Veranstaltungen
Institut für Amerikanistik, Leipzig

(WS 2005/2006)
Amerikanische Literaturwissenschaft und Kulturgeschichte

EINSCHREIBREGELUNG:

Im Wintersemester 05/06 ist für die Amerikanische Literaturwissenschaft und Kulturgeschichte nur für ausgewählte Kurse eine Einschreibung notwendig.

Bitte beachten Sie die Termine (s. a. am Aushang und auf der Homepage http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~amerika)!!!

Die Anmeldeformulare für ausgewählte LV der Kulturgeschichte werden zur gegebenen Zeit auf der Homepage zum Download bereitstehen bzw. sind am Aushang erhältlich.


Die Einschreibung für die Linguistik- und Sprachpraxiskurse erfolgt wie bisher entsprechend der Regelungen des Instituts für Anglistik (s. Vorwort S. 2).

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

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

GRUNDSTUDIUM

Literaturwissenschaft

501 American Literature: From Beginnings to Present
Koenen, Anne
V, 2 SWS
donnerstags, 09:15 bis 10:45, Städt. Kaufhaus, R. 0207

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

502 The American Novel
Das Seminar fällt aus!

503 From Local Color to Regionalism
Kanzler, Katja
PSW/LN, 2 SWS
mittwochs, 13:15 bis 14:45 Uhr, Beethovenstr. 15, Raum 2.516

TV: Completion of "Introduction to Literary Studies."
E: Prior registration is necessary (sign up via Lehrbox or by e-mail to kkanzler@rz.uni-leipzig.de until Oct. 10). The number of students in this class will be limited. Students who want to participate in this class will have to pass a test covering basic knowledge of US literature and literary theory. Further information on how to prepare for this test will be available via Lehrbox by late August.

From the mid-19th through early 20th centuries, the US literary market saw the publication of many fictions - short stories, novels - that portrayed the unique language, manners, and customs of particular regional communities. The format of 'local color' or 'regionalist' fiction offered particularly (though not only) 'marginal' authors (in terms of gender, race) a forum for literary expression. Literary scholarship has discussed these texts frequently in a derogatory way, using the term 'local color' to distance them from the canonical texts of American realism and naturalism.

In this seminar, we will read and discuss regionalist fictions by authors such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Charles Chesnutt, Mark Twain, Sarah Orne Jewett, Kate Chopin, and others. We will explore the ways in which their texts comment on the question of a national identity vis-à-vis regional particularities, and on discourses such as gender and race. We will also discuss the ways in which the study of regionalist texts calls into question assumptions about literary movements or periods, genres, etc.

A list of the class reading will be available via Lehrbox by late August.

504 Introduction to Literary Studies
Schmieder, Katja
ÜO/LN, 2 SWS
In this class, we will acquaint ourselves with and practice the methods and terminology of American literary studies. The Übung will cover exemplary analyses and interpretations of literary texts as well as an introduction to contemporary approaches in literary theory.

In order to pass this class, you are expected to:
- attend the class on a regular basis
- carefully prepare the reading and the homework for each session
- participate in class discussions
- hand in the required writing assignments.

Students who need a Leistungsschein are additionally required to write a take-home and a final exam (dates to be announced).

Please take note of the registration procedure for this class: first-semester-students may register during the ‘Orientation Day’; second- and third-semester-students may register during my office hours in September.

Writing War

PSW/LN, 2 SWS
Dienstags 11:15 bis 12:45 Uhr
GZ 2516
Kusmierz, Zoe Antonia

TV: Completion of “Introduction to Literary Studies.”
E: Prior registration is necessary (sign up by e-mail to kusmierz@rz.uni-leipzig.de until September 26). The number of students in this class is limited. Students who want to participate in this class will have to pass a test covering basic knowledge of US literature, culture, and theory. A (short!) reading list in preparation for the test will be made available no later than September 26 via Lehrbox.
L: All other reading for the seminar will be announced in the first session.

“A nice war is a war where everybody who is heroic is a hero, and everybody more or less is a hero in a nice war.” Gertrude Stein

Literary historians have argued, often controversially, that war inspires literary development. Indeed, numerous texts considered central to American literature have been written in thematic, temporal or spatial proximity to war, and the emergence of epochs such as realism and modernism is often argued to be closely linked to the wars that preceded it. In this seminar we will look at the intricate relation between war and literature and will discuss literary constructions of war through the centuries and along different lines of conflict. Our reading will include canonical texts by authors writing in a naturalist or realist mode from the war, but also texts that complicate our notion of what constitutes war writing.

Chicano Cinema

PSW/LN, 2 SWS
Dienstags 11:15 bis 12:45 Uhr
GWZ 3.5.15
Gralle, Jesper

Hispanics, Mexican Americans, Chicanos ... there are many names for the Mexican community in the USA. And they are long beyond the status of an ethnic minority.

However, in TV series, movies, and Hollywood, the representation of Mexican Americans has been very stereotypical. Before the Chicano Power Movement in the 1960s, Mexicans had roughly three role types to choose from: the villain, the whore or the clown. With the Civil Rights Movement, Chicanos began to change the way the “white” majority perceived them. With Chicano films, the artists wanted to show their experience of “American” history, their way of speaking “American,” and their version of the “American” way of life. What is “American” anyway?

The seminar will explore the multi-dimensional identity of the Mexican American community in the USA, their ambivalent status as immigrants and, mostly, their representation on screen. How does ethnic stereotyping work? And can movies really help to understand the complexity of Chicano reality?

Constitutional History of the United States

V, 2 SWS
mittwochs, 09:15 bis 10:45 Uhr
Städt. Kaufhaus, R. 0204
Keil, Hartmut

This introductory lecture course will approach American history through the lens of constitutional developments. Since the American
Constitution was adopted in 1789, it has shaped - and it continues to impact - social, political, economic, and cultural issues in fundamental ways. The course will discuss the principles underlying the document, and it will look at specific interpretations of, as well as additions to, the Constitution in key moments of American history and constitutional developments.

**Political Cultures, Globalization, and Social Transformation in a Transatlantic**

**Garrett, Crister**

V, 2 SWS
dienstags, 13:15 bis 14:45 Uhr, Beethovenstr. 15, HS 2.010

*Enrollment Capacity: 120 for Leistungsschein plus 80 for Teilnehmer or Gasthörer (200 Total)*

*Language of Lecture: English*

*Language of Assignments: Writing Assignments can be submitted in English, German, or French.*

This lecture course will provide students with background on basic concepts such as political culture, globalization, and the nature of contemporary social transformation. We will explore how basic trends in American politics and society-political, economic, social-have shaped the country’s political culture and thus approaches to globalization, especially in a transatlantic context, and how the resulting social transformations have played a lasting role in shaping the next generation of political culture in the United States. We have witnessed at least three times in the last century when this fundamental dialectic between political culture, globalization, and social transformation in a transatlantic context unfolded, including the late 19th century, post-1945 period, and currently.

The American story in terms of political culture, globalization, and social transformation will be compared and contrasted with the European story during similar periods, and how these respective experiences shaped perceptions of the other, i.e., international politics in its transatlantic context.

*Please Note:*

*These lectures will provide students with the necessary theoretical, comparative, and American Studies knowledge to pursue the seminars that Prof. Garrett is offering this term. Seminars will be carefully coordinated with the lecture so that the advantages of the module system are maximized.*

*The Seminars that Prof. Garrett is offering this term are:*

• Proseminar, “Cultures of Globalization in a Transatlantic Context”.
• Hauptseminar, “U.S. and E.U. Approaches to Globalization”.

**The American South**

**Boles, John**

V, 2 SWS
donnerstags, 11:15 bis 12:45 Uhr, Städt. Kaufhaus, R. 0204

This lecture course offers a highly interpretative examination of the entire sweep of the history of the U. S. South, from first settlement by Europeans in the sixteenth century through the origins of slavery, the Civil War, and on to the rise of the so-called Sunbelt in the late twentieth century.

October 13: Introduction: Indians, Explorers, and the Founding of Virginia

October 20: Tobacco and Slaves in the Colonial Chesapeake

October 27: Development of the Carolinas

November 3: No dass. I will be attending the Southern Historical Association annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

November 10: The South and the American Revolution

November 17: Planters, Plain Folk, and Slaves in the Old South

November 24: Religion, Women, and Culture in the Old South

December 1: The American Civil War
December 8: Reconstruction: Social and Economic Consequences of the Civil War

December 15: Populism and Progressivism in the South

January 5: The Civil Rights Movement

January 12: Politics in the Post-War South

January 19: The Sunbelt: What is the Future of the American South?

There are no assigned readings. However, recommended is John B. Boles, *The South Through Time: A History of an American Region* (Prentice-Hall, 2004 ed.). During classes books on various topics will be recommended.

**509 a) Cultures of Globalization in a Transatlantic Context**

*Garrett, Crister*

**PSWL/LN, 2 SWS**

dienstags, 16:00 bis 17:30 Uhr, Beethovenstr. 15, Raum 2.516


Two times offered for parallel seminars (i.e., same content, two different times). This allows for two seminar-like settings.

**Enrollment Capacity:** 60 Total, 30 Students in Each Seminar.

**Language of Seminar:** English.

**Language of Assignments:** Writing Assignments can be submitted in English, German, or French.

*Please See Comment Below on Lecture Course, “Political Cultures, Globalization, and Social Transformation in a Transatlantic Context”.*

This seminar will focus on contemporary national approaches to globalization, how they are influenced and influence political cultures and the processes of modernization or social transformation in the transatlantic arena.

Former President Bill Clinton called our era “The Era of Globalization” and so this seminar will begin with the period in American politics, society and evolving international strategies that began with the end of the Cold War and that continues today.

Issues to be addressed include the economic transformation of the United States (from an industrial to an information economy), what this has meant for issues of inclusion and exclusion based on ethnicity, class, gender, and generational politics, and how the resulting impact on the country’s political culture shapes political behavior, election results, and ultimately American perceptions of global events and the country’s concomitant strategies for international politics.

These interrelated dynamics between globalization, evolving political cultures, and social transformation and what they mean for international politics will also be examined for the United States’ key partners in Europe, including Germany, France, Great Britain, and Poland. Only through comparative exercises can one “distill” what is genuinely “exceptional” or unique about each national narrative, and what is more universal.

Moreover, to look more closely at how these countries shape their international relations with each other through a defining problem or challenge in contemporary times (in this case, the influence and impact of globalization), allows us to acquire a richer understanding of the underpinning dynamics of international politics.

**Please Note:**

Students taking the Seminar are encouraged to attend the Lecture (507) being offered by Professor Garrett this term. Entitled, “Political Cultures, Globalization, and Social Transformation in a Transatlantic Context”, the Lecture is meant to provide students with the necessary theoretical, comparative, and American Studies knowledge to pursue the seminars. Seminars will be carefully coordinated with the lecture so that the advantages of the module system are maximized.

**509 b) Cultures of Globalization in a Transatlantic Context**

*Garrett, Crister*

**PSWL/LN, 2 SWS**

mittwochs, 11:00 bis 12:30 Uhr, Beethovenstr. 15, Raum 2.516

Two times offered for parallel seminars (i.e., same content, two different times). This allows for two seminar-like settings.

Enrollment Capacity: 60 Total. 30 Students in Each Seminar.

Language of Seminar: English.
Language of Assignments: Writing Assignments can be submitted in English, German, or French.

*Please See Comment Below on Lecture Course, “Political Cultures, Globalization, and Social Transformation in a Transatlantic Context”.

This seminar will focus on contemporary national approaches to globalization, how they are influenced and influence political cultures and the processes of modernization or social transformation in the transatlantic arena.

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510 Basic Texts in American History
PSW/LN, 2 SWS
dienstags, 11:15 bis 12:45 Uhr, SG 4-69/70


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

Various types of texts that are thought to be most important in U.S. history will be explored in this cultural history course. Text interpretation will be covered and, beyond this essential, students will further investigate other meaningful aspects, such as the influences, creation, times, and effects, that surround these writings. Students will be assessed through their achievement in specially assigned course work, in particular the presentations they will be expected to give.

511 The Presidencies of United States History
PSW/LN, 2 SWS
dienstags, 13:15 bis 14:45 Uhr, SG 4-69/70


Attending first class is mandatory, regardless of prior enrolment. Availability for participants is limited and cannot be determined by instructor until the first day of class. Every participant will be expected to give a short presentation, regardless of their plans for LN.
This course will approach United States history with a walk through its presidencies. In presentations, students will review these men and how they, in their time, represented the country and shaped its history. More than just biographical accounts, we will look at their politics, influence, and any other aspects that came to be the hallmarks of their administrations.

512  Introduction to Academic Research in American History  Usbeck, Frank
PSW/LN, 2 SWS
donnerstags, 13:15 bis 14:45 Uhr, SG 4-11/12

**LN: Research Project: bibliographical essay and short written assignments**

The introduction is designed for students in their first year. Guided tours through Leipzig libraries and workshops in online research will be accompanied by interpretation and quotation exercises. In their research project, students will develop their abilities to find, critically analyze, and quote texts relevant for their own academic work.

513  The Frontier Experience  Usbeck, Frank
PSW/LN, 2 SWS
donnerstags, 15:15 bis 16:45 Uhr, SG 2-31/32

The seminar will discuss the Frontier experience and westward expansion from several perspectives: the controversy about Turner’s thesis on the creation of an American national character in the West, the development of institutions, different stages in the movement, the relationship and extent to which various ethnic and social groups shaped America on the Frontier, and the role of Native Americans in the “Winning of the West.”

*A reader with basic texts will be provided at the beginning of the semester, suggested and required readings will be published at Lehrbox.*

514  Great Scares in American History  Becker
17.10.05, 03:15 PM - 05:45 PM: 2.516
18.11.05, 12:00 PM - 08:00 PM: 2.516
02.12.05, 10:00 AM - 06:00 PM: 2.516
03.12.05, 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM: 2.516
[www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/116](http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/116)

The Salem witchcraft trials of 1692, Ku-Klux-Klan lynchings during the period from the Civil War to the Civil Rights movement, the “red scares” of the 20th century, global terrorism – American history repeatedly has witnessed moments of ‘group hysteria’. Resorting to theories of national identity, we will examine a few such instances in American history and search for similarities and differences. Central questions to be asked are what happened when, why, who was involved, and how did Americans reflect on and interpret the events at later points in history.

HAUPTSTUDIUM

**Literaturwissenschaft**

551  American Gothic  Koenen, Anne
HSW/LN, 2 SWS
mittwochs, 11:15 bis 12:45 Uhr, SG 1-39/40

*E: Prior registration is necessary (sign up via Lehrbox until Oct. 10).*

Leslie Fiedler has wondered that American fiction is “bewilderingly and embarrassingly, a gothic fiction, nonrealistic and negative, sadist and melodramatic - a literature of darkness and the grotesque in a land of light and affirmation.” From the beginnings of the American novel, the Gothic has been a dominant strain in US fiction. The seminar will trace the beginnings of the Gothic (Brown, Poe) and follow its development in the late 19th and 20th century by analyzing and discussing writers like Hawthorne, James, Wharton, King, and O’Nan.

Required reading: Charles Brockden Brown, Wieland, or The Transformation; Henry James, The Turn of the Screw; Anne Rice, Interview with the Vampire; Stephen King, Pet Sematary; Toni Morrison, Beloved; Stewart O’Nan, A Prayer for the Dying; short
stories by Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edith Wharton, Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

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<td>552</td>
<td>Modernism</td>
<td>Koenen, Anne</td>
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E: Prior registration is necessary (sign up via Lehrbox until Oct. 10).

“So the Twentieth Century came it began with 1901,” wrote Gertrude Stein, one of the central writers of modernist in the US and an expatriate. At the beginning of the “American Century,” many American writers like Stein preferred to live either abroad or in inner exile, their typical modernists’ sense of alienation intensified by the materialism of the US (which, in he word of James Gibbons Huneker, was a land of bathtubs, not bohemia).

The seminar will look at various manifestations of modernism in writers as diverse as Faulkner and Hemingway, in black and white cultural contexts, and in different genres, and analyse them in the context of the cultural and intellectual influences on modernism.


Purchase of novels recommended. A reader with short stories, poems, and criticism will be provided.

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<td>553</td>
<td>Southern Literature</td>
<td>Koenen, Anne</td>
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E: Prior registration is necessary (sign up via Lehrbox until Oct. 10).

The American South has been called „perhaps intellectually the most enigmatic and least accessible region of the United States.“ Its distinct identity, based on the “peculiar institution” of slavery and its repercussions in the late 19th and 20th century, emerges in literature as ambivalent - in African American literature, e.g., the South is a place both of bondage and of cultural heritage. The seminar will analyse the fictions of Southern writers that are preoccupied with history and tradition as well as issues of race and marginality, reflected in distinctive approaches like Faulkner’s mythological Yoknapawtawpha County and the genre of Southern Gothic.


Purchase of novels recommended. A reader with short stories and criticism will be provided.

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<td>554</td>
<td>Paradise</td>
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<td>555</td>
<td>Houses in American Fiction</td>
<td>Kanzler, Katja</td>
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<td>13:15 bis 14:45 Uhr</td>
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In Dwelling in the Text, Marilyn R. Chandler argues that “n many of our major novels a house stands at stage center as a unifying symbolic structure that represents and defines the relationships of the central characters to one another, to themselves, and to the
world.” In this class, we will explore some of the uses American authors have made of the specific setting(s) provided by houses of various kinds. We will sample literary houses created in the context of different literary movements and historical moments, such as in the domestic novels of the mid-19th century (and in their Gothic counterparts), in the novels of American realism, in fictions of post-World-War-II American suburbia, or in literature of the immigrant experience. We will supplement our reading of these texts by discussing other types of writing about houses (e.g., advice literature) and by exploring some of the ways in which literary uses of domestic space have been theorized by literary and cultural criticism.

A list of the class reading will be available via Lehrbox by late August.

Kulturgeschichte

556 Religion and American Contemporary Society

Keil, Hartmut

HSW/LN, 2 SWS
dienstags, 09:15 bis 10:45 Uhr, SG 2-39/40


The course will evaluate the impact of religion in American society, politics, and culture. After discussing major issues of the history of religion in the United States (including constitutional precedent), it will analyze topics of particular relevance in contemporary America, 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, and the impact of 9/11 on Muslim communities.


557 Expansion and Imperialism

Keil, Hartmut

HSW/LN, 2 SWS
mittwochs, 13:15 bis 14:45 Uhr, SG 1-35/36


The course will cover the emergence, extent, and meaning of U.S. expansionism and imperialism. It will analyze the specific dimensions of the American approach in comparison with other forms of imperialism. On the basis of historical and contemporary theories of imperialism, basic ideologies like Manifest Destiny, will be discussed, as well as economic, political, social conditions, and supporters of imperialism. One focus will be on the connection between continental expansion and imperialistic foreign policy, another on the relations between the United States and Latin America as well as the Pacific region.


558 Violence in American History

Keil, Hartmut

HSW/LN, 2 SWS
dienstags, 15:15 bis 16:45 Uhr, SG 1-65/66


Against the background of theoretical approaches to the issue of violence the course will analyze historical and contemporary occurrences of violence in the United States. Topics to be addressed are: Constitutional regulations of violence and authority (Second Amendment); frontier and vigilantism; concept of Southern honor; lynching; race riots; labor unrest and the military; drug-related violence; violence in the family, in the schools and in the workplace; representations of violence in the media.

Basic reading: Hans Joas und Wolfgang Knöbl, Gewalt in den USA, Frankfurt/Main 1994 (Fischer-Taschenbuch-Verlag)

559 Magister-Kolloquium für Studierende mit MA-Arbeit in Amerikanischer Kulturgesch

Keil, Hartmut

Kolloquium
The Literature of Southern History
Boles
Wednesday, 03:15 PM - 04:45 PM: SG 1-35/36
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/104

A Seminar analyzing the most significant and influential historical scholarship on the history of the U. S. South. We will consider the major themes, schools of interpretation, and alternative interpretations of significant events in the region's history.

a) U.S. and E.U. Approaches to Globalization
Garrett, Crister
HSW/LN, 2 SWS
mittwochs, 15:00 bis 16:30 Uhr, Beethovenstr. 15, Raum 2.516

Two times offered for parallel seminars (i.e., same content, two different times). Allows for two seminar-like settings.

Enrollment Capacity: 60 Total. 30 Students in Each Seminar.

Language of Seminar: English.
Language of Assignments: Writing Assignments can be submitted in English, German, or French.

*Please See Comment Below on Lecture Course, “Political Cultures, Globalization, and Social Transformation in a Transatlantic Context”.

This Hauptseminar will explore the efforts of the United States to construct a cohesive approach to globalization and the similar effort by the member states of the European Union through the E.U. Since globalization is to a larger extent about relative rates of openness and mobility in our respective societies (in the generally most respected “Index of Globalization”, the Kearney Index, for example, countries like Ireland and Finland are considered more globalized than the United States, or Germany), the process of globalization compels our countries to engage in a society-wide debate about what we mean with concepts like “open society”, “personal mobility”, “social inclusion”, and “fair trade”.

The politics of globalization is also arguably (beyond the policy field or problem area of security) the most central issue through which the United States and the EU are currently developing a new vocabulary and lines of strategic logic for transatlantic relations, in short, for their respective roles in the world. The consequences will thus be of utmost importance for both regions, and for the global system.

To better reflect the emerging so-called New Transatlantic Space, this Seminar will also integrate substantial discussions about how NAFTA countries (Canada and Mexico) and the new CEE member states of the EU (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary) also play indisputable and increasingly important roles in shaping the EU-US transatlantic politics of globalization.

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Language of Assignments: Writing Assignments can be submitted in English, German, or French.
This Hauptseminar will explore the efforts of the United States to construct a cohesive approach to globalization and the similar effort by the member states of the European Union through the E.U. Since globalization is to a larger extent about relative rates of openness and mobility in our respective societies (in the generally most respected “Index of Globalization”, the Kearney Index, for example, countries like Ireland and Finland are considered more globalized than the United States, or Germany), the process of globalization compels our countries to engage in a society-wide debate about what we mean with concepts like “open society”, “personal mobility”, “social inclusion”, and “fair trade”. The politics of globalization is also arguably (beyond the policy field or problem area of security) the most central issue through which the United States and the EU are currently developing a new vocabulary and lines of strategic logic for transatlantic relations, in short, for their respective roles in the world. The consequences will thus be of utmost importance for both regions, and for the global system.

To better reflect the emerging so-called New Transatlantic Space, this Seminar will also integrate substantial discussions about how NAFTA countries (Canada and Mexico) and the new CEE member states of the EU (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary) also play indisputable and increasingly important roles in shaping the EU-US transatlantic politics of globalization.

Please Note:

Students taking the Seminar are encouraged to attend the Lecture (507) being offered by Professor Garrett this term. Entitled, “Political Cultures, Globalization, and Social Transformation in a Transatlantic Context”, the Lecture is meant to provide students with the necessary theoretical, comparative, and American Studies knowledge to pursue the seminars. Seminars will be carefully coordinated with the lecture so that the advantages of the module system are maximized.