

Veranstaltungen
Institut für Amerikanistik, Leipzig

(SS 2005)

Amerikanische Literaturwissenschaft und Kulturgeschichte

EINSCHREIBREGELUNG:

Im Sommersemester 05 ist für die Amerikanische Literaturwissenschaft und Kulturgeschichte nur für ausgewählte Kurse eine Einschreibung notwendig.

Bitte beachten Sie die Termine (s. a. am Aushang und hier auf der Homepage)!!!

Anmeldeformulare werden zur gegebenen Zeit im [Downloadbereich](http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~amerika/downloads.htm) verfügbar sein bzw. sind am Aushang erhältlich.

Für Erstsemester findet die Einschreibung im ersten Seminar statt, für 504 jedoch während der Erstsemesterberatung am 31. März und 4. April 05.

Die Einschreibung für die Linguistik- und Sprachpraxiskurse erfolgt wie bisher entsprechend der Regelungen des Instituts für Anglistik.

Für Magister Amerikanistik, die ab dem WS 97/98 immatrikuliert wurden, gilt, dass vor Besuch eines Proseminars im Bereich Amerikanische Literatur ein Schein in der Einführungsveranstaltung (504) erbracht werden muss.

Lehramtsstudenten können für dieses Seminar (504) auch das Angebot der Anglistik Nr. 101 nutzen.

GRUNDSTUDIUM

Die mit einer "0" vor der Kurs-Nummer gekennzeichneten Lehrveranstaltungen wurden nachträglich in das LV-Verzeichnis eingefügt (nach Erscheinen der gedruckten Version). Daher beachten Sie bitte die abweichende Nummerierung!

Literaturwissenschaft

501 American Literature: Civil War to Present Koenen, Anne
VO, 1 SWS
donnerstags, 09:15 bis 10:00 Uhr, HS 21

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

502 American Literature: Civil War to Present Koenen, Anne
ÜO, 1 SWS
donnerstags, 10:15 bis 11:00 Uhr, HS 21

The accompanying Übung serves to intensify and deepen our understanding of the lecture topics in an analysis of representative texts.

503 Reading the Popular Kusmierz, Zoe Antonia
PSW/LN, 2 SWS
dienstags, 11:15 bis 12:45 Uhr, 2.516 (Beethovenstr. 15)

TV: Completion of "Introduction to Literary Studies."

E: Prior registration is necessary (sign up by e-mail to kusmierz@rz.uni-leipzig.de until March 18). The number of students in this class will be limited. Students who want to participate in this class will have to pass a test covering basic knowledge of US literature, culture, and theory. A (short!) reading list in preparation for the test will be made available no later than March 18 via Lehrbox.

This course provides an introduction to critical issues and approaches in the study of American popular culture. Besides tracing how notions of the popular have changed and how boundaries between high and popular culture have become permeable, we will analyze how such factors as race, gender and class are shaped by and negotiated in popular culture.

Case studies will be based on popular fiction, television, advertising, film, and the culture of everyday life. Students will be asked to contribute in form of group projects, for which they will have to sign up early in the course.

504 Introduction to Literary Studies Kanzler, Katja
ÜO/LN, 2 SWS
donnerstags, 11:15 bis 12:45 Uhr, 2.516(Beethovenstr. 15)

E: Prior registration necessary. First-semester-students may register during the 'Erstsemesterberatung' on March 31 or April 4, 11am-1pm, GWZ 2.516; second- and third-semester-students may register during my office hours in February and March.

In this class, we will acquaint ourselves with and practice the methods and terminology of American literary studies. The Übung will cover exemplary analyses and interpretations of literary texts as well as an introduction to contemporary approaches in literary theory.

505 From Local Color to Regionalism --
-- KURS ENTFÄLLT --

[Kurs entfällt]

Kulturgeschichte

506 U. S. History since 1877

VO, 2 SWS

mittwochs, 09:15 bis 10:45 Uhr, HS 21

Keil, Hartmut

This survey lecture course will cover the history of the United States from the end of Reconstruction and the period of intense industrialization to the present. Among the topics that will be addressed are: Internal social, economic, demographic developments triggered by the Civil War, immigration, and urbanization; the Progressive Movement; immigration and civil rights policies; social and cultural divisions in the 1920s; the Great Depression and the New Deal; the emergence of the Cold War and McCarthyism; the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements and their impact upon the Afroamerican population; the 1960s: Cuba, the Vietnam War, Johnson's Great Society; the student movement and counter culture; party realignment, the rise of conservative politics and Christian fundamentalism; minorities and immigration; women's movement; technological change, industrial and urban development after World War II and labor organizations; poverty, violence and crime; Reagan, Clinton and Bush administrations.

0565 Literature of the West

Monday (even Cal.Week), 01:00 PM - 05:00 PM: Institut fuer Amerikanistik

Haake

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/75

The American West is probably the area of the United States that has most stimulated the imagination of Americans and foreigners alike. The iconographic landscape appears in a range of fiction such as the Western and the Romance. We will look at literature covering the classical West but also its reinterpretations. How was the West depicted in the past and what do people write today? In this class we will look at a number of novels and short stories that deal with the versatile nature of the American West and the literature depicting it.

TV: Completion of "Introduction to Literary Studies."

E: Prior registration is necessary (sign up by e-mail to cshaake@gmx.net until March 25). The number of students in this class will be limited. Students who want to participate in this class will have to pass a test covering basic knowledge of US literature, culture, and theory. A (short!) reading list in preparation for the test will be made available no later than March 25 via Lehrbox.

0566 Affect and Innovation in Modern and Contemporary American Poetry

Fridays, 11:15-12:45

Tentative Room assignment: SG 4-03/04

Todd Carmody

Prior registration is necessary (sign up by e-mail to carmodyt@sas.upenn.edu).

First class meeting on Friday, April 15

In this course we will consider "the experience of modernity" in twentieth-century American poetry in light of recent studies in affect and subjectivity. Critics often describe the work of modern and contemporary poets as impersonal or unemotional, and these labels have even been self-applied, most famously by T.S. Eliot. More recent innovative and experimental poets have also situated their work in opposition to lyric conventions, as "aggressive dismissals of self-expressive mainstream poetics" (Bob Perelman on language poetry). This course seeks to negotiate the relationship between formal innovation and poetic subjectivity, asking how emotion is represented where poetic conventions are challenged. We will pay special attention to particular modern "ways of feeling": alienation, disenchantment, shame, boredom, shock, melancholia, double consciousness, and Jameson's "waning of affect."

Poets to be considered may include Williams, Stein, H.D., Moore, Pound, Eliot, Loy, Hughes, Toomer, McKay, Neidecker, Reznikoff, Zukofsky, Crane, Oppen, Antin, Mac Low, Bernstein, Hejinian, and Armantrout. Theoretical readings by Jameson, Altieri, Ngai, Flatley, Freud, Benjamin, DuBois, Massumi, Tomkins and others.

507 Basic Texts in American History

PSW/LN, 2 SWS

dienstags, 11:15 bis 12:45 Uhr, SG 4-69/70

Sharpe, Catherine

E: Für dieses Seminar ist eine Einschreibung per <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~amerika/downloads.htm> >Anmeldeformular notwendig.

Attending first class is mandatory, regardless of prior enrolment. Availability for participants is limited and cannot be determined by instructor until the first day of class. Every participant should be willing to do a short presentation, regardless of their plans for LN.

Various types of texts that are thought to be most important in U.S. history will be explored in this cultural history course. Text

interpretation will be covered and, beyond this essential, students will further investigate other meaningful aspects, such as the influences, creation, times, and effects, that surround these writings. Students will be assessed through their achievement in specially assigned course work, in particular the presentations they will be expected to give.

508 The Presidencies of United States History

Sharpe, Catherine

PSW/LN, 2 SWS

dienstags, 13:15 bis 14:45 Uhr, SG 4-69/70

E: Für dieses Seminar ist eine Einschreibung per <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~amerika/downloads.htm> Anmeldeformular notwendig.

Attending first class is mandatory, regardless of prior enrolment. Availability for participants is limited and cannot be determined by instructor until the first day of class. Every participant will be expected to give a short presentation, regardless of their plans for LN.

This course will approach United States history with a walk through its presidencies. In presentations, students will review these men and how they, in their time, represented the country and shaped its history. More than just biographical accounts, we will look at their politics, influence, and any other aspects that came to be the hallmarks of their administrations.

0562 The U.S. at War

Usbeck, Frank

PSW/LN, 2 SWS

mittwochs, 11:15 – 12:45 Uhr, SG 2-31/32

TN: aktive Mitarbeit und Übernahme eines Referats.

LN: Hausarbeit von 10 – 15 Seiten

Revolution, the end of slavery, westward expansion, the rise to global power - many of the well-known events in American history are related to war and organized violence. This seminar aims at discussing parallels and unique features in the history of American warfare as well as the following questions: How did the U.S. define war aims, and who influenced that definition? How did the respective governments rally the people behind the cause, and how did they cope with dissent? To what extent can the citizens of a democracy determine the conduct of a war, and can they start or end war directly?

HAUPTSTUDIUM

Literaturwissenschaft

551 Scarlet Letters - Adultery in the American Novel

Koenen, Anne

HSW/LN, 2 SWS

mittwochs, 11:15 bis 12:45 Uhr, SG 2-33/34

"To judge by literature, adultery would seem to be one of the most remarkable occupations in both Europe and America" - deRougement's observation refers to the numerous literary representations of adultery as a testing ground for (middle-class) morality from the nineteenth-century on. We will analyse and discuss American novels and a movie (Fatal Attraction) in the context of theoretical texts and major European novels (Madame Bovary, Anna Karenina, Effi Briest) to uncover the functions and manifestations of the motif.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter; Theodore Dreiser, Sister Carrie; Kate Chopin, The Awakening; Edith Wharton, The Age of Innocence; F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby; John Updike, Rabbit Run.

Purchase of novels recommended.

552 Americanization and Consumer Culture

Koenen, Anne

HSW/LN, 2 SWS

mittwochs, 13:15 bis 14:45 Uhr, SG 2-33/34

The phenomenon of "Americanization" (a controversial term) has again and again provoked critical reactions in Germany (and worldwide); one of the objections concerns the transformation of Germany into a consumer culture with negative consequences like materialism, cultural corruption, superficiality. Some cultural critics have indeed claimed that consumerism has become the dominant ideology of our times. In this seminar, we will read theoretical texts about both Americanization and consumerism to obtain a background for our analysis of primary material. The analysis of fictional representations as well as cultural manifestations of consumerism will highlight the emergence of the US as a consumer society and significant trends in the 20th century (like the malling of America, department stores vs mail-order, e-commerce).

Theodore Dreiser, Sister Carrie; John Updike, Rabbit at Rest; Edna Ferber, Fanny Herself; Breat Easton Ellis, American Psycho. A reader with theory, short stories, and criticism will be provided.

Purchase of novels recommended.

- 553 Contemporary Literature: Stewart O'Nan** Koenen, Anne
HSW/LN, 2 SWS
donnerstags, 11:15 bis 12:45 Uhr, SG 1-63/64

Stewart O'Nan was not only awarded the prestigious Faulkner Award early in his literary career, but is regularly listed as one of the best contemporary American authors. He is a prolific writer whose works span an impressively wide range of genres (the Gothic, the thriller, historical novel, fiction) and subjects. We will discuss O'Nan as a central representative of contemporary American literature in the context of literary traditions, influences (Stephen King), and popular culture.

Stewart O'Nan: Snow Angels; The Names of the Dead; In the Walled City; The Speed Queen; A World Away; A Prayer for the Dying; Everyday People; Wish You Were Here.
Purchase of novels recommended.

- 554 Ceremony, Almanac, Global Novel: 20th-Century Native American Literature** Gersdorf
Friday, 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM: 2.516 (Beethovenstr. 15) www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/80

TV: Interest in in-depth research and discussion of a representative writer.

E: Registration at gersdorf@rz.uni-leipzig.de AND presence in first meeting (both is binding for acceptance into class).

Using the work of Leslie Marmon Silko (* 1948) as its focal point, this class will investigate the contribution of one of the most prominent Native American writers of her generation to our understanding of late 20th-century U.S. culture. In her novels, essays, and poems, Silko draws on both indigenous and Western literary traditions and forms (myth, stream-of-consciousness, orality, non-linearity, etc.) to challenge her reader's imagination through aesthetically complex and politically explosive comments on topics such as war, cultural and individual survival, the power of language and vision, the politics of colonialism and post-colonialism, the clash of civilizations, biotechnology, homelessness, and (global) mobility.

Covering a broad scope of literary, cultural, social, and theoretical questions, the class will be organized as a workshop and include a survey lecture, group discussions, individual and group research periods, as well as a conference at the end of the semester. Further details in the first class meeting.

Please purchase and read Silko's Ceremony and Almanac of the Dead. A Reader with further material will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

- 555 The Historical Imagination** n.n.
HSW/LN, 2 SWS
donnerstags, 13:15 bis 14:45 Uhr, 2.516 (Beethovenstr. 15)

This seminar will discuss various modes of historical writing in American literary history. Since the nation's very beginning, American authors have created fictional accounts of their nation's history to, variously, forge a unified and cohesive national identity, to give voice to historical experiences of people excluded from the official writing of history, or, more fundamentally, to draw attention to the contingency and contestedness of historical accounts. In this seminar, we will explore the multifaceted project of American historical fiction by analyzing different historical moments and phases (Puritan past, slavery) and the different ways in which they have been fictionalized (for instance, in romantic or postmodern texts).

Texts to be discussed may include: Catherine Sedgwick, Hope Leslie
Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter
Charles Johnson, Middle Passage.

Further information on the seminar, and on its registration procedure, will be made available on the Institute's website.

Kulturgeschichte

- 556 Social Policy in the United States** Keil, Hartmut
HSW/LN, 2 SWS
dienstags, 09:15 bis 10:45 Uhr, SG 1-61/62

E: Für dieses Seminar ist eine Einschreibung per <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~amerika/downloads.htm> *>Anmeldeformular notwendig. Die Teilnehmeranzahl ist auf 30 Personen begrenzt.*

The course will compare the social security system of the United States with those of West European countries and Canada. The historical development of social insurance before the 20th century under the impact of liberal laissez-faire philosophy as well as comparative theories of the development of social security systems will be analyzed. The following topics will then be addressed: the pension system for - especially Civil War - veterans (Theda Skocpol); the development of social security since the Progressive Movement - especially by some northern and midwestern states - until passage of the Social Security Act of 1935; the extension of the system since the 1960s; efforts at limiting the system since the Reagan administration and at reforming the medical insurance. Non-governmental, i.e. private initiatives (by associations, labor unions, and employers - "welfare capitalism") will be analyzed as well.

557 U.S. Slavery in Comparative Perspective
HSW/LN, 2 SWS
dienstags, 15:15 bis 16:45 Uhr, SG 1-65/66

Keil, Hartmut

E: Für dieses Seminar ist eine Einschreibung per <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~amerika/downloads.htm> notwendig. Die Teilnehmeranzahl ist auf 30 Personen begrenzt.

The course will analyze the impact of slavery in the Americas from a comparative perspective. It will discuss similar or different aspects of the institutionalization of slavery. Analyses of the slave trade, its extent and duration, as well as of the developing commercial and trade systems, of the actors involved (slave traders, captains and crews, captured Africans) will precede the detailed discussion of varieties of institutionalization of slavery: the composition of, and demographic change among, the slave population; the relationship between masters and slaves and among the slaves themselves; the rise of permanent social and cultural institutions (e.g. family, church); forms of protest. The consequences of the plantation economy for the respective societies and the progress of emancipation will also be considered.

558 Race and Ethnicity
HSW/LN, 2 SWS
mittwochs, 13:15 bis 14:45 Uhr, SG 1-65/66

Keil, Hartmut

E: Für dieses Seminar ist eine Einschreibung per <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~amerika/downloads.htm> notwendig. Die Teilnehmeranzahl ist auf 30 Personen begrenzt.

The course will analyze historical and contemporary theories of race and ethnicity. The focus will be on social and historical contexts in which such theories were propagated in order to rationalize and justify discrimination, and on Anglo-American approaches and developments which relate to the historical experience of the United States (slavery, expansion, immigration, imperialism, segregation, anti-Semitism).

0563 What If? ...Missed Opportunities in U.S. History
PSW/LN, 2 SWS
mittwochs, 13:15 – 14:45 Uhr, SG 00-61/62

Usbeck, Frank

TN: aktive Mitarbeit, Übernahme eines Referats, und Kenntnis der während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit auf Lehrbox bekannt gegebenen Texte.

LN: Recherchearbeit von 10 - 15 Seiten.

One of the most intriguing questions in history is whether the world would be a different place - and how much different - if events had taken a different course at some point of time. What would the world look like with the Confederacy winning the American Civil War, or if Columbus had met militant Native American nation states backed by Asian empires? Many historians think that asking What if? is wasting energy because the wheel cannot be turned back in the first place. Others, however, argue that by investigating missed opportunities (or calamities) we begin to understand why the world is as we experience it. This seminar will discuss academic texts as well as "Alternate History" Science Fiction narratives which propose different courses American history might have taken. The aim of the seminar will be to find decisive historic events, explore possible alternative outcomes, and critically analyze the proposed scenarios by way of comparison to history books that discuss events of "our world's" history.

0564 Popcorn and Politics: Hollywood's Portrayal of American Politics
Wednesday, 01:15 PM - 02:45 PM: 2.516 (Beethovenstr. 15)

Bateman

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/89

Course Description/ Objectives

This course will require you to view four to five films (time permitting) and to comment critically about the themes which bind them. In order to enhance the discussion, film viewing will be supplemented with newspaper and magazine articles as well as, occasionally, short clips from other films or television. Preparation and active class participation will make this class a lot more fun, so please speak up!

The objective of this course will be to think critically about the roles that politicians and politics play in American life. On one hand, American politicians are treated with an enormous amount of prestige and respect as powerful individuals. On the other hand, politicians are widely regarded as dishonest and self-interested, while politics in general is thought of as one of the dirtiest businesses on earth. In addition, as members of government, politicians have an enormous amount of power and responsibility. Throughout history, the ways in which different personalities have handled the balance between these two variables have shaped their legacies and also public opinion about what politics and politicians represent for Americans. While this course will not concern itself with historical individuals, in many cases fictitious characters are created out of composites of historical figures or satires of stereotypical persons.

As you watch each film, please keep in mind the themes which repeat in each of the films. Examples might be the role of the media and spin; public image vs. private image of politicians; power, corruption and money in the political process; as well as common elements which characters and films have in common and which bind them. The ability to connect all or some of these films by the elements that they share will tell you a lot about public and private perceptions of the American political process

559 MA-Kolloquium für Studierende mit MA-Arbeit in Amerikanischer Kulturgeschichte Keil, Hartmut
Kolloquium
dienstags, 14-tägig, 17:15 bis 18:45 Uhr, 2.516 (Beethovenstr. 15)

560 Citizenship and Identity in a Transatlantic Context Garrett, Crister
HSW/LN, 2 SWS
dienstags, 15:30 bis 17:00 Uhr, 2.516 (Beethovenstr. 15)

E: Für dieses Seminar ist eine Einschreibung per <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~amerika/downloads.htm> Anmeldeformular notwendig. Die Teilnehmeranzahl ist auf 30 Personen begrenzt.

We will explore in this seminar how concepts of citizenship and identity are fundamentally shaping the culture and content of American politics, both domestically and internationally. To understand this process more accurately and fully, we will compare the contemporary United States experience with citizenship and identity debates to similar exchanges in Poland, France, Mexico, and Canada. These four countries have had clearly different narratives of constructing citizenship, but all are strongly bound in one form or another to the American experiment to create new forms of citizenship and identity. Indeed, we can speak of an emerging transatlantic space where issues of citizenship and identity are pursued as national debates, but increasingly in an international and transatlantic context.

561 American Economics and Society in a Global Context Garrett, Crister
HSW/LN, 2 SWS
mittwochs, 15:15 bis 16:45 Uhr, 2.516 (Beethovenstr. 15)

E: Für dieses Seminar ist eine Einschreibung per <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~amerika/downloads.htm> Anmeldeformular notwendig. Die Teilnehmeranzahl ist auf 30 Personen begrenzt.

We will explore in this seminar how the relationship between economics and society in the United States fundamentally shapes the culture and content of American politics, both domestically and internationally. To understand this process more accurately and fully, we will compare the contemporary United States experience with economic and social transformation to similar and recent experiences in Poland, France, Mexico, and Canada. These four countries have had clearly different narratives of economic and social change, but all are strongly bound in one form or another to the American experiment to create prosperity and different forms of political participation. Indeed, we can speak of an emerging transatlantic space where issues of economics and society are pursued as national efforts and debates, but increasingly in an international and transatlantic context.