

**Veranstaltungen**  
**Institut für Amerikanistik, Leipzig**

**(SS 2008)**

## COURSE CATALOG SUMMER 2008

[http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/files/185\\_Introduction\\_Summer\\_2008.pdf](http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/files/185_Introduction_Summer_2008.pdf)>Download "Course Catalogue Summer 2008: Introduction" (pdf)</font>

### MAGISTER GRUNDSTUDIUM

Please be sure to read the Course Catalog Introduction carefully for important information relating to courses and enrollment.

Please note that all courses start the week of 7 April unless otherwise stated.

For those students still in the Grundstudium there will be an OBLIGATORY townhall meeting on 4 April from 02:00 to 04:00 PM in GWZ 2.516. Course availability and enrollment will be clarified at the meeting.

### MAGISTER HAUPTSTUDIUM

Please note that courses listed with both a 200 and 400 course number will have course websites located under the MA section of the Course Catalog (ie, the 400 courses).

### Literaturwissenschaft

- 201 Kolloquium für ExamenskandidatInnen und DoktorandInnen** Anne Koenen  
Koll., 1 SWS  
Friday, From 12:00 PM To 12:45 PM, Location: Brühl 914

**Enrollment:** Prior enrollment by email necessary (koenen@uni-leipzig.de). Deadline is March 31.

- 202 Cyborgs, Mutants, and Monsters. The Fantastic and Science Fiction** Anne Koenen  
HSW, 2 SWS  
Thursday, From 11:15 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

**Enrollment:** Prior enrollment via email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) is necessary; deadline is March 31.

In the first session, there will be a brief test on LeGuin's *The Left Hand of Darkness*. This seminar is open to those 40 students who emerge as the best (prepared) in this test.

Critics like Rosemary Jackson have frequently celebrated the fantastic's potential to uncover the unseen and unsaid of culture, while others like Leslie Fiedler have applauded SF for anticipating socio-cultural change as well as allowing the articulation of alternative desires. SF's metaphors for alienation and otherness and its unruly imagination have made the genre increasingly attractive for writers marginalized because of race and gender. The seminar will examine theories of defamiliarization and estrangement, of repression and voicing discontent, and then proceed to analyse a variety of texts, ranging from texts that established a literary tradition of the fantastic (Poe, Wharton, Perkins Gilman) to deconstructions of gender and race (LeGuin, Butler). In a Blockseminar-format, we will finally discuss a variety of central writers (Philip K. Dick, Michael Crichton) and influential movies (*Alien*, *Jurassic Park*, *I am legend*; satires like *Mars Attacks*).

- 203 The Orient in antebellum America** Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez  
HSW, 2 SWS  
Wednesday, From 09:15 AM To 10:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

**Enrollment:** Prior registration is necessary (via Lehrbox, March 25-28)

**First Day of Classes:** April 16

In this course we will look at the Americans' engagement with Islam and the Orient in the early republican and antebellum period. We will investigate the Orient as a transnational discourse which has provided a powerful reservoir of rhetoric and imagery that Americans have appropriated to authorize and to criticize cultural constructions of national mission, religious faith, moral behaviours, ethnic identity, and gender performance. As Timothy Marr in *The Cultural Roots of American Islamicism* has argued, perceptions of the Orient, long viewed not only as both an anti-Christian and despotic threat but also as an exotic other, held a larger place in domestic American concerns than previously thought. Literary, and imagined encounters with 'Orientals' provided a backdrop for Americans' negotiations of nation, slavery, women's roles, sexuality, race and morality.

We will explore texts by authors such as Benjamin Franklin, Royall Tyler, Susannah Rowson, Washington Irving, John Riley, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Louisa May Alcott and Herman Melville. The final sessions will be dedicated to discussing the traces of these early

discourses about the Orient in today's constructions of Islam and the Muslim world in American fiction and film. More detailed information about the course will be available through Lehrbox as of March 20.

**204 = 411 The Construction of "Race"**

Anne Koenen

HSW, 2 SWS

Thursday, From 01:15 PM To 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

**Enrollment:** This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar for literary Studies. Please apply for this seminar by email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) before March 31, 2008.

In your application, please specify 1) your program of studies (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach, Lehramt), 2) the semester in which you study, 3) the Pro- and Hauptseminars in American Literary Studies you have attended, and the Leistungsscheine you have earned, and 4) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

Relying on a tradition of analysing "race" by writers such as Ellison, Toni Morrison's *Playing in the Dark* has pointed out how the concept of "race" (blackness and whiteness) has structured American literature, how race-related images and their effect have fundamentally impacted the literary imagination and its products. The seminar will look at the construction of race (and its intersection with class and gender) in fictions by writers of color (predominantly black writers) and white authors.

**205 = 412 Gender and the Canon of 19th-Century U.S. Literature**

Katja Kanzler

HSW, 2 SWS

Monday, From 03:15 PM To 04:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

**Enrollment:** This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar for Literary Studies. Please apply for this seminar by email (kkanzler@uni-leipzig.de) before March 20, 2008.

In your application, please specify 1) your program of studies (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach, Lehramt), 2) the semester in which you study, 3) the Pro- and Hauptseminars in American Literary Studies you have attended, and the Leistungsscheine you have earned, and 4) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

**First Day of Classes:** April 7

When literary scholar Nina Baym set out, in the 1970s, to recover from obscurity 19th-century women's writing, she subsumed the vast body of texts she found under the generic term 'Woman's Fiction.' In the wake of her pioneering study, feminist critics continued to make visible women's literary contributions and to develop a critical vocabulary that allowed for the literature's appreciation on its own terms. Thanks to their work of recovery, our notions of 19th-century U.S. literature have come a far way from F.O. Matthiessen's definition of an all-male 'American Renaissance.' But although the canon has thus become more diverse, it is still organized in gendered ways: Gendered notions about the genres, modes, themes, or settings women and men use in their writing (sentimental, domestic vs. transcendental, romance, frontier) still determine what kinds of texts are being read, taught, and published on.

In this class, we will try to get a sense of the ways in which the canon of mid-19th-century U.S. literature has been structured along gendered lines. From there, we will proceed to read and discuss a selection of literary texts that allow us to reconceive or complicate these gendered categories. Our readings may include, e.g., a domestic novel penned by a male author and set in the Black community, a proto-realist novel that details the experience of settling at the frontier from a woman's perspective, or pieces of short fiction – by male and female authors – whose protagonists are industrial workers.

A reading list for the course will be available by March.

**206 20th Century American Pop Culture**

Klosterman

Tuesday, 01:15 PM - 02:45 PM: GWZ 2.516

[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/242](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/242)

This course will be taught by Summer 08 Picador Professor for Literature, Chuck Klosterman. Attendance will be limited. You may pre-enroll now. Please keep checking back for updates on enrollment details.

This course will consider the creation and evolution of mainstream popular culture in the United States, with an emphasis on the relationship between the rise of rock music and the received meaning of what the classification of "teenager" supposedly represents. Key periods of examination will be the 1950s, the late 1960s, and the early 1990s. Topics for discussion will crosscut a variety of idioms (television, film, sport, literature) and will be addressed in a mostly apolitical manner.

**UPDATE ON ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES:** Due to extremely high demand, enrollment to this course will have to be regulated through a short essay / test.

Question: In 300 words: Who do you consider the most interesting American of the 20th Century. Not the most important, but the most interesting to you. And why?

To apply for enrollment, please send your responses (approx 300 words) to the email address klosterman@lehrbox.de by Wednesday, 10pm (the first session will be open to all interested students).

**207 American Cinema, American Society**

Alpers

Monday, 07:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Hörsaal Süd (Jahnallee)

Tuesday, 03:15 PM - 04:45 PM: GWZ 2.516

[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/233](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/233)

This seminar will survey the changing relationship between American film and broader currents in the nation's social and cultural history in the twentieth century, from the early days of silent film through the 1990s. The cinema has been a wildly popular form of entertainment since their creation in the 1890s. It has also been a site of much social and political controversy. Each week's seminar will focus on a film that we will screen earlier in the week. Through these films, we will trace the history of Hollywood film as an art form and an industry, as well as exploring the particular themes of the movies we will screen. Students will be asked to write short weekly response papers and two longer, 7-9 page papers.

I will be pre-enrolling this course through Lehrbox on a first-come, first-serve basis. Although Lehrbox will be set up to allow fifty students to sign up for the course, I will be enrolling the first thirty-five students. Any remaining students will constitute a waiting list. In addition to the Tuesday seminar meeting from 3:15-4:45 pm on Tuesday, this seminar requires you to attend a screening each Monday night at 7 pm (Location: Hörsaal Süd (Jahnallee)). If you are unable to attend the screenings, please do not sign up for this seminar.

**208 There is No Truth: Writing Modern Criticism**

Klosterman

Wednesday, 03:15 PM - 04:45 PM: GWZ 2.516

[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/243](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/243)

This course will be taught by Summer 08 Picador Professor for Literature, Chuck Klosterman. Attendance will be limited. You may pre-enroll now. Please keep checking back for updates on enrollment details.

This course offers the opportunity for students to practice and analyze the criticism of various media forms (music, film, literature, etc.) and culture as a whole (mostly through the practice of first-person writing). The writing assignments will combine elements of conventional journalism with postmodern, idea-driven memoir writing. The class will also discuss how to approach the writing of a book-length nonfiction manuscript.

UPDATE ON ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES: Due to extremely high demand, enrollment to this course will have to be regulated through a short essay / test.

Question: In 300 words, describe and analyze ("review") the last film or album you watched / listened to.

To apply for enrollment, please send your responses (approx 300 words) to the email address klosterman@lehrbox.de by Wednesday, 1pm.

**209 Film Noir: A Transatlantic Cinematic Conversation**

Alpers

Tuesday, 07:00 PM - 10:00 PM: GWZ 2.010

Thursday, 03:15 PM - 04:45 PM: GWZ 2.516

[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/234](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/234)

In the 1940s and 1950s, Hollywood produced a series of films that told disturbing, psychologically complex stories unlike most mainstream American cinema. Although related to earlier crime and suspense films, such movies as *Double Indemnity*, *Out of the Past*, and *Kiss Me Deadly*, seemed to many to be somehow different: perhaps more critical, perhaps darker (literally and figuratively), perhaps more downbeat. These films seemed to many to be marked by certain common features: twisty plots, the character of the "femme fatale," low-key lighting, urban settings. By the end of the 1940s, the French had given a name to them: film noir (literally "black film"). This course will view Hollywood film noir as one half of a complicated transatlantic cinematic conversation, in which these American films drew inspiration from earlier European films and inspired later ones. This course will explore the precursors of film noir, survey Hollywood's noirs of the 1940s and 1950s, and finally examine the ways in which both American and European filmmakers adapted film noir for their own purposes in later decades. Students will be asked to write short weekly response papers and two longer, 7-9 page papers.

I will be pre-enrolling this course through Lehrbox on a first-come, first-serve basis. Although Lehrbox will be set up to allow fifty students to sign up for the course, I will be enrolling the first thirty-five students. Preference will be given to students in the American Studies M.A. program. Any remaining students will constitute a waiting list. This seminar requires you to attend a screening each Tuesday night at 7 pm (Location: GWZ 2.010). If you are unable to attend the screenings, please do not sign up for this seminar. Please note that the first film screening will take place on Tuesday 8 April (before the seminar meets).

**251 Civil Rights in the United States Since World War II**  
HSW, Blockseminar

Hartmut Keil

The course will be held as a bloc seminar, i.e. four meetings will be scheduled. The first introductory and agenda setting meeting will be held Tuesday, April 8, at 5 pm, Beethovenstrasse 15, room 2.516; the second meeting, April 18, will continue to elaborate significant historical contexts, and tasks for oral presentations will be assigned. The third meeting will take place Friday, May 23, from 1pm to 6 pm, the final meeting Friday, June 20, and, if necessary, Saturday, June 21 (depending on the number of participants and oral presentations).

The course will explore the development of civil rights since World War II after taking a look back at how they evolved historically. Topics and issues covered will be: the Civil Rights Movement; the role of the liberal Warren Court; religious, ethnic, racial minorities and civil rights; criminal justice system; immigration; effects of 11 September 2001 and the war on terror; Homeland Security; position of candidates on civil rights in the Presidential campaign.

A list of topics to be addressed by participants in oral presentations will be posted in the Lehrbox by mid-March.

**252 The Presidential Election 2008: People, Parties, Processes - Past and Present**  
HSW, 2 SWS

Paul Rundquist

every other Thursday, From 05:15 PM To 08:00 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

**Please Note:** This seminar will meet for the first time on Thursday, 17 April. It will then proceed to meet every other Thursday from 17:15 to approximately 20:00.

The seminar combines a detailed examination of the current American presidential campaign with an review of historic presidential campaigns that have influenced contemporary politics. Students will deliver a class presentation and prepare a paper examining either a specific significant presidential campaign in detail, or focus on key themes such as the development of professionalism in campaigns, the role of the media in campaigns, or political ambition which compels people to seek the office, among other topics.

**Paul Rundquist joins the faculty of American Studies Leipzig for the first time. He was a specialist for Congressional affairs at the Congressional Research Service for some thirty years. He has been a professor for American politics at George Washington University, Warsaw University, and is currently at the London School of Economics. He and his wife currently split their time between Halle/Leipzig and Washington D.C.**

**253 Reform and Reaction in the American Revolutionary (Fulbright Lecture Series)**  
HSW, 2 SWS

Crister Garrett

This Hauptseminar provides a unique format. It integrates seminar sessions with Professor Garrett along with lectures/seminars by Fulbright Scholars coming to Leipzig from around Germany and Europe.

Tuesday, From 05:15 PM to 06:45, Location: GWZ 2.516

The revolutionary in the American idea—that somehow the founding of the country represented a new form of republican ideal breaking from previous human experience—has always been contested by reform and reaction in the American experience. The theme of **Reform and Reaction in the American Revolutionary** explores how the United States has engaged its own revolutionary ideals with the reality of reforms meant to bring the country closer to these ideals, and how these efforts have unleashed reactions of their own. Topics that will be covered to acquire a better understanding of this basic dynamic in the American experience include journalism, social policy, memory, violence, immigration, environmentalism, and civil rights.

**254 Research Seminar/Magister Colloquium**

Garrett

Thursday, 03:15 PM - 04:45 PM: Humanities Building (GWZ) 3.515

[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/254](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/254)

The Research Seminar/Magister Colloquium is open to students writing either a substantial research paper under my supervision or their Magisterarbeit.

The RS/MC provides a tutorial type forum where students can raise issues, inter alia, about creating a research proposal, strategies for research, organizing outlines, drafting a paper/thesis, documentation, and other concerns and questions relating to a substantial piece of scholarship in the form of a research paper or Magisterarbeit.

The working atmosphere is one of an informal, constructive, round table.

- 255 = 402 Secularity and Society in a Transatlantic Context** Crister Garrett  
HSW, 2 SWS  
Wednesday, From 11:15 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: GWZ 3.515

Notions of progress and tolerance have been bound in many areas of the transatlantic space with a strict separation of church and state, of a secular or civil religion for politics and public policy. The resulting secular state was meant to represent a creed but not necessarily a conviction, and certainly not a dominant spiritual one. Secularity and society has been at the core of the American experience since the country's independence, and no more so than today. Secularity and society of course binds Europe and the United States in many complex and contextual ways, since Americans were trying to implement a European idea, and yet Europe seems more secular today, although even this appears to be undergoing a transformation. Secularity and society in a transatlantic context provides a fundamental platform for understanding some of the basic elements of American society, European societies, and transatlantic dialogue.

- 256 = 403 Politics and Religion in a Transatlantic Context** Crister Garrett  
HSW, 2 SWS  
Wednesday, From 01:15 PM To 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

For many in the world, especially in Europe, there seems to be a growing role of religion in American politics, and this seems to portend a growing intolerance in American society, and in the country's conduct globally. In reality, politics and religion have a much more complex relationship in American society going back to the early days of the country's history. Martin Luther King was a reverend, and hardly a voice of intolerance. Religion and politics have always had a close and basic relationship in the United States, a state and society formally structured by a secular framework. Politics and religion also have a much more intimate relationship in Europe than is often acknowledged, albeit being expressed and practised in clearly different ways. Politics and religion is a central theme in American cultural history, in the evolution of American society, and a fundamental narrative through which one can explore transatlantic dialog, and the similarities and differences between the United States and Europe.

#### ***Other Course in American Studies***

- 271 Magister Thesis Workshop** Catherine Sharpe  
Ü, 2 SWS  
Monday, From 01:15 PM To 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

This course is aimed at assisting students in the preparation and writing of their Magister Thesis. It focuses on the scholarly format of the thesis project, its structure and conventions as well as the techniques of outlining, drafting, revising, and documenting it requires. Students will work on their individual problem areas in academic writing, accompanied by individual consultation time set aside in the semester, and much attention will be given to peer review work, too.

- 272 Academic Writing: Research Papers** Catherine Sharpe  
Ü, 2 SWS  
Tuesday, From 09:15 AM To 10:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2.516

This course is aimed at assisting students in the writing of Research Papers. It focuses on the scholarly format of the research paper, its structure and conventions as well as the techniques of outlining, drafting, revising, and documenting it requires. Students will work on their individual problem areas in academic writing, accompanied by individual consultation time set aside in the semester, and much attention will be given to peer review work, too.

#### **BACHELOR**

#### **Module "Society, History, and Politics I"**

**257 = 405 The Notion of Postmodern Politics in a Transatlantic Context**

Crister Garrett

HSW, 2 SWS

Tuesday, From 11:15 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: Brühl 512

The concept of postmodern politics shapes many if not most of the analyses about the evolution of political practices and participation in contemporary times. Especially impacted by this phenomenon are the so-called post-industrial societies to be found in the transatlantic space. We will explore what is meant by postmodern politics, how it gets to the heart of transformations in political culture in a transatlantic context, and what it means for the notions of politics and power in the 21st century.

**258 =209/408 Film Noir: A Transatlantic Cinematic Conversation**

Benjamin Alpers

HSW, 2 SWS

Thursday, From 03:15 PM To 04:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

**Enrollment:** I will be pre-enrolling this course through Lehrbox. Slots will be reserved for students in the MA program; other slots will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Although Lehrbox will be set up to allow fifty students to sign up for the course, I will be enrolling a total of thirty-five students. Any remaining students will constitute a waiting list. This seminar requires you to attend a screening each Tuesday night at 7 pm. If you are unable to attend the screenings, please do not sign up for this seminar.

Please note that the first film screening will take place on Tuesday 8 April (before the seminar meets).

In the 1940s and 1950s, Hollywood produced a series of films that told disturbing, psychologically complex stories unlike most mainstream American cinema. Although related to earlier crime and suspense films, such movies as *Double Indemnity*, *Out of the Past*, and *Kiss Me Deadly*, seemed to many to be somehow different: perhaps more critical, perhaps darker (literally and figuratively), perhaps more downbeat. These films seemed to many to be marked by certain common features: twisty plots, the character of the "femme fatale," low-key lighting, urban settings. By the end of the 1940s, the French had given a name to them: film noir (literally "black film"). This course will view Hollywood film noir as one half of a complicated transatlantic cinematic conversation, in which these American films drew inspiration from earlier European films and inspired later ones. This course will explore the precursors of film noir, survey Hollywood's noirs of the 1940s and 1950s, and finally examine the ways in which both American and European filmmakers adapted film noir for their own purposes in later decades. Students will be asked to write short weekly response papers and two longer, 7-9 page papers.

**273 Animals in America: A Fauna Fantasy on Nationalist Themes**

Lee

Friday, 01:00 PM - 04:00 PM: GWZ 2516

[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/261](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/261)

Blockseminar June 6 - July 11, Fridays, 1-4 pm, GWZ 2516.

This seminar will examine the changing role of animals in shaping contemporary American culture and society. It will emphasize the ways animals have been made to represent cultural order, ranging from the modern idea of a "pet" to the animal theme parks as expressions of capitalist control over nature. For purposes of clarity, it will exempt the consumption of animals from consideration, in order to better focus on large familiar fauna (domestic livestock, game animals, wild forest animals, pets) that currently command the bulk of popular attention as extensions of human volition and consciousness. The objective of this course is to introduce students to some of the core literature in the burgeoning field of Animal Studies; to work through critical analyses of secondary sources; and to evaluate primary sources through a critical framework informed by new scholarship. Students will be expected to complete all assigned readings and present one in-class report. This course emphasizes discussion and class participation.

The seminar will be taught by Frank Freidel Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Paula Lee. Dr. Lee holds a PhD in Art History from the University of Chicago and joins American Studies Leipzig for six weeks of research and teaching. The seminar will be held as a Blockseminar June 6 - July 11, 2008. Students can earn credits in this course either for Literary Studies or for Cultural History.

Attendance to this seminar is limited, and students will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. Please pre-enrol by writing an e-mail to Dr. Katja Kanzler ([kkanzler@rz.uni-leipzig.de](mailto:kkanzler@rz.uni-leipzig.de)) in which you indicate your name and the program in which you are enrolled (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach Amerikanistik, M.A. American Studies, or other).

**Module Coordinator:** Crister Garrett.

**Module Overview:**

This module is meant to provide students with an interdisciplinary and integrated introduction to key developments and themes in the history, politics, and society of the United States from the colonial period to the conclusion of the Civil War. Beyond becoming acquainted with important aspects of American life, the module is meant to provide students with repeated exercises and practice in analytical thinking and expression, both in written and oral form.

**301 From the Colonial Period to Reconstruction**

Crister Garrett

V, 2 SWS

Thursday, From 01:15 PM To 02:45 PM, Location: Städtisches Kaufhaus 2-07

This lecture will explore key subject areas and analyze their specific interrelationships. Topics to be covered include colonial society, immigration, slavery, imperial conflicts, independence, expansion and regional conflict, religion, Civil War and reconstruction. The lectures will explore how the unfolding of American history influenced American society and thus the country's political culture, institutions, and outcomes.

**302 a) Society, History, and Politics I**

Catherine Sharpe

S, 2 SWS

Monday, From 09:15 AM To 10:45 AM, Location: Dresdner Bank 4-01

In this seminar, students will read original documents relating to the different themes raised during lecture. This will permit students to deepen and contextualize their knowledge about the topics covered during lecture while also developing their academic skills in writing, speaking, and presenting.

**0302 b) Society, History, and Politics I**

Frank Usbeck

S, 2 SWS

Wednesday, From 07:15 AM To 08:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2.516

**First Day of Classes:** 16 April

In this seminar, students will read original documents relating to the different themes raised during lecture. This will permit students to deepen and contextualize their knowledge about the topics covered during lecture while also developing their academic skills in writing, speaking, and presenting.

**0303 a) Society, History, and Politics I**

Catherine Sharpe

Ü, 2 SWS

Tuesday, From 11:15 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

This course deals with the language practice perspective in American-English academic writing on American society, history, and politics. The writing skills required for its parallel course, the Proseminar of the same name, will be developed here through practical assignments given. There will be particular focus on further development of sound skills for the form, function, and structure for the English outline, paragraph, and essay.

**00302 Society, History, and Politics I**

Weise

Monday, 07:00 PM - 09:00 PM: GWZ 2.516

[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/241](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/241)

In this seminar, students will read original documents relating to the different themes raised during lecture. This will permit students to deepen and contextualize their knowledge about the topics covered during lecture while also developing their academic skills in writing, speaking, and presenting.

**00303 b) Society, History, and Politics I**

Catherine Sharpe

Ü, 2 SWS

Thursday, From 11:15 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: Dresdner Bank 3-01

This course deals with the language practice perspective in American-English academic writing on American society, history, and politics. The writing skills required for its parallel course, the Proseminar of the same name, will be developed here through practical assignments given. There will be particular focus on further development of sound skills for the form, function, and structure for the English outline, paragraph, and essay.

**Module Coordinator:** Sylvia Reuter.**Module Coordinator:** Anne Koenen.**Module Overview:**

The module builds on and advances the knowledge and skills students acquired in the introductory module "Literature & Culture 1." It acquaints students with major issues, concepts, and theories involved in the study of popular culture. The module explores the canon debate and its implications for the study of

U.S.-American literature and culture. In addition, it introduces students to exemplary genres of popular culture and their scholarship.

## Module "Introduction to Linguistics"

**304 Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics** Wolfgang Lörcher  
V, 2 SWS  
Tuesday, From 01:15 PM To 02:45 PM, Location: HTWK Audimax G329

*Prüfung: Klausur (120 min) über den Stoff der Vorlesung und des Seminars*

This lecture will provide a systematic introduction into the field of synchronic linguistics with focus on the theoretical description of English. It aims at providing an overview of the central areas in the study of language such as phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics as well as familiarizing students with aspects of language use investigated in text linguistics, socio- and psycholinguistics.

**305 a) Systemlinguistik: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics** Sylvia Reuter  
S, 2 SWS  
Tuesday, From 09:15 AM To 10:45 AM, Location: Brühl 608

*Literatur: V. Fromkin et al. (2007) An Introduction to Language, Boston/USA: Thomson Wadsworth. Reader erhältlich bei Zimo (Beethovenstraße 10)*

*Prüfung: s. Vorlesung "Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics"*

This seminar is conceived together with the introductory lecture as a basis for further studies in linguistics. Having already familiarized yourself with the basic concepts in this lecture, you will now have the chance for in-depth discussion of problems and practice with the linguistic data as well as for exercises. Contrary to the lecture, though, we will start our linguistic journey with phonetics & phonology, and after that move into other core areas of linguistics such as morphology, syntax and semantics.

**305 b) Systemlinguistik: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics** Sylvia Reuter  
S, 2 SWS  
Wednesday, from 11:15 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: Brühl 618

*Literatur: V. Fromkin et al. (2007) An Introduction to Language, Boston/USA: Thomson Wadsworth. Reader erhältlich bei Zimo (Beethovenstraße 10)*

*Prüfung: s. Vorlesung "Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics"*

This seminar is conceived together with the introductory lecture as a basis for further studies in linguistics. Having already familiarized yourself with the basic concepts in this lecture, you will now have the chance for in-depth discussion of problems and practice with the linguistic data as well as for exercises. Contrary to the lecture, though, we will start our linguistic journey with phonetics & phonology, and after that move into other core areas of linguistics such as morphology, syntax and semantics.

**306 a) Sprachpraxis für Amerikanisten: Spoken Academic Discourse** Peter Tosic  
Ü, 2 SWS  
Tuesday, From 03:15 PM To 04:45 PM, Location: Dresdner Bank 02-05

*Prüfung: Präsentation, Diskussionsleitung u. Zusammenfassung (15 Minuten)*

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

**306 b) Sprachpraxis für Amerikanisten: Spoken Academic Discourse** Peter Tosic  
ü, 2 SWS  
Thursday, From 03:15 PM To 04:45 PM, Location: Brühl 618

*Prüfung: Präsentation, Diskussionsleitung u. Zusammenfassung (15 Minuten)*

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

### **Module "Literature and Culture II"**

**307 The Canon and Popular Culture** Anne Koenen  
V, 2 SWS  
Friday, From 09:15 AM To 10:45 AM, Location: Städtisches Kaufhaus 2-07

The lectures will explore theoretical implications of the canon debate and theories of popular culture and use these theoretical groundings to analyse popular genres such as crime fiction and the gothic as well as diverse areas of cultural studies (such as consumerism).

**308 Science Fiction** Katja Kanzler  
S, 2 SWS  
Thursday, From 03:15 PM To 04:45 PM, Location: Dresdner Bank 4-01

**First Day of Classes:** April 17 (Readings may be assigned in preparation for this first class meeting.).

This seminar focuses on science fiction (sf) as a genre that has played a major role in U.S.-American (popular) culture since the beginning of the 20th century. We will begin by acquainting ourselves with the ways in which genre theory can help us describe sf as a genre that works across different media. We will proceed to explore some of the major traditions of sf in American literature and film, and get a sense of their incorporation into other cultural genres. In the process, we will work with a variety of theoretical approaches to examine science fiction's negotiation of themes like gender, race, science, or progress.

**309 Crime Fiction** Katja Schmieder  
S, 2 SWS  
Tuesday, From 11:15 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: Städtisches Kaufhaus 2-06

**First Day of Classes:** April 8 (Readings may be assigned in preparation for this first class meeting.).

In our seminar, we will trace the emergence and transformation of the popular literary genre of crime fiction as conditioned by historical and cultural contexts. A critical discussion of generic conventions and a consideration of theoretical approaches will enable us to analyze these developments in crime fiction from its origins to the present day. Our survey will include various subgenres, ranging from classic detective fiction (Edgar Allan Poe) to its hard-boiled (Raymond Chandler) and postmodern versions (metaphysical, forensic, feminist detective).

### **Module "The Anglo-American World in a Global Context"**

**310 The Anglo-American World in a Global Context** Crister Garrett  
V, 2 SWS  
Monday, From 03:15 PM To 04:45 PM, Location: Städtisches Kaufhaus 2-04

This lecture will explore what is meant by the Anglo-American world in its political, social, cultural, and economic expressions, and what it means in a global context. The French speak regularly about "the Anglo-Saxon world" by which they mean the United States, Britain, and really all those societies with a certain tradition of political participation, social mobility, cultural expression, and economic activity. To acquire a better understanding of what constitutes an Anglo-American world, and its influence in a global context (or how it is perceived globally), we will look at literature, political history, social trends, contemporary events, economic developments, and cultural innovations.

**Module Coordinator:** Crister Garrett.

#### **Module Overview:**

This module is meant to provide students with a deeper understanding of how the United States and Great Britain/Ireland relate to each other and other countries that together make up what is often referred to as the "Anglo-Saxon tradition". Especially in the wake of contemporary globalization—but certainly

during earlier periods of mobility, exchange, and discovery—the concept of an Anglo-American world held great sway in many corners of the globe. Indeed, for much of continental Europe today, “the Anglo-American world” provides a basic compass for understanding fundamental developments in politics, economics, and culture. This module is meant to provide students with a more sophisticated understanding of how the United States and Great Britain have perceived and influenced each other historically and currently, and also to provide a deeper understanding of what the “Anglo-American world” means during our current period of global change.

**Module Requirements:**

Successful completion of Modules 04-001-1001 (American Studies, SHP I) and 04-001-1002 (American Studies, LC I) or Module 004-002-1102 (Anglistik)

Students taking American Studies as their Major or seeking to pursue a Minor (Wahlbereich) must attend the lecture by Crister Garrett and the seminar by Katja Schmieder. They can then choose a seminar by either Joachim Schwend or Frauke Hofmeister.

- 311 English Classics Traveling the Oceans** Katja Schmieder  
S, 2 SWS  
Wednesday, From 11:15 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

Classic works of English literature have been read all over the world, at all times. They continue to influence readers and writers, thus inspiring re-readings and re-writings in most diverse forms. In this course, we will discuss American and global receptions of classic English fictions from different perspectives, applying different theoretical approaches and analytic tools. Indebted to texts by Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, and Charlotte Brontë, our seminar will focus on recent examples such as Jasper Fforde’s novel *The Eyre Affair* and the movie “The Jane Austen Book Club.”

- 312 Emigrants and Exiles – The Irish Diaspora** Joachim Schwend  
S, 2 SWS  
Tuesday, From 07:15 AM To 08:45AM, Location: Brühl 605

**Recommended Preparation:** Coogan, Tim Pat (2001). *Wherever Green is Worn*. London: Hutchinson.

Ireland has for centuries been a land to get out of, making emigration to a lasting and accepted feature until the arrival of the Celtic Tiger in the 1990s. Because of large-scale emigration the Irish diaspora is spread all over the world, with a strong emphasis on the North American Continent. The United States were a land of promise and freedom, but they were also considered to be a land with no morals ruled by the Dollar. The Catholic Irish frequently tried to adapt as quickly as possible to American lifestyles, on the other hand the emigrants and exiles in the diaspora cherished and cultivated their indigenous customs and kept a sentimental look backwards to their Emerald Isle. We will look into the phenomenon of Irish emigration its push and pull factors and its representation in literature.

- 313 ‘Could it be special’? Past and Present Perspectives on Britain and the U.S.** Frauke Hofmeister  
S, 2 SWS  
Thursday, From 11:5 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: Brühl 602

Although the term *special relationship* is mostly employed to describe the political relations between the UK and the USA since the Second World War, it can also refer to much longer and deeper linkages between the two countries at various levels. This seminar will trace these relations from the colonial beginnings over the political developments of the twentieth century to the contemporary situation. Above all, we will have a closer look at the way the British and the Americans see each other, and themselves, today, drawing on various material such as travel writing, popular music, and films.

**MASTER**

**Module "Comparative Societies: Culture and Religion"**

- 401 Research Seminar: Comparative Societies: Culture and Religion** Crister Garrett  
FS, 1 SWS  
Time and Place will be arranged the first session of seminar 402.

The Research Seminar is open to students formally enrolled in the M.A. Program of American Studies. The Research Seminar is meant to offer students an intensive “tutorial” atmosphere where the main research project/paper for the module can be discussed and prepared in a small circle of students and the guiding faculty member.

**Module Coordinator:** Crister Garrett.

## Module Overview:

Special attention is drawn to the comparison of diverse cultures and their relationship to the role of religion in society. The concept of civil religion is central to the course's discussion since the debate on the relevance of religion and religiousness, republicanism, and the interaction of state and society with respect to religion has intensified, especially in the American context. The American engagement with religion is compared with the experience of Europeans and with that of other world religions in order to gain a more extensive understanding of the relevance of religion and religiousness in the US as well as transatlantically and globally.

### **303 C Society, History, and Politics I Übung** Thursday, 07:15 AM - 08:45 AM: GWZ 2.516

Glauser  
[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/247](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/247)

303: c) Society, History, and Politics I  
Ü, 2 SWS Thursday, From 07:15 AM To 08:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516 Michelle Glauser  
no homepage

This course deals with the language practice perspective in American-English academic writing on American society, history, and politics. The writing skills required for its parallel course, the Proseminar of the same name, will be developed here through practical assignments given. There will be particular focus on further development of sound skills for the form, function, and structure for the English outline, paragraph, and essay.

### **402 = 255 Secularity and Society in a Transatlantic Context** S, 2 SWS Wednesday, From 11:15 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: Brühl 730

Crister Garrett

Notions of progress and tolerance have been bound in many areas of the transatlantic space with a strict separation of church and state, of a secular or civil religion for politics and public policy. The resulting secular state was meant to represent a creed but not necessarily a conviction, and certainly not a dominant spiritual one. Secularity and society has been at the core of the American experience since the country's independence, and no more so than today. Secularity and society of course binds Europe and the United States in many complex and contextual ways, since Americans were trying to implement a European idea, and yet Europe seems more secular today, although even this appears to be undergoing a transformation. Secularity and society in a transatlantic context provides a fundamental platform for understanding some of the basic elements of American society, European societies, and transatlantic dialogue.

### **403 = 256 Politics and Religion in a Transatlantic Context** S, 2 SWS Wednesday, From 01:15 PM To 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

Crister Garrett

For many in the world, especially in Europe, there seems to be a growing role of religion in American politics, and this seems to portend a growing intolerance in American society, and in the country's conduct globally. In reality, politics and religion have a much more complex relationship in American society going back to the early days of the country's history. Martin Luther King was a reverend, and hardly a voice of intolerance. Religion and politics have always had a close and basic relationship in the United States, a state and society formally structured by a secular framework. Politics and religion also have a much more intimate relationship in Europe than is often acknowledged, albeit being expressed and practised in clearly different ways. Politics and religion is a central theme in American cultural history, in the evolution of American society, and a fundamental narrative through which one can explore transatlantic dialog, and the similarities and differences between the United States and Europe.

## **Module "Political Cultures in a Transatlantic Context"**

### **404 Research Seminar: Political Cultures in a Transatlantic Context** FS, 1 SWS Time and Place to be arranged during first session of seminar 405.

Crister Garrett

The Research Seminar is open to students formally enrolled in the M.A. Program of American Studies. The Research Seminar is meant to offer students an intensive "tutorial"-atmosphere where the main research project/paper for the module can be discussed and prepared in a small circle of students and the guiding faculty member.

### **405 = 257 The Notion of Postmodern Politics in a Transatlantic Context** S, 2 SWS

Crister Garrett

Tuesday, From 11:15 AM To 12:45 PM, Location: Brühl 512

The concept of postmodern politics shapes many if not most of the analyses about the evolution of political practices and participation in contemporary times. Especially impacted by this phenomenon are the so-called post-industrial societies to be found in the transatlantic space. We will explore what is meant by postmodern politics, how it gets to the heart of transformations in political culture in a transatlantic context, and what it means for the notions of politics and power in the 21st century.

**406 Governing Deviance**

Prof. Rebecca Pates, Institute for Political Science

S, 2 SWS

This is a block seminar. It will meet during 16-19 June, 17:00-21.00.

**Enrollment:** Students must sign in before May 30, 2008. Students can sign into the seminar as of March 1 through Moodle <http://elearnsrv02.uni-leipzig.de/moodle/> and then click on Fakultät für Sozialwissenschaften und Philosophie, Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Sommersemester 2008.

No password required.

Deviance – be it in the form of crime, unusual sexual behaviour, the pursuit of politics deemed unsavoury – has been policed for hundreds of years. Of late, a dramatic change has been observed in such policing; it is claimed that a new regime of deviance management – as opposed to punishment, as hitherto – is changing the nature of the state and its basic practices. In this seminar, we will begin by an overview of historical deviance management and then proceed to compare claims as to new policing regimes in the US and in Germany.

**Course Work:** Three essays related to the readings to be handed in during the seminar (one on each day); take-home exam/essay

**Readings:** Reading material will be made available, probably through MOODLE.

**Module "Media and Society in a Transatlantic Context"**

**407 Research Seminar: Media and Society in a Transatlantic Context**

Benjamin Alpers

FS, 1 SWS

Time and Place to be arranged during first session of seminar 408.

The Research Seminar is open to students formally enrolled in the M.A. Program of American Studies. The Research Seminar is meant to offer students an intensive "tutorial" atmosphere where the main research project/paper for the module can be discussed and prepared in a small circle of students and the guiding faculty member.

**408 =209 Film Noir: A Transatlantic Cinematic Conversation**

Benjamin Alpers

S, 2 SWS

Thursday, From 03:15 PM To 04:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

This seminar requires you to attend a screening each Tuesday night at 7 pm (Location: GWZ 2.010). If you are unable to attend the screenings, please do not sign up for this seminar.

Please note that the first film screening will take place on Tuesday 8 April (before the seminar meets)!

In the 1940s and 1950s, Hollywood produced a series of films that told disturbing, psychologically complex stories unlike most mainstream American cinema. Although related to earlier crime and suspense films, such movies as *Double Indemnity*, *Out of the Past*, and *Kiss Me Deadly*, seemed to many to be somehow different: perhaps more critical, perhaps darker (literally and figuratively), perhaps more downbeat. These films seemed to many to be marked by certain common features: twisty plots, the character of the "femme fatale," low-key lighting, urban settings. By the end of the 1940s, the French had given a name to them: film noir (literally "black film"). This course will view Hollywood film noir as one half of a complicated transatlantic cinematic conversation, in which these American films drew inspiration from earlier European films and inspired later ones. This course will explore the precursors of film noir, survey Hollywood's noirs of the 1940s and 1950s, and finally examine the ways in which both American and European filmmakers adapted film noir for their own purposes in later decades. Students will be asked to write short weekly response papers and two longer, 7-9 page papers.

**409 = 208 There is No Truth: Writing Modern Criticism**

Chuck Klostermann

S, 2 SWS

Wednesday, From 03:15 PM To 04:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

This course will be taught by Summer 08 Picador Professor for Literature, Chuck Klosterman. Attendance will be limited. Please keep checking back for updates on enrollment procedures. For more information on the Picador Professorship, please refer to <http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/picador>

This course offers the opportunity for students to practice and analyze the criticism of various media forms (music, film, literature, etc.) and culture as a whole (mostly through the practice of first-person writing). The writing assignments will combine elements of conventional journalism with postmodern, idea-driven memoir writing. The class will also discuss how to approach the writing of a book-length nonfiction manuscript.

### Module "Difference and Literature"

**410 Difference and Literature** Anne Koenen  
FS, 1 SWS  
Friday, From 11:15 AM To 12:00 PM, Location: Brühl 914

After a couple of organizational and programmatic meetings at the beginning of the semester, we will meet again for Block sessions at the end of the semester in order to discuss students' projects on literature and difference.

**411 = 204 The Construction of Race** Anne Koenen  
S, 2 SWS  
Thursday, From 01:15 PM To 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

Relying on a tradition of analysing "race" by writers such as Ellison, Toni Morrison's *Playing in the Dark* has pointed out how the concept of "race" (blackness and whiteness) has structured American literature, how race-related images and their effect have fundamentally impacted the literary imagination and its products. The seminar will look at the construction of race (and its intersection with class and gender) in fictions by writers of color (predominantly black writers) and white authors.

**412 = 205 Gender and the Canon of 19th-Century U.S. Literature** Katja Kanzler  
S, 2 SWS  
Monday, From 03:15 PM To 04:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2.516

**First Day of Classes:** April 7

When literary scholar Nina Baym set out, in the 1970s, to recover from obscurity 19th-century women's writing, she subsumed the vast body of texts she found under the generic term 'Woman's Fiction.' In the wake of her pioneering study, feminist critics continued to make visible women's literary contributions and to develop a critical vocabulary that allowed for the literature's appreciation on its own terms. Thanks to their work of recovery, our notions of 19th-century U.S. literature have come a far way from F.O. Matthiessen's definition of an all-male 'American Renaissance.' But although the canon has thus become more diverse, it is still organized in gendered ways: Gendered notions about the genres, modes, themes, or settings women and men use in their writing (sentimental, domestic vs. transcendental, romance, frontier) still determine what kinds of texts are being read, taught, and published on. In this class, we will try to get a sense of the ways in which the canon of mid-19th-century U.S. literature has been structured along gendered lines. From there, we will proceed to read and discuss a selection of literary texts that allow us to reconceive or complicate these gendered categories. Our readings may include, e.g., a domestic novel penned by a male author and set in the Black community, a proto-realist novel that details the experience of settling at the frontier from a woman's perspective, or pieces of short fiction – by male and female authors – whose protagonists are industrial workers. A reading list for the course will be available by March.

### Module "Rethinking the Americas"

**413 Research Seminar: Rethinking the Americas** Crister Garrett  
FS, 1 SWS  
Time and Place to be arranged during first session of seminar 414.

The Research Seminar is open to students formally enrolled in the M.A. Program of either Latin American Studies or American Studies. The Research Seminar being offered by Crister Garrett will be conducted in English. Time and place will be arranged with

participating students during the first week of seminar.

The Research Seminar is meant to offer students an intensive “tutorial” atmosphere where the main research project/paper for the module can be discussed and prepared in a small circle of students and the guiding faculty member.

**414 Transnationalization, Transculturalization, and the Politics of Transformation**  
S, 2 SWS  
Monday, From 09:15 AM To 10:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2.516

Crister Garrett

This seminar will explore the political, social, economic, and cultural transformations taking place that make notions of South, Central, and North America increasingly complex to distinguish. The mobility of people, goods, cultures and ideas have made notions of the regional and the national increasingly challenged, contextualized, and encouraged new conceptualizations of political, economic, and cultural spaces, in short, to a rethinking of the Americas and its meaning hemispherically and globally.

**415 Hybrid Border Cultures**  
S, 2 SWS

Alfonso de Toro

Thursday, From 09:15 AM To 10:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2.010

**Please Note:** This course will be taught in German, but working languages for the seminar will be German, Spanish, and English.

In the current unfolding of a “planetary culture” the traditional notions of borders are disappearing. This process involves both positive and negative aspects requiring new answers. Key challenges here are feelings of lost identities, a sense of not belonging, of insecurity, of instability. The Americas provide an especially poignant space for analyzing these fundamental trends. The Americas are geographically proximate, have common interests, but also enormous differences, and that despite the ubiquitous presence of the United States in Latin America, and the some 40 million “Hispanics” in the United States.

**Module Coordinator:** Crister Garrett

**Module Overview:**

This module is meant to provide students with a deeper understanding of the concept of political culture in a transatlantic context. Political culture is generally defined as the traditions, practices, and values that shape how a society practices politics, and prioritizes in its political process, for example, in the case of governing. Political culture involves the fields of cultural history, political science, sociology, anthropology, economics, and cultural studies. It is a key concept for understanding the nature of politics and society in the United States, in Europe, and in any comparison between the two regions.

**Module Coordinator:** Crister Garrett.

**Module Overview:**

Media and its different forms lays at the heart of constructing and disseminating images, ideas, and identities that have shaped the very notion of “America” and how it has been received, integrated, adapted in every corner of the world, and especially in Europe. Conversely, European traditions in such mediums—whether film, music, literature, journalism in all its forms (print, radio, tv, internet)—have had and have strong influences on many aspects of American society. This module is meant to deepen student knowledge about how media and society have evolved in the United States and in a transatlantic context.

**Module Coordinator:** Crister Garrett.

**Module Overview:**

This module is offered as a transdisciplinary cooperative exercise between the MA Program in American Studies and the MA Program in Latin American Studies. Different forms of Hispanic and Latino culture are having a profound impact on the nature of American politics, economics, society, and culture. And the United States continues to have a deep influence on South, Central, and North America. Any sophisticated understanding of the contemporary United States involves the study of how the Americas have evolved, are evolving, and shaping our basic understanding of concepts such as nation, state, identity, borders, law, language, work, family, and other building blocks of society.

**Module Coordinator:** Anne Koenen.

**Module Overview:**

The module addresses the negotiation of socio-cultural difference in U.S.-American literature. It aims to deepen students' understanding of 'difference' in its key manifestations 'race,' class, and gender with a focus on their articulation and contestation in literary texts. The seminars explore specific forms of difference in

their historical, social, cultural, and aesthetic contexts. They will embed selected readings in 'difference and literature' within discussions of U.S. literary history and reflections on literary theory.