposing you to diverse voices and registers in theoretical writing.

Seminar: Methods and Theories II

Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 404

Dr. Stefan Schubert

This seminar will address major paradigms of and theories used in American studies, tracing their evolution and contestation in the past sixty years of scholarship within the field. We will examine the history of American studies and the prevalence of different frameworks throughout the decades, from the myth-and-symbol school to the so-called 'New Americanists.' Our sessions will focus in particular on gaining an understanding of what 'method' and 'theory' entail, how they characterize a scholarly field, and how, for the humanities and American studies in particular, they are intrinsically connected to broader sociopolitical discussions. Students will learn to reflect on their own use of methods and theories and how to apply them in critical readings, scholarly arguments, and research projects.

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

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez, Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

Module organization & coordination: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez, Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

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 1: Memory Matters – Memory Studies & the African American Civil Rights Movement

Tuesday, 3 – 5 pm, NSG 305

Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

This class tries to accomplish three goals. First, it takes as its starting point the current debates about the public role of history and its memory within US society and culture. As we can see, hear, and read every day, the visible presence of statues, flags, buildings and other material or immaterial artefacts and ideas trigger enormous emotions and lead to heated and at times even violent controversies. This class interrogates the chronicle of these ‘history wars’ and asks, how the struggle for some usable past shapes political and cultural conflicts of the present.

On that base, the class, as its second main objective, shall offer an introduction to key texts and key issues of Memory Studies and Public History, asking for the increased relevance that these fields got within American Cultural Studies over the last decades. How do Memory Studies and Public History enrich our interest on North American history, society, and culture, and how did the field of American Cultural Studies in general change because of interpretations offered by scholars working within these areas?

On a third level, this class makes use of the memory politics revolving around the (long) African American Civil Rights Movement as a case study for discussing how the concepts of Memory Studies (and Public History) are transmitted into memory projects such as freedom trails, museums, educational programs, films, comic books, etc.

All participants are requested to read the assigned texts (primary sources and secondary texts) for each class meeting and take an active part in group discussions. Several class meetings will be moderated and additionally prepared by a group of selected students who “adopt” that meeting’s topic, selecting additional or different material and guide through our discussions.

To get full credit for this class, students write a term paper / essay of about 6,500 words, due March 31st, 2023.

Seminar 2: Space, Place, and Region: Spatial Imaginations and Imaginative Geographies in America

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

When we talk about America, what do we talk about? A country, a continent, or a global archipelago? Where does “America” begin, and where does it end? And within the national borders of the United States, how do regional and local perspectives impact the ways space and place are constructed? How have specific regions such as borders and peripheries been invested with symbolic significance? How do categories of identity such as gender and race influence perceptions of space? In this course, we will discuss spatial thought and spatial theories about “America” across different time periods as well as fictional texts that negotiate space on different scales. The last three sessions in this course will be dedicated to student group projects.

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

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Katja Kanzler

Module organization & coordination: Dr. Katja Schmieder

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, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Annika Schadewaldt

and

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

Dr. Katja Schmieder

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 16th 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. Please be aware that the module will contain a quite extensive time commitment outside of the two slots indicated here, which you will spend on completing a variety of tasks individually or in groups.

3.4 Transatlantic Space (04-038-2010)

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

Module organization & coordination: Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

The module consists of two seminars

Seminar 1: Imagining and Producing Bodies and Spaces in the Americas

Tuesday, 5 - 7 pm, NSG 102

Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

This class offers a lecture series (six guest speakers) accompanied by reading texts written by these guests plus additional material. The class addresses the co-production of spaces and bodies in a series of case studies that focus on the ways bodies and spaces generate and constitute each other in the Americas. The lecturers will touch on the intersection of territories, bodies and borders, the embodiment of spaces and the spatiality of bodies as well as on the cultural imaginaries produced in the constitution of spaces and bodies.

To get full credit for this class, students write a term paper / essay of about 6,500 words, due March 30st, 2023.

Seminar 2: Postnarrative Politics? Towards New Models of Political Speech

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Dr. habil. Sebastian Herrmann

Over the past decades, 'narrative' has emerged as a key term in politics, punditry, and political journalism on both sides of the Atlantic. Successful politicians, so the general thinking goes, are "in control of the narrative," populists tell "simple narratives" of good and evil, and the followers of Q-Anon have fallen for a "conspiracy narrative," to give just some examples. In these and many other accounts of contemporary politics, the underlying assumption is that the formal principle of narrative is key to understanding the power of political speech. This view is indebted to the 'narrative turn': a conceptual framework that assumes "man is a storytelling animal" and that reality is the result of "narrative construction."

In this seminar, we will first explore and understand this conceptual framework. However, we will then try to move beyond it to look for other formal principles that can similarly explain the persuasive or mobilizing power of political speech. Candidates for other such formal principles are play, spectacle, and database, but we will keep an open mind to look out for more.

As a research seminar that ventures out into somewhat uncharted academic territory, this class will require an extra degree of dedication and intellectual curiosity from its participants.

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

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Katja Kanzler

Module organization & coordination: Prof. Dr. Katja Kanzler

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 1: Food, Identity, and Textuality in North American Literature and Film

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 329

Prof. Dr. Katja Kanzler

From Mary Rowlandson's ostentatious refusal to eat the food offered by her 'Indian' captors, to the unnamed protagonist's emphatic "I yam what I am!" in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, North American authors have used food to unfold their stories. Their texts (in print and on screen) feature food – a wide variety of fare as well as scenes of its preparation, consumption, or refusal – as potent and multifaceted signifiers. In this seminar, we will explore some dimensions of this narrative tradition, along with selected critical paradigms by which literary and cultural scholarship have approached it. We will pay particular attention to the ways in which culinary signifiers have helped U.S.-American and Canadian narratives negotiate issues of national identity, ethnic belonging, gender roles, and psychological as well as bodily selfhood. We will discuss how food unfolds its signifying potential in a variety of cultural forms, such as poetry, autobiography, the novel, and film.

Seminar 2: The Narrative of American Sport

Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

Prof. Emily Nemens (Picador Guest Professor)

American sports writing long ago transcended the newspaper recap and box score; in the last century and vibrantly today, writers have explored sports in genres as diverse as novels to literary essays to poems, examining the psychology of competition and the dimensions of fandom. In this discussion-based seminar for MA students, we'll look at sports literature, including longform reportage, fiction, poetry, and film—to understand the history, contemporary breadth, and potential futures of sports storytelling, and what these literatures can tell us about American culture.

Prof. Nemens's seminar starts in the week of November 7. To make up for the late start, there will be a few double sessions. More information will be provided in the first session.

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

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

Module organization & coordination: Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

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: American Mobilities: Migrants, Fugitives, Tourists, and Nomads in US Culture

Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 220
Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

Mobility appears to be a very American trait: to be American is to be “on the move.” In the past two decades, the “mobilities turn” (Sheller, and Urry 2006, Addey 2013) has opened up new agendas of research, addressing globalization, migration, and mobile lifestyles as well as various mobility regimes and their production of uneven and differential forms of movement. In this course we will discuss representations of mobility in US literature and culture with a focus on the interplay of power and mobility, as well as on marginalized, forced, and subjugated forms of (im)mobility. We will read theoretical texts from the field of mobility studies as well as fictional representations of mobility from different periods in American literature.

Seminar 2: Border Regimes: Practices of In-/Exclusion in US Immigration History

Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 305
Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

This course has a double purpose. On a first level, it offers a broad introduction into US immigration and deportation history, focusing on migrant groups from Europe and Asia since the 1830s and how they were welcomed (or not) by the American public. More importantly though, this class discusses and analyzes the long history of distinguishing and separating between wanted and unwanted immigrants at the United States' borders. Undesirable immigration had been regulated since the 19th century on political, legal, economic, social, and cultural grounds; gender, race, class, nationality, political affiliation, sexuality, and characteristics of health or assumed physical disability were used to classify ‘un-Americans,’ ‘illegal aliens,’ and ‘subversives.’ A main emphasize of the course should revolve around the deportation regime that emerged around that selection process and how it was

both politically and legally justified but also challenged. In addition, the course will focus on the strategies and practices immigrants used to circumvent official barriers and to struggle for their right to remain in the United States.

All participants are requested to read the assigned texts (primary sources and secondary texts) for each class meeting and take an active part in group discussions. Several class meetings will be moderated and additionally prepared by a group of selected students who “adopt” that meeting’s topic, selecting additional or different material and guide through our discussions.

To get full credit for this class, students write a term paper / essay of about 6,500 words, due March 31st, 2023.

4 Lehramt Courses

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

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez, Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

Module organization & coordination: Dr. Eleonora Ravizza

The module is designed specifically to train future teachers to deepen their American-studies knowledge. The students will engage with American literary and cultural texts, with critical theory, and with important socio-historical contexts. In the seminar, they will also practice their analytical skills in close readings of American literary and filmic texts and they will learn how to implement this knowledge in the classroom. The exam for the module consists of an extensive analytic project, in the form of a portfolio exam, prepared by the students during the course of the seminar.

The module consists of one lecture, one seminar and one (optional) workshop

2401-1 Lecture

Choose one out of two Lectures (2401-1a or 2401-1b):

2401-1a Constructing North American History II: From the Civil War to 2001

Monday, 5 - 7 pm, HS 4
Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

The lecture explores how the unfolding of American history after the Civil War shaped American society and thus the country's political culture, its institutions, and the different social groups living together in the United States. Topics to be covered include Reconstruction politics in the South, the rise of corporate America, the changing international role of American politics and culture, mass immigration and its impact, reform and civil rights movements, the globalization of American culture, and many more. The course thus integrates global, transatlantic, and international developments to better understand the nature of the American experience and its impact on international affairs.

To get full credit for this class, students must pass a final written exam (in-class or at home test) in form of an essay; the exam usually takes place in the final class meeting.

2401-1b Lecture " Ethnicity and Diversity in US Culture"

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, HS 6
Prof. Dr. 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.

2401-2 Seminar: Teaching America – American Literature, Media, and Culture

Choose one out of six seminars (2401-2a-f):

2401-2a/b: American Bodies: Negotiating Power and Identity in US Culture

Tuesday, 9 - 11 am, NSG 321
Dr. Eleonora Ravizza

or

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 321
Dr. Eleonora Ravizza

Bodies represent a fundamental site where power is negotiated. Looking at how bodies are controlled, regulated, narrated, historicized, weaponized, institutionalized, and theorized can offer critical insights into American culture. By exploring, for example, how differently looking bodies can be constructed as monstrous, how male bodies can be militarized for the benefit of a war narrative, or how non-white bodies can be subjugated or exoticized in a colonial context, we can try to understand the cultural politics expressed in diverse narratives around bodies.

In this seminar, we will examine different conceptualizations of bodies and we will look at how bodies are represented in American (popular) culture through different lenses, such as gender, queerness, race, class, and disability.

The seminar will enable students to deepen their understanding of American film, television, literature, and other texts in US culture as well as to engage with literary and cultural theory in order to analyze a primary text of their choice. The exam for this module is a portfolio exam that will consist of different written components, which will showcase what students have learned throughout the semester.

Please note: The seminars in this module are offered alongside five additional workshops. While it is possible to take the seminar (and pass the module) without these workshops, attending them is strongly recommended. The workshops cover key skills that help with the portfolio. We offer the workshops in four alternative time slots.

2401-2 c/d: Digital Dystopias: Surveillance, Simulation, and Identity in US Culture across Media

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 329
Dr. habil. Sebastian Herrmann

or

Tuesday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 329
Dr. habil. Sebastian Herrmann

American culture is ripe with texts that envision the dangers of the (digital) technology. At times, these visions of danger stem from how artificial intelligence might surpass that of humans, at times from how data can be used to surveil the individual, and at times from how the individual might be duped by simulated environments. In all these cases, the digital constitutes a powerful metaphor for these texts to think about contemporary, (post)modern society and its relation to the individual, and about

what it means to be a person in the first place. In exploring these texts we will look at how they negotiate race, class, and gender, and at the model of personhood they rely on. Doing so will allow us to think about the more fundamental politics and the cultural work of their dystopian outlook.

Please note: The seminars in this module are offered alongside five additional workshops. While it is possible to take the seminar (and pass the module) without these workshops, attending them is strongly recommended. The workshops cover key skills that help with the portfolio. We offer the workshops in three alternative time slots.

2401-2 e/f: Nature in America: Narratives of Space and Identity in US Culture

Thursday, 9 - 11 am, NSG 315
Dr. Eleonora Ravizza

or

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 315
Dr. Eleonora Ravizza

Representations of nature and the environment loom large in the American imagination, from the Puritan fear of the wilderness to the continuous historical shifting of the frontier westward, from disputes over land and negotiations of space to dichotomies between a 'rural' and an 'urban' America. These concerns have manifested themselves in various genres and modes of American fiction, such as in binary constructions of nature and technology in dystopian and science fiction as well as in narratives of the unconquered wilderness in the Western genre. Scrutinizing these different narratives of nature, space, and the environment allows us to examine questions of difference, issues of belonging and identity, negotiations of power, and to overall understand the cultural work these texts do.

In this seminar, we will examine narratives, representations, and imaginations of nature and space in American (popular) culture through different conceptual lenses, such as gender, race, sexuality, class, disability, and the body.

The seminar will enable students to deepen their understanding of American film, television, literature, and other texts in US culture as well as to engage with literary and cultural theory in order to analyze a primary text of their choice. The exam for this module is a portfolio exam that will consist of different written components, which will showcase what students have learned throughout the semester.

Please note: The seminars in this module are offered alongside five additional workshops. While it is possible to take the seminar (and pass the module) without these workshops, attending them is strongly recommended. The workshops cover key skills that help with the portfolio. We offer the workshops in four alternative time slots.

Workshops:

As an addition to the seminar, workshops in three different slots will be offered: Tuesday 1-3 pm, Tuesday 3-5 pm, as well as Thursday 1-3 pm. The workshops help with developing important skills needed to complete the portfolio exam. The topics covered will include: how to create a research bibliography, how to discuss theory, and how to practice literary and film analysis. To participate, please block time accordingly. Signup procedures will be explained in the first seminar session.

4.2 Modul *-1601 “US Society and Diversity: Politics, History and Culture” (Ergänzungsstudien)

Overall module responsibility: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez, Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

Module organization & coordination: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez, Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz

Please note: If you are taking both this module (1601) and the module American Literatures, American Societies (2401), then you must choose lecture 2401-1a (Constructing North American History II: From the Civil War to 2001 by Prof. Dr. Olaf Stieglitz) in module 2401.

The module consists of one lecture and one seminar

To complete the module, students need to attend the Lecture and one Seminar (Seminar 1a, 1b or 1c)

Lecture "Ethnicity and Diversity in US Culture"

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, HS 6
Prof. Dr. 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.

Seminar 1a: Over There, But Can't Happen Here – The Making and Shaping of US History and the Context of (Global) Economic, Social, and Political Currents

Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16
Tobias Schlobach

This seminar will explore US history along key aspects and issues in the country's development, contextualized by the global settings in which it unfolded, and informed by select approaches and perspectives from political, social, and economic lines of inquiry.

Seminar 1b: American Eras

Thursday, 9 – 11 am, NSG 324
Heather Pruessing

This seminar aims to give students a broad understanding of crucial moments in American history during the 20th and 21st centuries. Starting with the Industrial Revolution and ending with the Biden Presidency, we will explore overarching historical themes such as political conflict, social revolutions, and evolving cultural norms. “American Eras” complements the module's lecture and other seminars by offering exposure to a diverse collection of primary and secondary documents. These sources will span contemporary American history and will provide students with opportunities for improving their critical and analytical skills through a mix of verbal and written engagement.

5 Creative Writing

A Professional Skills Module

“Creative Writing: Imagining America” (04-001-1019)

(5 Credits)

Overall module responsibility: Annika Schadewaldt

Module organization & coordination: Annika Schadewaldt

Writing the Short Story

Wednesday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Prof. Emily Nemens (Picador Guest Professor)

There is no “right” way to write a story, but in this participatory introductory writing course, we’ll break down and examine the individual elements of story writing to understand the component parts—including character, plot, setting, and style—to see how stories are constructed. Through in-class exercises and discussion of notable contemporary and historic stories, we’ll discuss elements of short fiction, then try our hand at our own stories. Over the course of the term, students will have the opportunity to share works in progress, give each other feedback, and revise their stories.