

Veranstaltungen
Institut für Amerikanistik, Leipzig

(WS 2008/2009)

COURSE CATALOGUE WINTER 2008

Download "Course Catalogue Winter 2008: Introduction" (pdf)

Registration for Classes

Most 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 September.

MAGISTER HAUPTSTUDIUM

Literaturwissenschaft

211 Literature of the American West

S. Tretter (Fulbright Professor)

Blockseminar (January/February 2009)

Brühl 34-50, for rooms see details

Registration: via Lehrbox, 1-10 November 2008 (first come, first served)

Literature of the American West focuses on the myth of the American frontier, one of American's organic art forms. The West represents American's attraction to westward movement and expansion; a symbol of freedom, individualism, and self-reliance; and an attempt for Americans to stay close to the natural landscape. Challenges to this mythology are explored in satires, in women's place in the West, in the immigrants' enculturation, and in the Native Americans' image.

Course goals aim to answer the following questions:

What was the significance of the frontier?

What was the attraction of the West?

How does the West symbolize "America"?

How does the West portray the best and the worst in American history?

How was Native American culture influenced by Westward expansion?

What was the role of women, ethnicities, and racial groups in forming the West?

What new frontiers do we have to explore?

The seminar will meet as follows:

Friday, 9 Jan., 3:15 pm – 4:45 pm, SR 514

Tuesday, 13 Jan., 3:15 - 4:45 & 5:15 - 6:45, SR 505

Friday, 16 Jan., 3:15 - 4:45 & 5:15 - 6:45, SR 514

Tuesday, 20 Jan., 3:15 - 4:45 & 5:15 - 6:45, SR 505

Friday, 23 Jan., 3:15 - 4:45 & 5:15 - 6:45, SR 514

Tuesday, 27 Jan., 3:15 - 4:45 & 5:15 - 6:45, SR 505

Friday, 30 Jan., 3:15 - 4:45 & 5:15 - 6:45, SR 514

Tuesday, 3 Feb., 3:15 - 4:45 & 5:15 - 6:45, SR 505

212 African American Literature

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de 286

Blockseminar (January/February 2009)

Registration: via Lehrbox, 1-10 November 2008 (first come, first served)

The course's goals are to study works from a selection of African American authors; to consider ways these writers defined themselves, their culture, their America, and the problems with which they engaged; to discuss criticism of the Black aesthetic. The purpose of African American Literature is to show the development of an enslaved people into an articulate American subculture who developed their own voice over the past 400 years. Literary, musical, artistic, and dance forms express the past and present and lift the veil of the "color line" to give the world a peek at the African American culture. Without knowledge and appreciation of Black expression, no one can fully know America.

The seminar will meet as follows:

Thursday, 8 Jan., 3:15 pm - 4:45 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Monday, 12 Jan., 1:15 - 2:45 & 3:15 - 4:45, Brühl SR 505

Thursday, 15 Jan., 3:15 - 4:45 & 5:15 - 6:45, GWZ 2 5.16

Monday, 19 Jan., 1:15 - 2:45 & 3:15 - 4:45, Brühl SR 505

Thursday, 22 Jan., 3:15 - 4:45 & 5:15 - 6:45, GWZ 2 5.16

Monday, 26 Jan., 1:15 - 2:45 & 3:15 - 4:45, Brühl SR 505

Thursday, 29 Jan., 3:15 - 4:45 & 5:15 - 6:45, GWZ 2 5.16
Monday, 2 Feb., 1:15 - 2:45 & 3:15 - 4:45, Brühl SR 505

Mandatory preparation for first session: Students are expected to have read the introduction to The Norton Anthology of African American Literature (available at the university library).

213 Constructing the Future: Societies in Science Fiction
Monday, 09:15 AM - 10:45 AM: Dresdner Bank R. 1-01

Kress
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/264

All societies reflect both the values held by their founders and the technology available to the culture. This course will look in depth at the two fictional “planned” societies of Ursula K. Le Guin’s *The Dispossessed* and Kim Stanley Robinson’s *Red Mars*, as well as the “naturally evolving” Europe of Bruce Sterling’s *Holy Fire*. In addition, many short stories will be considered. Themes for discussion will include the feasibility of planning and controlling technological advance and the interaction of human drives and desires with political and economic structures. We will also look at science fiction as a vehicle for writing plausibly, entertainingly, and accurately about the future. Students will be expected to complete all reading before class discussions, to write three short papers on the material, and to pass a final written exam.

Attendance to this class will be limited. Pre-enrollment is now available. More details on admission will be made available through the course homepage.

Classes start in week of 13 October.

214 Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy
Tuesday, 09:15 AM - 10:45 AM: GWZ 2 5.16

Kress
www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/265

This course will consist of two parts. For the first half, we will examine the components of all stories: character, plot, setting, narrative drive, dialogue, scene construction. In addition, we’ll look at the special considerations of writing science fiction and fantasy, including world building.

Class time will be divided among lectures, discussion, examination of professional SF stories, and writing exercises. Meanwhile, since the best way to learn to write fiction is by actually doing it, each student will be writing his or her own SF story, and critiquing these will form the second half of the class. Critiquing, led by the instructor, is aimed at constructive, useful feed-back in a supportive atmosphere. Each student will meet at least twice with the instructor outside of class, first to plan his or her story idea and then again after the story has been critiqued. Let your hidden talent shine!

Attendance to this class will be limited. Pre-enrollment will be available as of early August. More details on admission will be made available through the course homepage.

Classes start in week of 13 October.

215 Literature of the American South (= 405)

A. Koenen

Thursday; From 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

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 Yoknapawtapha County and the genre of Southern Gothic.

Required reading: Mark Twain, *Pudd’nhead Wilson*; Thomas R. Dixon, *The Clansman*; Margaret Mitchell, *Gone with the Wind* [excerpt]; William Faulkner, *Absalom! Absalom!*; Richard Wright, *Black Boy*; John Behrendt, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Short stories by William Faulkner, Jewelle Gomez, Alice Walker.

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

Enrollment: Prior enrollment via email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) is necessary; deadline is September 30. In the first session, there will be a brief test on Faulkner’s *Absalom, Absalom!*. This seminar is open to those 40 students who emerge as the best (prepared) in this test.

216 Consumerism and Culture in the US (= 409)

A. Koenen

Friday; From 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

At the turn of the twentieth century, an emerging consumer culture in the United States promoted constant spending to meet material needs and develop social identity and self-cultivation. A century later, cultural critics have claimed that consumerism has become the

dominant ideology of our times. In this seminar, we will read fictional representations as well as cultural manifestations of consumerism with the intention of analysing the emergence of the US as a consumer society and significant trends in the 20th century (like the malling of America, department stores versus mail-order, e-commerce). Against the background of various theories of consumerism, we will first, after a grounding in theory, discuss literature that celebrates or criticizes the re-interpretation of the American Dream in parameters of materialism. The second half of the seminar will be in the format of a "blockseminar" where students will present the result of workshops on various aspects of consumerism.

Purchase of novels (Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*; Lewis, *Main Street*; Updike, *Rabbit at Rest*) recommended. A reader with short stories, excerpts, and criticism will be provided.

Enrollment: Prior enrollment via email (koenen@uni-leipzig.de) is necessary; deadline is September 30. In the first session, there will be a brief test on Lewis's *Main Street*. This seminar is open to those 40 students who emerge as the best (prepared) in this test.

217 Methods and Theories in American Studies – Seminar (= 402) K. Kanzler
Wednesday; From 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

This seminar will address major paradigms of American Studies, their evolution and contestation in the past half-century or so of scholarship traveling under the name of 'American Studies.' We will read and discuss critical writing that probes into the beginnings of American Studies in the so-called myth-and-symbol school and into the various ways in which this foundational paradigm has been challenged and expanded, e.g., by the group of scholars who called themselves the 'New Americanists' or in the wake of the much-debated 'transnational turn' in American Studies. On which assumptions about culture, nation, history, 'race,' gender, and, ultimately, the nature of scholarship are these paradigms based? What critical vocabularies do different practitioners of American Studies use, to which objects of analysis do they apply them?

Enrollment: This MA-seminar is open to a limited number of advanced and motivated Magister- and Lehramts students as a Hauptseminar. Please apply for this seminar by email (kkanzler@uni-leipzig.de) before October 1, 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.

Classes start in week of 13 October.

Kulturgeschichte

221 The Internationalization, Transnationalization, and Globalization of ...
...Society, Politics, and History: The Case of the United States. (= 404)

Tuesday; From 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16, C. Garrett

This graduate colloquium will explore with diverse readings in history, sociology, political science, cultural studies, and anthropology the extent to which the "national" is being contextualized, re-configured, through international, transnational, and global approaches to American Studies. Issues to be explored include notions of civil society, political participation, immigration, ethnicity, identities, and economic transformation.

222 Immigration and Ethnicity (=412) H. Keil
Block seminar

Brühl 34-50/ GWZ, for rooms see details

The course will begin Friday, October 24th, at 10 a.m.

The other course dates will be: Friday, November 7, from 1-5 pm; Friday, November 28, from 1-5 pm; Thursday, December 18, from 4-8p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, January 23 and 24, 2009, from 10a.m.-4p.m.

The course will discuss theories of immigration and integration before looking at United States immigration policy, and at specific problems that immigrants faced in the 19th and 20th centuries during periods of mass immigration. Case studies of the most important ethnic immigration groups in the 19th century (among them Poles and Germans) will be undertaken to analyze typical immigration and settlement patterns (geographic distribution, urban and rural settlement, neighborhood patterns), processes of economic, political, and social integration, as well as ethnic institutions (churches, labor unions, fraternal and aid associations). Special emphasis will be placed on cultural transfer and ethnic cultures, as well as on contemporary ethnic groups (Latinos, Asians, Native Americans) and issues (e.g. illegal immigration).

The course will also serve as a preparatory seminar for a study tour on the same topic planned for the fall of 2009 for students from the University of Kraków/Poland and the University of Leipzig.

Required introductory reading: Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, New York 1990.

Prior registration by Lehrbox is required.

The course will begin Friday, October 24th, 10am-12pm, Brühl SR 505

The other course dates will be:

Friday, November 7, from 1-5 pm, Brühl SR 505

Friday, November 28, from 1-5 pm, Brühl SR 721

Thursday, December 18, from 4-8pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Friday, January 23, 2009, from 10am-4pm, Brühl SR 505

Saturday, January 24, 2009, from 10am-4pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Course Homepage: <http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/index.php?tab=266>

223 German and American Perspectives on Politics and Policy since 1945 (= 413)

P. Rundquist

Block seminar

Class Organization Meeting: 15 October 2008, 3:15pm-6:45pm, Brühl 34-50, SR 721

Second Class Session: 5 November 2008, 3:15pm-6:45pm, Brühl 34-50, SR 721

Block Seminar Presentation Meetings: Dates and Times in January to be arranged through discussions with class.

This seminar examines the interactions and reactions of American and German politicians and policymakers from the end of World War II to the Post-9/11 era. Topics to be covered include diplomatic, military, cultural, and economic policies. Suggested course readings include works by American and German scholars, as well as memoirs and biographies of leading public figures. Summary readings for the course are Junker and Gossert (hrsg) *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War*; Barclay, *Transatlantic Images, and Perceptions*; and Szabo, *Parting Ways*. Additional readings will be placed on Semesterapparat. Students are responsible for regular attendance and active participation at all seminar sessions, completion of suggested topic-related readings, delivering oral presentation, and completion of a semester paper.

Class Organization Meeting: 15 October 2008, 15:15-18:45

Overview presentation by professor, discussion of key issues to be examined, and arrangement of class presentation topics. Orientation to the course, themes, and approaches to be undertaken. Reading plan for second session discussed.

Second Class Session: 5 November 2008, 15:15-18:45

Lecture format, with professor's presentation concerning key themes and figures examined in the course. During this meeting, students will commit to presentations on specific topics to be delivered during January 2009 seminar meetings. Requests to give a presentation made after this class session will not be accepted.

Block Seminar Presentation Meetings: Dates and Times in January to be arranged through discussions with class.

Presentations by students, discussion lead by professor, and concluding assessments at conclusion of block seminar meetings.

224 IDEWEY Seminar (= 415)

Tuesday; From 03:15 PM to 04:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16, C. Garrett

Class starts on 21 October and takes place every two weeks

The seminar will provide a forum for the articulation and planning of an international symposium on American Studies. Students will discuss which interdisciplinary and integrated themes should be stressed, what sort of symposium "culture" they would like to encourage, and how their own scholarly work can be represented in the context of the symposium. Students will thus be practicing analytical, organizational, and presentational skills in the context of advanced learning.

Sprachpraxis

231 Advanced Academic Writing

C. Sharpe

Monday; From 11:15 AM to 12:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

This course is aimed at assisting students in their writing assignments in their American Studies coursework. 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.

This MA-class is open to a limited number of Magister Hauptstudium students. Advanced writing skills in the English language, as well as ample experience in academic essay writing, are a prerequisite.

Linguistik --> <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~engl/studium/framesetstudium.htm>

BACHELOR

Literature & Culture I

- BA 1st Year -

Module Coordinator: Anne Koenen.

This module acquaints students with the basic issues and techniques of American literary studies. It provides a survey of United States literary history as well as an introduction to the methods and theories employed in literary and cultural analysis.

311 American Literature, Beginnings to Present

Friday; From 11:15 AM to 12:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2 0.10, A. Koenen

Classes start in the week of October 13

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

312 Literature & Culture I - Seminar

K. Kanzler

Wednesday; From 05:15 PM to 06:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

This course is meant to introduce students to American literary and cultural studies. It will provide students with the skills required to analyze a wide range of different texts (encompassing a variety of literary genres as well as other cultural artifacts). Moreover, it will help students develop a feeling for the questions and approaches typical of the field. Coursework will cover basic techniques of critically engaging texts, exemplary analyses and interpretations, as well as an overview of contemporary approaches in literary and cultural theory.

Classes start in week of 13 October.

313 Literature & Culture I - Seminar 2 (= identical with 312)

K. Schmieder

Tuesday; From 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

This course is meant to introduce students to American literary and cultural studies. It will provide students with the skills required to analyze a wide range of different texts (encompassing a variety of literary genres as well as other cultural artifacts). Moreover, it will help students develop a feeling for the questions and approaches typical of the field. Coursework will cover basic techniques of critically engaging texts, exemplary analyses and interpretations, as well as an overview of contemporary approaches in literary and cultural theory.

Classes start in week of 13 October.

318 Literature & Culture - Seminar 3

Thursday, 9:15-10.45am, Location: t.b.a., A. Menger

see 312/ 313

315 Literature & Culture I - Tutorial 2 (= identical with 314)

C. Sharpe

Monday; From 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

This course deals with literary analysis from the language practice perspective. The writing skills required for the Module's seminar will be developed here through practical assignments given. There will be particular focus on the form, function, and structure of the English paragraph and also on providing a sound introduction on the how to write the English essay.

314 Literature & Culture I - Tutorial

C. Sharpe

Thursday; From 11:15 AM to 12:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

This course deals with literary analysis from the language practice perspective. The writing skills required for the Module's seminar will be developed here through practical assignments given. There will be particular focus on the form, function, and structure of the English paragraph and also on providing a sound introduction on the how to write the English essay.

319 LC 1 Tutorial

Bast

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iTASK (international, interdisciplinary, integrated: Technical, Academic, Soft, and Career Skills)

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett.

The goal of the module is to help students develop key skills to thrive in their studies and in their subsequent career choices. Leading reports from Germany and the United States show clearly that one of the central reasons why students experience frustration in their studies and career pursuits is because of a relative lack of preparation for integrating these two stages of personal and professional development into a comprehensive set of goals allowing for continuous individual development. For the generation of students beginning university, your learning and working life is expected to last approximately a half-century. This module is meant to help you prepare for that voyage. This module is thus meant to prepare you for the TASK ahead.

316 iTASK - Lecture C. Garrett

Wednesday; From 11:15 AM to 12:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

There are four types of skills that determine to a large degree a student's success at university, and in different careers after receiving a diploma. These are technical, academic, soft, and career skills. Moreover, the type of knowledge that one acquires at university plays a key role in how one thrives after leaving campus life. Especially important is knowledge that is international, interdisciplinary, and integrated into larger issues engaging societies worldwide. We will explore each set of skills, what they mean, and how to develop these further. We will do so by simultaneously exploring how they relate to the sort of knowledge and expertise expected across all sectors of the work world.

Lastly, we will integrate our learning experience together by developing your own studies-and-career-portfolio where you lay out goals, objectives, and plans for the next five years. This is the last but perhaps primary importance of the "i" before the TASK ahead, namely, it should be your individual experience that prepares you to thrive during your studies and career development.

317 iTASK - Tutorial C. Sharpe

Thursday; From 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, Location: Dresdner Bank SR 4-01,

The iTASK Tutorial will involve students discussing in further detail the broad themes broached during the lecture and integrating these discussions into various written and oral assignments to deepen communication, analytical, technical, and presentation skills.

- BA 2nd Year -**Society, History, and Politics II**

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 Civil War to the present.

331 Society, History, & Politics II - Lecture C. Garrett

Thursday; From 11:15 AM to 12:45 AM, Location: Brüderstr. Gr. HS (2),

The lecture for this module will explore the historical, political, and societal developments in the United States from the late nineteenth century to the emergence of the current century. While exploring the uniqueness of the "American Experience", care will also be taken to place American society in an international context.

332 Issues in Contemporary American History, Politics, and Society - Seminar A F. Usbeck

Friday; From 03:15 PM to 04:15 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

This proseminar will explore in more depth critical issues in contemporary American history, politics, and society, including the internationalization of American society, immigration, civil rights movements, the transformation of work, and America's role in the world. Students will improve their skills in research as well as in analysis and presentation.

334 Issues in Contemporary American History, Politics, and Society - Seminar BMonday, 7:15pm-8:45pm, Location: GWZ 2 5.16 A. Menger
see 332a**333 Key Documents in Contemporary American History, Politics, and Society - Sem. A** C. Sharpe

Wednesday, From 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, Location: Dresdner Bank SR 1-04,

This seminar will complement the lecture and other seminar by offering students the opportunity to engage and discuss a diverse collection of primary documents from contemporary American history, politics, and society. These key documents will range from government reports, personal diaries, a variety of speeches, videos, and audio clips dealing with a wide range of issues also explored in the lecture and seminar.

335 Key Documents in Contemporary American History, Politics, and Society - Sem. B

Monday, 3:15-4:45pm, Location: GWZ 2 5.16, A. Menger
see 333 Seminar A

Language and Society – Applied Linguistics

Module Coordinator: Sylvia Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

10051 Varieties of English (Lecture)

C. Pollner (Institut für Anglistik)

Monday; From 09:15 to 10:45, Location: HTWK G 327,

This lecture will introduce participants to national, local, social and stylistic varieties of English. Some topics to be included will be brief introductions to, among others, English as a Global Language, Standard English, other UK varieties, US English including African American Vernacular English, English in Australia, English in India, the Cockney dialect/accents, genderlects etc.

10052 Varieties of US-English (Seminar)

S. Reuter (Institut für Anglistik)

Tuesday; From 09:15 to 10:45, Location: Brühl Raum 905,

After the introduction into the concept of variation/varieties we will deal with language variation in contemporary American English/US-English. Regional variation will be the main issue as we learn about the history of US-English dialects and the contemporary dialect areas (e.g. Boston/New England and NYC) together with their features in pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary as compared with General American English (= Western Type). Current developments and ethnic variation (with special focus on African American English) are connected topics. As we proceed, insights into theoretical phenomena will be gained such as how to elicit spontaneous speech for research, why linguistic variables are important, or what isoglosses and hypercorrection tell us about variation in language.

Reader to be purchased at copy shop "Zimo".

Exam: Presentation (15 minutes).

10053 Textlinguistics (Seminar)

W. Lörcher (Institut für Anglistik)

Wednesday; From 09:15 to 10:45, Location: Brühl Raum 518,

In this seminar, an overview of the basic concepts and domains of text linguistics will be given. One focus will be on the analysis of spoken texts, for which American Conversational Analysis and British Discourse Analysis have provided important devices. Furthermore, the function of the seminar is to provide insights into the structure of text, which should be of help for text analysis, interpretation and production.

Literatur:

Robert A. de Beaugrande / Wolfgang Dressler (1981). Introduction to Text Linguistics. London.

Prüfung: Hausarbeit (Bearbeitungszeit: 6 Wochen)

- BA 3rd Year -

Project-Module

This module is meant to allow BA students to apply the analytical, presentational, and organizational skills that they have learned to a concrete project in American Studies involving interdisciplinary, international, and integrative types of knowledge and learning. The module thus provides an interface between classroom skills and knowledge and preparation for professional international careers.

MASTER

352 Project Colloquium 2

C. Garrett

Monday; From 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, Location: GWZ 3 5.15,

In this colloquium we will bring together technology skills, analytical skills, organization and planning skills, and presentation skills in a project that will combine the characteristics of a writing project and blog project, tentatively titled "the blog-book project".

First meetings of the colloquium will be used to create consensus around the concept and content of the project. Thereafter students will "drive the project" with the professor acting as a type of consultant who then provides a final assessment of the project along with another colleague.

Module Coordinators: Anne Koenen / Crister Garrett.

353 Project Module Writing Clinic

Thursday; From 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, Location: GWZ 3 5.15, C. Sharpe
 Class starts on 23 October and takes place every two weeks.

The Project Module Writing Clinic is meant to provide students with a setting where they can receive advanced writing consultation and feed-back for the myriad assignments connected with the PM Colloquiums, including proposals, funding applications, letters of invitation, publicity statements, blog writing and the students' own academic writing.

351 Project Colloquium 1

A. Koenen

Friday; From 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

In this colloquium we will bring together technology skills, analytical skills, organization and planning skills, and presentation skills in a project tentatively titled "symposium project".

First meetings of the colloquium will be used to create consensus around the concept and content of the (mini)-conference project. Thereafter students will "drive the project" with the professor acting as a type of consultant who then provides a final assessment of the project along with another colleague.

Students may choose which one of the two Colloquia offered for the module they want to attend.

- MA 1st Year -**Methods and Theories in American Studies**

Module Coordinator: Katja Kanzler.

This module provides students with an overview of key methods and theories employed in the interdisciplinary field of American studies. It is meant to prepare students for the program's advanced modules.

401 Methods and Theories in American Studies – Lecture

A. Koenen / C. Garrett

Thursday; From 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

The lecture series on "Methods and Theories in American Studies" will explore the various methodological and theoretical approaches to American Studies, the nature of the debate about the strengths and possible drawbacks of different methods and theories, and where the field of American Studies is today in its lively and open debate about the conceptualization, pursuit and results of diverse approaches in the field.

402 Seminar: Methods and Theories in American Studies

Kanzler

Wednesday, 01:15 PM - 02:45 PM: GWZ 2.5.16

www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/270

This seminar will address major paradigms of American Studies, their evolution and contestation in the past half-century or so of scholarship traveling under the name of 'American Studies.' We will read and discuss critical writing that probes into the beginnings of American Studies in the so-called myth-and-symbol school and into the various ways in which this foundational paradigm has been challenged and expanded, e.g., by the group of scholars who called themselves the 'New Americanists' or in the wake of the much-debated 'transnational turn' in American Studies. On which assumptions about culture, nation, history, 'race,' gender, and, ultimately, the nature of scholarship are these paradigms based? What critical vocabularies do different practitioners of American Studies use, to which objects of analysis do they apply them?

Classes start in week of 13 October.

First-year MA-students (for whom this is a compulsory class) are automatically enrolled. Registration for all other students ended on Oct. 1.

403 Methods and Theories in American Studies – Tutorial

C. Sharpe

Monday; From 11:15 AM to 12:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

This course is aimed at assisting students in their writing assignments in their American Studies coursework. 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.

Graduate Colloquium

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett.

This module acquaints students with current issues and debates in American studies. Two exemplary seminars represent different academic traditions within this interdisciplinary field of inquiry, giving students an impression of their respective scholarly interests and approaches.

404 The Internationalization, Transnationalization, and Globalization of ...

C. Garrett

...Society, Politics, and History: The Case of the United States.

Tuesday; From 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

This graduate colloquium will explore with diverse readings in history, sociology, political science, cultural studies, and anthropology the extent to which the “national” is being contextualized, re-configured, through international, transnational, and global approaches to American Studies. Issues to be explored include notions of civil society, political participation, immigration, ethnicity, identities, and economic transformation.

405 Literature of the American South

A. Koenen

Thursday; From 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

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 Yoknapawtapha County and the genre of Southern Gothic.

Required reading: Mark Twain, Pudd’nhead Wilson; Thomas R. Dixon, The Clansman; Margaret Mitchell, Gone with the Wind [excerpt]; William Faulkner, Absalom! Absalom!; Richard Wright, Black Boy; John Behrendt, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil. Short stories by William Faulkner, Jewelle Gomez, Alice Walker.

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

iCAN (international, interdisciplinary, integrated Career and Academic Networking)

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett.

The module helps students to develop important learning and professional skills. These skills include advanced study and research techniques, expert language acquisition, transcultural learning, analytical and writing skills, public speaking, debating, presentation skills, as well as team work and communication. In addition, the module addresses active career management.

406 iCAN Lecture

Tuesday; From 03:15 PM to 4:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16, C. Garrett

Class starts on 14 October and takes place every two weeks

The lecture series will provide students with the opportunity to hear a diverse set of voices exploring how expertise about a culture and society in an international dimension can empower careers in terms of communication skills, analytical skills, interdisciplinary and integrated knowledge, professional networks, and contextual career planning. Part of the series of lectures will be about how to conceptualise, plan, and implement complex intercultural events, such as an international conference.

407 iCAN Seminar

S. Herrmann

Friday; From 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 3 5.15,

From identifying a topic of profound academic interest to writing a Call for Papers, from corresponding with authors to gathering financial support, from reviewing others' work to suggesting modifications, from grouping articles to sections to writing an introduction – editing a scholarly publication entails a wide range of professional skills central to the academia and to non-academic work settings alike.

In 2007/08, the first group of editors has founded and published *aspeers*, the first and currently only graduate-level peer-reviewed journal for European American Studies, i.e. a journal that publishes the critical work of pre-PhD authors from (other) European universities.

This semester, we will work to edit the second issue of the journal and to refine its positioning in the market. This will include learning about different publication formats and about academic publishing in the US and Germany in general. Most of the time and workload, however, will go into the editing process outlined above. Mostly working in project groups, the module thus provides a truly unique opportunity to acquire and improve professional skills in areas such as critical reading and writing, word processing, public relations, and communication.

The course is part of the American Studies Leipzig professionalization module (SQM) iCAN. Accordingly, participants are required to attend the module lecture as well and are expected to devote a significant amount of time and energy to the module. The expected workload for the semester is 300 hours per person. The course is open to advanced Magister students in their Hauptstudium as well. Anticipating strong interest in the course, students willing to participate have to apply by sending a 500-1000 word Statement of Purpose (including their motivation and previous experience, if any) to smherrmann@uni-leipzig.de by September 30, 2008.

Classes start in week of 13 Oct.

Find information on the project at www.aspeers.com

408 iCAN Tutorial

C. Sharpe

Wednesday; From 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, Location: Dresdner Bank SR 3-03,

The iCAN Tutorial is meant to provide students with advanced guidance on how to write analytical essays and to prepare professional documents such as cover letters, resumes, and job applications. It will also provide students a forum in which to practice professional writing skills associated with the aspeers project (see iCAN seminar).

- MA 2nd Year -**Consumption, Culture, and Identity**

Module Coordinator: Anne Koenen.

This module focuses on the study of consumer and popular culture. The two seminars approach consumer culture from different academic perspectives, aiming to acquaint students with the respective research interests and methodologies they contribute to the exploration of consumption, culture, and identity.

409 Consumerism and Culture in the US

A. Koenen

Friday; From 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16,

At the turn of the twentieth century, an emerging consumer culture in the United States promoted constant spending to meet material needs and develop social identity and self-cultivation. A century later, cultural critics have claimed that consumerism has become the dominant ideology of our times. In this seminar, we will read fictional representations as well as cultural manifestations of consumerism with the intention of analysing the emergence of the US as a consumer society and significant trends in the 20th century (like the malling of America, department stores versus mail-order, e-commerce). Against the background of various theories of consumerism, we will first, after a grounding in theory, discuss literature that celebrates or criticizes the re-interpretation of the American Dream in parameters of materialism. The second half of the seminar will be in the format of a "blockseminar" where students will present the result of workshops on various aspects of consumerism.

Purchase of novels (Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*; Lewis, *Main Street*; Updike, *Rabbit at Rest*) recommended. A reader with short stories, excerpts, and criticism will be provided.

410 Accounts, Narratives and Discourses

H. Flam

Thursday; From 01:15 PM to 02:45 PM, Location: GWZ 5 0.15,

This course approaches the study of culture from a sociological perspective. More specifically, an insight into some aspects of the 'narrative turn' in sociology and the sociology of organizations will be given.

Transatlantic Space

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett.

This module is meant to offer graduate students an advanced exploration of how the United States and Europe have shaped each other in various central themes, including politics, policy, societal norms, and culturally. The module stresses transcultural processes involving perceptions, peoples, and politics that emerges from regular engagements with "the other" and thus what one can describe in a Euro-American context as a transatlantic space that is fundamental to understanding the American experience and its international context.

412 Immigration and Ethnicity

H. Keil

Block seminar

Brühl 34-50/ GWZ, for rooms see details

The course will begin Friday, October 24th, at 10 a.m.

The other course dates will be: Friday, November 7, from 1-5 pm; Friday, November 28, from 1-5 pm; Thursday, December 18, from 4-8p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, January 23 and 24, 2009, from 10a.m.-4p.m.

The course will discuss theories of immigration and integration before looking at United States immigration policy, and at specific problems that immigrants faced in the 19th and 20th centuries during periods of mass immigration. Case studies of the most important ethnic immigration groups in the 19th century (among them Poles and Germans) will be undertaken to analyze typical immigration and settlement patterns (geographic distribution, urban and rural settlement, neighborhood patterns), processes of economic, political, and social integration, as well as ethnic institutions (churches, labor unions, fraternal and aid associations). Special emphasis will be placed on cultural transfer and ethnic cultures, as well as on contemporary ethnic groups (Latinos, Asians, Native Americans) and issues (e.g. illegal immigration).

The course will also serve as a preparatory seminar for a study tour on the same topic planned for the fall of 2009 for students from the University of Kraków/Poland and the University of Leipzig.

Required introductory reading: Roger Daniels, *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*, New York 1990.

Prior registration by Lehrbox is required.

The course will begin Friday, October 24th, 10am-12pm, Brühl SR 505

The other course dates will be:

Friday, November 7, from 1-5 pm, Brühl SR 505

Friday, November 28, from 1-5 pm, Brühl SR 721

Thursday, December 18, from 4-8pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Friday, January 23, 2009, from 10am-4pm, Brühl SR 505

Saturday, January 24, 2009, from 10am-4pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Course Homepage: <http://www.ul.as.lehrbox.de/index.php?tab=266>

413 German and American Perspectives on Politics and Policy since 1945

P. Rundquist

Block seminar

Class Organization Meeting: 15 October 2008, 3:15pm-6:45pm, Brühl 34-50, SR 721

Second Class Session: 5 November 2008, 3:15pm-6:45pm, Brühl 34-50, SR 721

Block Seminar Presentation Meetings: Dates and Times in January to be arranged through discussions with class.

This seminar examines the interactions and reactions of American and German politicians and policymakers from the end of World War II to the Post-9/11 era. Topics to be covered include diplomatic, military, cultural, and economic policies. Suggested course readings include works by American and German scholars, as well as memoirs and biographies of leading public figures. Summary readings for the course are Junker and Gossert (hrsg) *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War*; Barclay, *Transatlantic Images, and Perceptions*; and Szabo, *Parting Ways*. Additional readings will be placed on Semesterapparat. Students are responsible for regular attendance and active participation at all seminar sessions, completion of suggested topic-related readings, delivering oral presentation, and completion of a semester paper.

Class Organization Meeting: 15 October 2008, 15:15-18:45

Overview presentation by professor, discussion of key issues to be examined, and arrangement of class presentation topics. Orientation to the course, themes, and approaches to be undertaken. Reading plan for second session discussed.

Second Class Session: 5 November 2008, 15:15-18:45

Lecture format, with professor's presentation concerning key themes and figures examined in the course. During this meeting, students will commit to presentations on specific topics to be delivered during January 2009 seminar meetings. Requests to give a presentation made after this class session will not be accepted.

Block Seminar Presentation Meetings: Dates and Times in January to be arranged through discussions with class.

Presentations by students, discussion lead by professor, and concluding assessments at conclusion of block seminar meetings.

iDEWEY (international, interdisciplinary, integrated Dewey Principle)

Module Coordinator: Crister Garrett.

This module is meant to allow MA students to apply the analytical, presentational, and organizational skills that they have learned to a concrete project in American Studies involving interdisciplinary, international, and integrative types of knowledge and learning. The module thus provides an interface between classroom skills and knowledge and preparation for professional international careers. The module is named after the acclaimed American philosopher and education reformer James Dewey who stressed "learning by doing".

415 iDEWEY Seminar

Tuesday; From 03:15 PM to 04:45 PM, Location: GWZ 2 5.16, C. Garrett

Class starts on 21 October and takes place every two weeks

The seminar will provide a forum for the articulation and planning of an international symposium on American Studies. Students will discuss which interdisciplinary and integrated themes should be stressed, what sort of symposium "culture" they would like to encourage, and how their own scholarly work can be represented in the context of the symposium. Students will thus be practicing analytical, organizational, and presentational skills in the context of advanced learning.

416 iDEWEY Writing Clinic

Thursday; From 09:15 AM to 10:45 AM, Location: GWZ 3 5.15, C. Sharpe

Class starts on 16 October and takes place every two weeks.

The iDEWEY Writing Clinic is meant to provide students with a setting where they can receive advanced writing consultation and feed-back for the myriad assignments connected with the iDEWEY seminar, including symposium proposal, funding applications, letters of invitation, publicity statements, and the students' own academic writing to be presented at the symposium.