

Veranstaltungen
Institut für Amerikanistik, Leipzig

COURSE CATALOGUE SUMMER 2010

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<http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/sites/default/files/Course%20Catalog%20Intro%20SS%202010.pdf>>pdf)

Registration for Classes

Some classes require prior registration. To learn more about registration procedures for students in the Institute's different programs (Magister, BA, MA; service for Lehramt and IALT), please have a look at the Registration Information Sheet available at the American Studies Website by March.

Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5

MAGISTER HAUPTSTUDIUM

Literaturwissenschaft

- 010 Into the Wild: (Taming) Nature in American Literature and Culture** Prof. Anne Koenen
Friday, 9-11 am, GWZ 2.516

The ideologically charged “virgin territory” on the North American continent has served as a projection plane for dreams and nightmares, fantasies of domination and submission. Against the background of historical contexts and theoretical approaches (e.g. Turner, Slotkin, Kolodny), we will analyse diverse fictions (e.g. Krakauer, *Into the Wild*; Larsen, *Isaac’s Storm* – excerpt -) and fictions (e.g. Robinson, *Housekeeping*, Wister, *The Virginian*, Cather, *O Pioneers*, the Little-House-on-the-Prairie series).

Please apply for this seminar by email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) before March 31, 2010. 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 Leistungsschein you have earned, and 4) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

A reader with theoretical and fictional texts will be provided. Purchase of novels recommended.

- 011 Kolloquium für ExamenskandidatInnen und DoktorandInnen** Prof. Anne Koenen
Friday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2.516

For further information and application, please contact Prof. Koenen personally.

- 012 The Construction of “Race” and Gender (see: 440)** Prof. Anne Koenen
Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 415

The postmodern triad „race, class, and gender“ has revolutionized academic disciplines, not only in terms of subject matter, but especially in terms of perspectives and methods. We will analyze gender theories (and their indebtedness to women’s/feminist studies) and discourses such as *The Cult of True Womanhood*, *The New Woman*, and *The Feminine Mystique*, as well as theories of “race.” 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 gender and “race” (and the intersections of race, class, and gender) in fictions by a wide range of authors like Hawthorne, Proulx, Faulkner (*Light in August*), and Morrison (*Sula*).

This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar for literary studies.

For Magister- and Lehramts students – please note: In the first session, there will be a brief test on *Light in August*; the seminar will be open to those who pass the test with the best results. Please apply for this seminar by email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) before March 31, 2010. In your application, please specify 1) your program of studies (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach, Lehramt), 2) the semester in which you study, and 3) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

A reader with theoretical and fictional texts will be provided. Purchase of novels recommended.

- 013 Recuperative Poetics: Writing Practices in Cultural Sustainability (see: 500)** Prof. Christian Hawkey
Wednesday, 3 - 4:30 pm, GWZ 2.516

This course is also open for MA and advanced BA students.

This writing workshop is linked with the reading seminar *Recuperative Poetics: Theories of Cultural Sustainability*, + it will explore the practice of recuperative poetics. We will learn to use various writing + investigatory (action-based) procedures, such as sustained looking practices, note taking for field books, audio recording + transcription, archive investigation, + site-specific research. The goal will be to use such creative + critical practices to develop our own recuperative project, one that focuses on recovering a specific aspect of culture that has been repressed, unrepresented, or simply lost to the passage of time. We will engage in walks, site-specific explorations, expeditions, + archive research. Be ready to step out of the classroom + into a more flexible, open, + versatile way of looking at poetic writing, at the past, + at how we can, out of that past, construct a more diverse + desired world.

The first session is on 28 April.

- 014 *Recuperative Poetics: Theories of Cultural Sustainability (see: 501)*** Prof. Christian Hawkey
Thursday, 09:15 am - 12:45 am, GWZ 2.516
This course is also open for MA and advanced BA students.

What role can poetry play in resisting mono-cultural paradigms? How can poetics (defined here as a philosophical stance + methodology located at the intersection of daydreaming, attentiveness, ambiguity, + conceptual complexity) be used + deployed to maintain cultural hybridity + diversity? The goal of this course will be to explore how poetics can expand our notions of sustainability to include cultural preservation + recuperation. We will first examine a handful of core texts on sustainability, poetics, + the construction of archives (Henry David Thoreau, David Abrams, Alfonso Lingis, Foucault, Bachelard, Haraway) + then, for the rest of the course, we'll examine both visual media (The Atlas Group, Omer Fast, Allan Kaprow) + poetry projects (M. Nourbese Philip, Juliana Spahr, Inger Christensen, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Cole Swenson) that show us how poetic utterance + structure can be deployed to claim agency in the fields of cultural preservation + recuperation. Note: this is a reading seminar, + it should be taken in conjunction with the following practice-based writing workshop: *Recuperative Poetics: Writing Practices in Cultural Sustainability*.

The first session is on 29. April.

Literaturwissenschaft und Kulturgeschichte

- 015 *Art of the American West: Myth and Reality of Continental Expansion*** Bradley
Thursday, 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM: GWZ 2 5.16 www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/342

This seminar will examine the artistic traditions of interpreting the American West to the rest of the world from the artistic records of the earliest Western expeditions of the 19th century through the popular imagery and literature of the 20th century. Course content will focus on major 19th century artistic visions of the American West, the popularization of these traditional visions of the West in film and literature of the 20th century, and the contributions of all these traditions to the evolving public understanding of the land and people of the American West. Readings will be drawn from the Lektüreliste für Amerikanische Literaturwissenschaft and supplemented with materials specific to the course topic.

- 016 *Political Conflicts in American Artistic Culture since 1950 (see: 411)*** Prof. Steven Bradley
Wednesday, 1-3 pm, NSG 127

This seminar will explore the conflicts between art & politics in American society since 1950. Course discussion and readings will begin by examining the political investigations of Communism imbedded in "modern art" in the 1950s as a perceived threat to the "American way of life" and compare these perceptions to the actual stated goals of artists in this era. From there the seminar will continue with an examination of themes in the Culture Wars of the late 1980s and early 1990s when the target of conservative fears shifted from communism to homosexuality, AIDS and religious sacrilege. The seminar will conclude with a broader discussion of the role of the creative artist in 20th century society on both sides of the Atlantic in an effort to define common trends in both modern American and European societies as well as significant differences in the social and political traditions of individual societies in the latter 20th century.

Kulturgeschichte

- 020 *Rethinking the Americas: Transnationalization, Transculturalization, and the...
...Politics of Transformation (see: 450)*** Prof. Crister Garrett

Tuesday, 3-5pm, NSG 401

This seminar will explore the political, social, economic, and cultural transformations taking place in the Americas 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 encourage new conceptualizations of

political, economic, and cultural spaces, in short, a rethinking of the Americas and its meaning hemispherically and globally.

021 Religion in American Society: Transatlantic Influences and Impact (see: 431) Prof. Hartmut Keil

Blockseminar, GWZ 2.516
Tuesday, April 13, 1-5 pm
Friday, May 7, 1-5 pm
Friday, May 14, 1-5 pm
Friday, June 11, 1-5 pm
Friday, July 9, 10 am-4 pm
Saturday, July 10, 10 am-4 pm

This course will evaluate the impact of European, Asian, and African religions on American society, politics, and culture as well as repercussions of American denominationalism abroad. After discussing major issues of religious transfer to the United States as well as the historical context which helps account for specific developments there (including constitutional precedent), we will analyze topics of particular relevance to contemporary America and often to other countries as well, such as the rise of fundamentalist denominations, the role of the Catholic Church, the social issues debates, the impact of religious interest groups, voluntary work, religion in the media, the concept of faith-based services, the impact of 9/11 on Muslim communities and on cultural conflict and religious confrontation between the Judeo-Christian and the Islamic world.

Basic reading: Noll, Mark A. *The Old Religion in a New World: The History of North American Christianity*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002 (German edition: Noll, Mark A. *Christentum in Nordamerika*. Leipzig: Evangelischer Verlag, 2000); Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, New York 1998.

022 Doctoral Colloquium: Cultures of Politics, Economics, and Security Prof. Crister Garrett

Monday, 3 – 5 pm, GWZ 2.516

This doctoral colloquium will explore a wide range of scholarship exploring difference and similarities in cultures of politics, economics, and security across and between countries and regions and with the United States providing a basic focus.

To Join the Colloquium

Students can join the colloquium either by invitation or via an application. The application involves a consultation with me first to explore the nature of the interest in the colloquium and in writing a dissertation.

023 Religion, American Society, and International Politics and Policy (see: 430) Prof. Crister Garrett

Monday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 315

Religion infuses American society and politics. The relationship between religion and American domestic and foreign politics is a complex and central theme in national, international, and global affairs. Indeed scholars are returning to religion to pursue a better understanding of what shapes politics and policy not just in the United States, but in a transatlantic and global context. We will explore the relationships between religion, American society and international politics, and what these dynamics mean for national and international policy.

BACHELOR

- BA 1st Year -

Modul "Society, History, and Politics I"

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

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.

110 Lecture: From the Colonial Period to Reconstruction Prof. Crister Garrett

Wednesday, 1-3 pm, HS 12

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, and the Civil War. The lectures will explore how the unfolding of American history influenced American society and thus the country's political culture, institutions, and outcomes.

111 Society, History, and Politics I
Monday, 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM: NSG 301

Walter
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/346

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 debating and presenting. Students will be expected to hold several short oral presentations on assigned documents and express, and defend their views and ideas about them.

111 Seminar b) Anja Eifert
Tuesday, 11 am-1 pm, NSG 403

See Seminar a) for course description.

112 Tutorial (Übung) a) Catherine Sharpe
Tuesday, 1-3 pm, NSG 426

This course involves the practicing of English academic writing on the subject of American society, history, and politics. The writing skills required for the module-seminar will be developed in the tutorial with diverse assignments. There will be a particular focus on the further development of sound skills relating to the form, function, and structure of the English outline, paragraph, and essay.

112 Tutorial (Übung) b) Catherine Sharpe
Wednesday, 11am-1pm, NSG 401

See Tutorial (Übung) a) for course description.

Modul "Introduction to Linguistics"

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sylvia Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

10031 Lecture: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics Prof. Doris Schönefeld (Institut für Anglistik)
Wednesday, 7-9 am, HS 3

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

The lecture aims at familiarizing students of English with the essentials of (English) linguistics. We will set out to define the field, the study of language, and will work our way through a programme clarifying central terms and issues of the major branches of linguistics. These comprise phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, as well as sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics, sitting at the interface of language to other phenomena. Time permitting, we will also have a look at the historical development of linguistics.

The lecture assumes a thorough knowledge of English, but does not presuppose any previous study of grammar or other aspects of linguistics.

10032 Seminar Systemlinguistik: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics Dr. Sylvia Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)
Von den folgenden Seminarangeboten ist ein Kurs zu belegen.
Sem. a): Tuesday, 9-11 am, NSG 404
Sem. b): Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 220

Literatur: V. Fromkin et al. (2007) *An Introduction to Language*, Boston/USA: Thomson Wadsworth. Reader erhältlich bei Printy (Ritterstraße 5)

Prüfung: s. Vorlesung "Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics"

This seminar is conceived together with the introductory lecture as a basis for further studies in linguistics. Whereas in the lecture you familiarize yourself with basic concepts, the seminar focuses on in-depth discussion, exercises and task solving. Contrary to the lecture, though, we will start our linguistic journey with phonetics & phonology, and after that move into the other core areas of linguistics such as morphology, syntactic and semantics. Needless to add, the textbook describes the English as used in the USA.

10033 Übung Sprachpraxis für Amerikanisten: Spoken Academic Discourse Peter Tomic (Institut für Anglistik)
Von den folgenden Übungsangeboten ist ein Kurs zu belegen.
Ü a): Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 125
Ü b): Thursday, 5-7 pm, NSG 125

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.

- BA 2nd Year -

Modul "Literature & Culture II"

Module Coordinator: Anne Koenen

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 literature and (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 modes and genres of literature and culture, and to their reflection in scholarship.

210 Lecture: The Canon and Popular Culture
Tuesday, 9-11 am, HS 6

Prof. Anne Koenen

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, food, and visual culture).

211 Seminar 1: Religion and American Literature
Monday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 411

Thomas Kolitsch

Religion has always had an enormous influence on American literature.

Many novels are modeled after Biblical tales, enrich their subtexts with Christian allusions, and openly deal with religious topics, such as good vs. evil and free will vs. predestination. The aim of this seminar is to enable students to recognize, analyze, and discuss this often academically overlooked feature of popular texts.

The reading list will include short stories and novels by Nathaniel Hawthorne ("Young Goodman Brown"), Stephen King (*Desperation*), Stewart O'Nan (*A Prayer for the Dying*), and Marilynne Robinson (*Gilead*).

212 Romancing Medicine
Tuesday, 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM: GWZ 2.516

Dallmann
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/354

Romance as a genre has a long and ambiguous history, but to negotiate difference and to (de)construct "Other(s)" as a means to consolidate the "Self" has always been its central symbolic function, as Fredric Jameson contends. This holds true, too, for the broad variety of 19th-century American romances: from the ones written by the leading authors of the day, most notably Nathaniel Hawthorne, to more "popular" examples. Emily Miller Buddick, in fact, argues that romance as a genre constitutes the very attempt to portray and to "encode within language" the new American realities of the time. This interest in the (modernizing) American context is probably one of the reasons for the introduction of a theme which would have been far from the agenda of earlier romances and their preoccupation with the holy and the supernatural: an interest in medicine. In 19th-century American romances, in fact, medicine is a recurrent and symbolically loaded theme.

In this seminar, we will discuss how the emphasis on "medicine" allows 19th-century romances to articulate sensibilities and to critically reflect upon a variety of issues linked to an American self-fashioning, focusing on concepts as "self-reliance," "democracy," "modernization," or "equality." We will explore the history of the genre, its conventions and narrative strategies to be able to consider in more depth the significance and the symbolic work of the romance as a project within American culture.

Modul "The Anglo-American World in a Global Context"

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

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 Dr. Jürgen Ronthaler and two seminars. You must choose one seminar offered by Anglistik and one offered by Amerikanistik.

**11071 Lecture: Trans-Atlantic Intertextualities – Travelling Motives in...
...Anglo-American Fiction**

Dr. Jürgen Ronthaler (Institut für Anglistik)

Wednesday, 1-3 pm, GWZ HS 2.010

Empfohlene Vorbereitung:

Kenntnisse des kulturgeschichtlichen und literarischen Hintergrunds Großbritanniens und der USA; Lektüre von ausgewählten Primärtexten und Ausschnitte aus: Bradbury, Malcolm: *Dangerous Pilgrimages*. London, 1995.

The lecture is designed to provide a survey of selected motives, themes and structures that occur in British and American fiction and show mutual influences between the two national literatures in their historical development(s). Using a diachronic approach we will focus on important examples of fiction proper, i.e. exclude travel- or other borderline literature. Thus – after a general introduction – examples will start in the late 18th century with Irving and Cooper and make their way into recent postmodernist texts. When possible and desirable – as in the case of gothic or detective fiction – a whole genre will be looked at in its criss-crossing paths. The programme, including a list of major texts, will appear on Moodle at the beginning of the summer term.

1107-2 Seminar Literatur oder Kulturstudien Großbritanniens:

Von den folgenden Seminarangeboten (1107-2a-b) ist ein Kurs zu belegen.

11072 a) Migration from the British Isles – Constructing the Irish Diaspora
Tuesday, 7-9 am, NSG 104

Prof. Joachim Schwend (Institut für Anglistik)

Empfohlene Vorbereitung:

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

Braziel, Jana Evans and Anita Mannur (eds.) (2008). *Theorizing Diaspora: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Prüfung: Hausarbeit

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 as a republic were a land of promise and freedom, but also a land with no morals ruled by the Dollar. The Irish were not always welcome because of significant stereotypes and their Catholicism in a WASP-culture. Many emigrants in the diaspora cherished and cultivated their native customs and kept a sentimental look backwards to the Emerald Isle. We will look into the phenomena of above all Irish emigration, its push and pull factors and its representation in literature.

11072 b) Lunatic! The Moon in Myth, Culture and Science
Tuesday, 3-5 pm, NSG 220

Prof. Elmar Schenkel (Institut für Anglistik)

Bitte beachten:

Unter „Aktuelles“ wird auf der Homepage des Instituts für Anglistik Mitte Februar der Termin für die Blocksitzungen bekannt gegeben. Wir werden voraussichtlich ein Wochenende im Mai/Juni außerhalb Leipzigs verbringen. Da hier Plätze gebucht werden müssen, werde ich auch einen Termin nennen für die definitive Anmeldung und Zahlung.

Empfohlene Vorbereitung:

M.H. Nicolson, *Voyages to the Moon*, 1948. Scott L. Montgomery, *The Moon and the Western Imagination*, 1999. Diana Brueton, *Many Moons*, 1991 (dt.: *Der Mond. Mythos und Magie. Fakten und Phantasie über einen himmlischen Körper*, 1997). Brigitte Röthlein, *Der Mond*, 2008. *Geo Special: Der Mond* (Dez. 2003/Jan. 2004). Jules Cashford, *The Moon: Myth and Image*, 2003 (dt.: *Im Bann des Mondes*).

Literatur: Jules Verne, *Von der Erde zum Mond; Reise um den Mond* (auch engl. oder frz.). H.G. Wells, *The First Men in the Moon* (Penguin). Paul Auster, *Moon Palace*. Weitere Texte werden in Moodle gestellt.

Prüfung: Hausarbeit (in Verbindung mit Präsentation)

The Moon is enigmatic in many respects. It's a symbol of fertility, a companion for lovers and lunatics, stray wanderers at night, a parish lantern and simply a rock in the sky. It has also stimulated human reason for millennia when it taught us to measure time. The moon became an important subject in modern astronomy when Galilei discovered mountains on it and interest was revived in the Cold War Period. Apollo 11 was the next decisive step. Has the moon now lost its perennial charm after a man left his footprint in its soil? We shall look at the rich panoply of discourses on the moon defining the symbolism and cosmic significance of our satellite. Thus we shall read Shakespeare's lunar poetry and reports about fantastic flights to the moon from Kepler to Jules Verne, about the New York Moon Hoax in 1835, Poe's moon fantasies and the flurry surrounding the NASA flights so intriguingly captured in Norman Mailer's *Of a Fire on the Moon*.

This is a Blockseminar. On two days research groups will present their findings related to thematic complexes, e.g.: Naming the Moon in Cartography. Mythological Moons. The Moon in Religion. The Moon in Antiquity. Kepler's and Galilei's Moon. Imaginary Journeys to the Moon. The New York Moon Hoax and Edgar Allan Poe. Jules Verne. Paul Auster. H.G.Wells. Apollo 11 and After.

The Cold War and the Moon. The Moon in Pop Music. The Moon in Classical Music. Looney Movies. The Moon and Language. The Moon in Children's Literature. Physics and Chemistry of the Moon. Origin and End of the Moon. Further topics are welcome. We also plan to take a moonlight tour through Leipzig with a nightwatchman and to visit the Astrozentrum Schkeuditz.

1107-2 Seminar Literatur oder Kulturgeschichte der USA: Von den folgenden Seminarangeboten (1107-3a-b) ist ein Kurs zu belegen.

11073 a) The Ancient World in Anglo-American Writings
Thursday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 2.516

Dr. Katja Schmieder

Prüfung: Projektarbeit / Präsentation

Whether we conceive of the Washington Capitol as an architectural copy of St. Peter's in Rome; whether we attribute the western understanding of democracy to the Greek philosophers – the spirit of antiquity seems to linger everywhere. Accordingly, discussing Anglo-American culture in a transnational and transatlantic context must by all means include a historical perspective: This seminar traces the appropriation and negotiation of ancient cultural artifacts in Anglo-American writings through the centuries. Based on exemplary readings, such as T.S. Eliot's poem "The Waste Land" and Toni Morrison's novel *Sula*, this course will explore how aspects of ancient history and mythology have been functionalized for thematic, stylistic, and other purposes.

11073 b) Urban Cultures in an Anglo-American World
Wednesday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2.516

Alexander Menger

With New York and London, the United States and Great Britain have fostered two metropolises that are often described as world cities. These centers of commerce and culture constitute two central nodes in the international system of trade and information exchange and have significantly influenced global conceptions of urbanity.

A central condition for their status was the gradual imposition of order. In these incredibly complex cityscapes, the struggle is still being fought, with urban chaos, diverse public cultures, and personal freedom often standing against the very idea of regulation. In this seminar we will trace the historical development of New York and London and look at how these municipalities ended up defining universal concepts of the modern city. By including Chicago and Los Angeles in our analyses, we will discuss how dimensions of time and space have influenced the emergence of very distinct urban cultures.

- BA 3rd Year -

Modul "Society, History, and Politics III"

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

This module is meant to provide students with the opportunity to engage diverse societal, historical, and political themes that have shaped and continue to shape the United States. Issues will be explored in terms of basic questions relating to American identity, the nature of power in American society, the negotiation of forms of consensus, and how American dynamics influence the country's exercise of power and transcultural undertakings in the international arena, especially in a transatlantic context.

310 Disruptive Technologies
Wednesday, 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM: GWZ 2.516

Menger
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/358

The ever-accelerating pace of technological advances is a central characteristic of Western modernity. For over 200 years, humans have been adopting to new inventions that fundamentally changed their existence. Concepts of how people lived, worked, thought, and traveled were turned upside down by industrialization, transportation, personal computing, and, most recently, the Internet.

In this seminar, we will look at how technology has influenced American society from the onset of industrialization to the current iteration of the Social Web. We will analyze the impact some inventions had on the class structure, on perceptions of space, on authority, and on ideas of authorship and copyright.

Furthermore, we will study how people reacted to technological innovations, either by fleeing into the premodern pastoral, or by using them for their own purposes – as a tool of empowerment and subversion, for immigrants, hippies, hackers, or modern-day pirates.

311 Seminar 2: History, Memory, and Politics
Thursday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 421

Prof. Crister Garrett

This seminar will explore the role of history and memory in shaping contemporary politics. The seminar will undertake a comparative exploration of how the United States and Europe practice "the politics of memory" and what the differences and similarities mean for transatlantic relations.

312 Tutorial (see: 322 Tutorial LC III)
Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 401

Catherine Sharpe

No graded assignment.

The tutorial is meant to help students prepare their oral and written assignments. Students will do in-class exercises, provide each other collegial feedback, and discuss with the instructor strategies for effective written and oral presentation and argumentation.

Modul "Literature & Culture III"

Module Coordinator: Anne Koenen

The module aims to deepen students' knowledge of U.S. literature and culture, and of the methods and theories involved in their study. Two seminars allow students to explore exemplary themes and discourses in literary and cultural studies. A tutorial assists students in advancing their academic writing skills so as to master the module's advanced writing assignments.

320 American Regionalism in 20th Century Art and Literature

Tuesday, 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM: GWZ 2 5.16

Bradley

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/340

This seminar will explore the interests of American artists and writers in the 1920s and 1930s that inspired them to depict the "true face" of America, in the characters, customs and social interactions of the small towns and rural settings of America. During this period these artists and writers focused their vision on the very specific qualities of particular geographic regions and their unique cultures from New England to California. Discussion and readings will examine these particular qualities and the techniques employed by the artists and writers to describe these regional characteristics. Readings will be drawn from the Lektüreliste für Amerikanische Literaturwissenschaft and supplemented with materials specific to the course topic.

321 Seminar 2: Hidden Truths? Paranoia, Conspiracy, Psychotic Writing.

Thursday, 3-5 pm, GWZ 2.516

Sebastian Herrmann

The idea that the world might *actually* be quite different from what it looks like has proven an immensely prolific and engaging plot device. From postmodern novels to *The Truman Show*, from conspiracy stories to the 'mindtwist movie,' contemporary storytelling has returned to this basic idea in countless transfigurations. In this seminar, we will read (and watch) fictions that are built around this basic idea of a presumed conspiracy against the protagonist, a hidden truth that only gradually unravels. Working with novels, short stories, and film, we will look at straightforward examples and less obvious implementations to ask and discuss a number of questions: What anxieties and threats do these texts negotiate? What is their appeal? What is their history? What are the gender dynamics involved?

Texts we might look at include, but are not limited to: *American Purgatorio*, *Time Out of Joint*, *Dark City*, *The Yellow Wallpaper*, *City of Glass*, and *Young Goodman Brown*. A detailed syllabus with required readings for the first weeks of the term will be available by Mid-March via Lehrbox.

The seminar will have a substantial weekly reading and writing load in primary and secondary material and will require your participation in in-class discussion and your attendance at film screenings. Please take this into consideration when deciding whether to enroll in the module.

322 Tutorial (see: 312 Tutorial SHP III)

Wednesday, 9-11 am, NSG 401

Catherine Sharpe

No graded assignment.

The tutorial is meant to help students prepare their oral and written assignments. Students will do in-class exercises, provide each other collegial feedback, and discuss with the instructor strategies for effective written and oral presentation and argumentation.

Modul "Language and Society – Language in Transition"

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sylvia Reuter (Anglistik)

10121 Seminar Sprachgeschichte: Historical Roots of Present-Day US-English

Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 404

Dr. Sylvia Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

Prüfung: mündliche Prüfung (20 min) zum Stoff dieses Seminars und des Seminars 1012-2

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

Students are asked to purchase the course material at Printy (Ritterstr. 5) with syllabus, texts etc.

10122 Seminar Varietäten/Diskursanalyse: Slang
Tuesday, 9-11 am, NSG 101

Prof. Clausdirk Pollner (Institut für Anglistik)

Literatur: Michael Adams (2009). *Slang – The People's Poetry*. Oxford: OUP. Textvorlagen werden bereitgestellt.
Prüfung: mündliche Prüfung (20 min) zum Stoff dieses Seminars und des Seminars 1012-1

"Slang is originally a jargon of thieves and disreputable people; the jargon of any class, profession, or set; words and usages not forming part of standard/formal vocabulary, only used very informally, especially in speech." (definition adapted from Chambers English Dictionary). In this class we shall be concentrating mainly but not exclusively on US slang; our textbook has sections on "The Essentials of Slang", "Social Dynamics", "Aesthetic Dimensions", "Cognitive Aspects".

Until recently, most grammars of English have had a bias towards the written language. However, the availability of large amounts of spoken language data for all kinds of linguistic analyses has made it possible to also include findings about spoken language into grammatical descriptions of English.

The seminar will use a well-known publication in the field of such types of (corpus-based) descriptions of English, the Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English. This grammatical description of English is based on the analysis of a very wide variety of texts, from spontaneous conversation in both the UK and the US, via novels and newspapers, up to academic articles and scientific textbooks. In our discussions of what is revealed in selected parts of the book, we shall focus on two things:

On a more coarse-grained level, we shall figure out what is common in the grammar of speech and writing, but also how in speaking people indeed make different choices of grammatical structure (also considering diatopic variation),

On a more fine-grained level, we shall become aware of the 'genre-specificity' of (some features of) English grammar, i.e. of the different choices speakers of English make in the production of different types of texts.

10123 Tutorial Sprachpraxis: Written Academic Discourse I
Thursday, 1-3 pm, NSG 125

Peter Tomic (Institut für Anglistik)

Literatur: Aczel, Richard. *How to Write an Essay*. Stuttgart: Klett, 1998.
Prüfung: Klausur (90 Minuten)

The goal of this practical language exercise is the class essay in academic English. Students will practise their analytic and interpretative text production skills in keeping with both the formal genre conventions and current research on academic writing at tertiary levels. Our exercises are geared to helping students mitigate those weaknesses detrimental to structural clarity and target those strengths conducive to enriching the formal elements in their written academic discourse. Our exercises will focus on improving i) the mechanics of academic writing, ii) critical and argumentative approaches, iii) patterns of coherence and cohesion, and iv) systematic revision techniques.

MASTER

- MA 1st Year -

Modul "Political Cultures in a Transatlantic Context"

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

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.

410 Seminar 1: Cosmopolitan Citizenship
Monday, 1-3 pm, GWZ 4.116

Dr. Rebecca Pates (Institut für Politikwissenschaft)

Immigration to European countries, though comparable in terms of the problems that are being discussed in relation to it, has resulted in widely diverging policies. This is because policies of belonging and thus of citizenship depend on ideas concerning the identity of a people, the functions of statehood, and the relationship between religion and state. The field of migration politics is hence an example of globalisation not resulting in converging policies. And yet, this is an issue that the European Commission sees as a foundational problem for the perceived legitimacy of the EU. Is it possible to frame a EU policy concerning citizenship? Might a look across the ocean to Canada and the US help towards coming up with a unifying strategy? Will the models of cosmopolitan citizenship that have been emerging of late help towards rethinking citizenship?

We shall discuss the issues of citizenship with regards to particular cultural, social and political issues, including the Danish cartoon controversy, the French, German and UK responses to headscarves, citizenship tests, and social rights. We shall then deepen our understanding by reading foundational theoretical texts from Appiah to Kant.

The seminar will take place in English. Assignments can be handed in in English or German.

Every student will have the option to take one of the German-language seminars instead, or to move from one of the other seminars to this one.

411 Political Conflicts in American Artistic Culture since 1950

Wednesday, 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM: GWZ 2 5.16

Bradley

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/341

This seminar will explore the conflicts between art & politics in American society since 1950. Course discussion and readings will begin by examining the political investigations of Communism imbedded in "modern art" in the 1950s as a perceived threat to the "American way of life" and compare these perceptions to the actual stated goals of artists in this era. From there the seminar will continue with an examination of themes of anti-militarism in the art of the 1970s and political backlash in the Culture Wars of the late 1980s and early 1990s when the target of conservative fears shifted from communism to homosexuality, AIDS and religious sacrilege. The seminar will conclude with a broader discussion of the role of the creative artist in 20th century society on both sides of the Atlantic in an effort to define common trends in both modern American and European societies as well as significant differences in the social and political traditions of individual societies in the latter 20th century.

Modul "Religion and Society in a Transatlantic Context"

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

430 Seminar 1: Religion, American Society, and International Politics and Policy

Prof. Crister Garrett

This seminar is open for Magister students. (see: 023)

Monday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 315

Religion infuses American society and politics. The relationship between religion and American domestic and foreign politics is a complex and central theme in national, international, and global affairs. Indeed scholars are returning to religion to pursue a better understanding of what shapes politics and policy not just in the United States, but in a transatlantic and global context. We will explore the relationships between religion, American society and international politics, and what these dynamics mean for national and international policy.

431 Seminar 2: Religion in American Society: Transatlantic Influences and Impact (see: 021)

Prof. Hartmut Keil

Blockseminar, GWZ 2.516

Tuesday, April 13, 1-5 pm

Friday, May 7, 1-5 pm

Friday, May 14, 1-5 pm

Friday, June 11, 1-5 pm

Friday, July 9, 10 am-4 pm

Saturday, July 10, 10 am-4 pm

This course will evaluate the impact of European, Asian, and African religions on American society, politics, and culture as well as repercussions of American denominationalism abroad. After discussing major issues of religious transfer to the United States as well as the historical context which helps account for specific developments there (including constitutional precedent), we will analyze topics of particular relevance to contemporary America and often to other countries as well, such as the rise of fundamentalist denominations, the role of the Catholic Church, the social issues debates, the impact of religious interest groups, voluntary work, religion in the media, the concept of faith-based services, the impact of 9/11 on Muslim communities and on cultural conflict and religious confrontation between the Judeo-Christian and the Islamic world.

Basic reading: Noll, Mark A. *The Old Religion in a New World: The History of North American Christianity*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002 (German edition: Noll, Mark A. *Christentum in Nordamerika*. Leipzig: Evangelischer Verlag, 2000); Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, New York 1998.

Modul "Difference and Literature"

Module Coordinator: Anne Koenen

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.

440 Seminar 1: The Construction of "Race" and Gender (see: 012)

Prof. Anne Koenen

Tuesday, 11 am – 1 pm, NSG 415

The postmodern triad „race, class, and gender“ has revolutionized academic disciplines, not only in terms of subject matter, but especially in terms of perspectives and methods. We will analyze gender theories (and their indebtedness to women's/feminist studies) and discourses such as *The Cult of True Womanhood*, *The New Woman*, and *The Feminine Mystique*, as well as theories of "race." 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 gender and "race" (and the intersections of race, class, and gender) in fictions by a wide range of authors like Hawthorne, Proulx, Faulkner (*Light in August*), and Morrison (*Sula*).

This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar for literary studies.

For Magister- and Lehramts students – please note: In the first session, there will be a brief test on *Light in August*; the seminar will be open to those who pass the test with the best results. Please apply for this seminar by email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) before March 31, 2010. In your application, please specify 1) your program of studies (Magister Haupt- or Nebenfach, Lehramt), 2) the semester in which you study, and 3) whether you want to earn a Leistungsschein in this seminar.

A reader with theoretical and fictional texts will be provided. Purchase of novels recommended.

441 Seminar 2: Ethnic Sleuths

Dr. Antje Dallmann

Wednesday, 11am-1pm, NSG 405

Traditional crime fiction, scholars argue, is interested in the potentially repressive project of delineating and – if possible – restoring social order and the status quo of a society. Crime fiction is deeply invested in processes of "othering," of naturalizing social difference, and of simultaneously creating the normative "self" of a society. This is true not least for the American hard-boiled detective mode, which often engages in strategies of stereotyping and pathologizing the racial, ethnic, and gendered Other within society. Over the last decades, however, generic structures and conventions specifically of hard-boiled fiction have been appropriated by, among others, ethnic authors, not least in order to uncover the very processes of marginalization which the traditional popular form underwrites and thus naturalizes, and to often critically reflect upon mechanisms of othering, thus "sleuthing ethnicity."

In this seminar, we will analyze a variety of detective fictions, also including "mainstream" and early examples. We will discuss the genre's narrative conventions, its strategies, and symbolic meanings in order to critically delineate its role within contemporary American culture.

Modul "Rethinking the Americas"

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett

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.

450 Seminar 1: Rethinking the Americas: Transnationalization, Transculturalization.. ...and the Politics of Transformation (see: 020)

Prof. Crister Garrett

Tuesday, 3-5pm, NSG 401

This seminar will explore the political, social, economic, and cultural transformations taking place in the Americas 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 encourage new conceptualizations of political, economic, and cultural spaces, in short, a rethinking of the Americas and its meaning hemispherically and globally.

451 Seminar 2: Inszenierungen von Latino-Kultur zwischen Identität und Differenz Cornelia Sieber (Institut für Romanistik)

Thursday, 1-3 pm, NSG 402

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

Im Seminar setzen wir uns mit verschiedenen kulturellen und künstlerischen Manifestationen von Lateinamerikanern und lateinamerikanischstämmigen US-Amerikanern auseinander, die das Verhältnis zu Nordamerika thematisieren. Im Mittelpunkt soll die Frage stehen, ob das Entstehen einer neuen, einheitlichen Latino-Identität zu beobachten ist oder der Aspekt des

lateinamerikanischen kulturellen Hintergrundes als Differenz im Sinne eines situativen Aushandelns ins Spiel gebracht wird. Ein genauer Seminarplan ist ab März zu finden auf: www.uni-leipzig.de/~sieber.

OTHER COURSES

500 **Recuperative Poetics: Writing Practices in Cultural Sustainability** Wednesday, 03:00 PM - 04:30 PM: GWZ 2 5.16

Hawkey
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/343

This writing workshop is linked with the reading seminar *Recuperative Poetics: Theories of Cultural Sustainability*, + it will explore the practice of recuperative poetics. We will learn to use various writing + investigatory (action-based) procedures, such as sustained looking practices, note taking for field books, audio recording + transcription, archive investigation, + site-specific research. The goal will be to use such creative + critical practices to develop our own recuperative project, one that focuses on recovering a specific aspect of culture that has been repressed, unrepresented, or simply lost to the passage of time. We will engage in walks, site-specific explorations, expeditions, + archive research. Be ready to step out of the classroom + into a more flexible, open, + versatile way of looking at poetic writing, at the past, + at how we can, out of that past, construct a more diverse + desired world.

PLEASE NOTE

This is a pre-enrollment process. You can sign-up for the course below and will receive the 'enrolled' status to confirm your pre-registration. Admission to the (limite) seats in the course will take place after Christian Hawkey's arrival in Germany in the week of April 26.

The first session is on 28. April.

501 **Recuperative Poetics: Theories of Cultural Sustainability** Thursday, 09:15 AM - 10:45 AM: GWZ 2 5.16

Hawkey
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/344

What role can poetry play in resisting mono-cultural paradigms? How can poetics (defined here as a philosophical stance + methodology located at the intersection of daydreaming, attentiveness, ambiguity, + conceptual complexity) be used + deployed to maintain cultural hybridity + diversity? The goal of this course will be to explore how poetics can expand our notions of sustainability to include cultural preservation + recuperation. We will first examine a handful of core texts on sustainability, poetics, + the construction of archives (Henry David Thoreau, David Abrams, Alfonso Lingis, Foucault, Bachelard, Haraway) + then, for the rest of the course, we'll examine both visual media (The Atlas Group, Omer Fast, Allan Kaprow) + poetry projects (M. Nourbese Philip, Juliana Spahr, Inger Christensen, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Cole Swenson) that show us how poetic utterance + structure can be deployed to claim agency in the fields of cultural preservation + recuperation. Note: this is a reading seminar, + it should be taken in conjunction with the following practice-based writing workshop: *Recuperative Poetics: Writing Practices in Cultural Sustainability*.

PLEASE NOTE

This is a pre-enrollment process. You can sign-up for the course below and will receive the 'enrolled' status to confirm your pre-registration. Admission to the (limite) seats in the course will take place after Christian Hawkey's arrival in Germany in the week of April 26.

The first session is on 29. April.