

## **Sommersemester 2024**

### **Vorlesung**

Americanization – Lure or Specter

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

DIES IST Prof. Hergets VORLESUNG UND NICHT sein CULTURAL STUDIES IV AS (05.866.211): SIE KÖNNEN in diesem Semester NUR DIE VORLESUNG ODER den CULTURAL STUDIES IV-KURS bei Prof. Herget besuchen!

Melden Sie auf keinen Fall beide Kurstypen im selben Semester bei Prof. Herget an!

Americanization has come to denote the transnational impact of American political and cultural ideas and social practices across the world. It has been welcomed as a model of democratization and egalitarian access to culture, but also generated anti-Americanism among those who clung to traditional national(ist) values.

### **Cultural Studies IV**

Americanization – Lure or Specter

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

DIES IST Prof. Hergets CULTURAL STUDIES IV AS (05.866.211) UND NICHT seine VORLESUNG (05.866.314): SIE KÖNNEN in diesem Semester NUR DIE VORLESUNG ODER den CULTURAL STUDIES IV-KURS bei Prof. Herget besuchen! Melden Sie auf keinen Fall beide Kurstypen im selben Semester bei Prof. Herget an!

Americanization has come to denote the transnational impact of American political and cultural ideas and social practices across the world. It has been welcomed as a model of democratization and egalitarian access to culture, but also generated anti-Americanism among those who clung to traditional national(ist) values.

We will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussants.

### **Graduate Seminar**

William Faulkner: "I don't hate it, I don't hate it."

Wed 18-20 – P109a

William Faulkner is one of the best American novelists of the twentieth century. His fiction deals with the impact of Southern history on the collective memory of Southerners. It leaves Whites with the dilemma of guilt (of what they have done to the "Indians" and African slaves) and love of 'Heimat.'

The seminar will focus on two works, "The Bear" and Absalom, Absalom!

Other texts, e.g. The Sound and the Fury and As I Lay Dying, will be discussed in presentations.

Students who are in the process of writing the B.A. thesis are advised NOT to register for this seminar.

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

Thu 18-20 – 01-618

Degree candidates will present texts of their work in progress – which will be discussed in the colloquium. By invitation only.

## **Wintersemester 2023/ 2024**

### **Vorlesung**

American Wilderness Discourses

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

DIES IST DIE VORLESUNG UND NICHT DER CULTURAL STUDIES-KURS: SIE KÖNNEN NUR DIE VORLESUNG ODER DEN CULTURAL STUDIES-KURS BELEGEN! Melden Sie sich in keinem Fall für beides an!

The English settlers thought of "America" as a wilderness which was meant to be cultivated. This wilderness rhetoric becomes the master discourse for the USA up to the end of the 19th century. It served as a rationalization and justification of the dispossession of Native Americans. By the middle of the 19th century, wilderness was recognized as a necessary space of recreation and that needed to be preserved. The lecture course will discuss the ideology and practice of dealing with the natural environment from the early Puritans to the more recent "Wilderness Act".

### **Cultural Studies IV**

American Wilderness Discourses

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

CS IV can only be taken in conjunction with the lecture course but students can only earn credit for either the lecture course or Cultural Studies. Please note that you can only register for either the lecture course or Cultural Studies but will attend both.

On the basis of the lecture course we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will

be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussion leaders.

## **Graduate Seminar**

### American Slave Narratives

Wed 18-20 – P109a

Students who are in the process of writing the B.A. thesis are advised not to register for this seminar.

Narratives written by African-American Slaves were an influential instrument of the movement to end slavery (abolitionism). The seminar will discuss major texts e.g. by Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, William Wells Brown, Sojourner Truth and others. Special attention will be paid to narrative strategies, inscribed readers, public reception, and recent debates of the subgenre. A valuable collection can be found in *Slave Narratives in The Library of America, Vol. 114*, ed. by William L. Andrews.

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

Thu 18-20 – 01-618

Degree candidates will present texts of their work in progress – which will be discussed in the colloquium. By invitation only.

## **Sommersemester 2023**

### **Vorlesung**

#### The USA – A Nation of Ethnicity?

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

The lecture course will deal with the role of ethnicity in American culture. It will discuss the various controversies over the hyphenated American versus the "straight" American, multiculturalism and identity politics. We will trace historical developments of the idea of ethnic identity and American nationhood, the tension between exclusion and inclusion, the claim that America has moved "beyond" ethnicity to "we are all ethnics now".

## **Cultural Studies IV**

The USA – A Nation of Ethnicity?

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

On the basis of the lecture course, we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussants.

## **Graduate Seminar**

Mixed-race Identities: Mulatto America

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P109a

Persons of mixed-race were called "Mulatto"/ "Mulatto" in American culture. They could identify as such in the census until 1930 when the one-drop of blood rule abolished the category. The seminar will discuss the category in historical terms and under the perspective of critical racism. Among literary representations we will read Lydia Maria Child's "The Quadroons", Dion Boucicault's "The Octoroon", "Mulatto" by Langston Hughes and Nella Larsen's novel of Passing.

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, P101 by invitation only.

Degree candidates will present texts of their work in progress – which will be discussed in the colloquium.

## **Wintersemester 2022/23**

### **Vorlesung**

One Nation under God? Politics and Religion in the U.S.

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

The lecture course will discuss one of the most significant paradoxes of American culture: The impact of religious convictions on politics under the constitutional provision that mandates the separation of church and state. It will provide a historical

perspective but will also discuss more recent and current issues (e.g. school prayers, abortion etc.).

## **Cultural Studies IV**

One Nation under God? Politics and Religion in the U.S.

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

On the basis of the lecture course, we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussants.

## **Graduate Seminar**

W.E.B. DuBois – Advocating Race Pride

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P108

DuBois was the most important African-American intellectual and civil rights advocate of the 20th century. The seminar will focus on his efforts to instill racial pride in African-Americans by making them aware of their African past before slavery in America. After briefly looking at DuBois' formative years in Germany and his early sociological studies, the central texts will be the *Souls of Black Folk* and his "pageant" *Star of Ethiopia*. We will also discuss DuBois' transnational impact, especially his support of Pan-Africanism.

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, P101 by invitation only.

Degree candidates will present texts of their work in progress – which will be discussed in the colloquium.

## **Sommersemester 2022**

### **Vorlesung**

Acting upon each other through language: American Political Rhetoric

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

The lecture course will discuss significant developments and specimens of the ways and means by which Americans are persuaded to support collective purposes and actions. Traditional rhetorical strategies such as appeals to logos, pathos, and ethos

will be considered as well as how the values, attitudes, and, beliefs change or persist. A major focus will be on presidential rhetoric and on the role of the media.

## **Cultural Studies IV**

Acting upon each other through language: American Political Rhetoric

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

On the basis of the lecture course we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussion leaders.

## **Graduate Seminar**

Joyce Carol Oates

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P103 / online

Oates is one of the most productive authors of contemporary American literature. She has tried her hand at various genres, published literary and cultural criticism, and taught as a university professor. She is credited with reviving the romance tradition and moved from realism to magic realism. Her depiction of violence and of "evil" women has been controversial.

The seminar will focus on her novel *Mudwoman* (2012) after discussing her short fiction "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" (1974). We will consider her Young Adult fiction (e.g. *Big Mouth & Ugly Girl*, 2002).

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, P101 by invitation only.

## **Wintersemester 2021/22**

### **Vorlesung**

The USA as a Sentimental Nation

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5 / online

American ideology may be framed in two ways (which complement each other), one that can be traced back to John Locke and the concept of self-interest (egotism), the other to the Scottish moral-sense school and its ideas of benevolence and human sympathy (altruism) generating personal and social happiness. Throughout American history, this sentimental disposition has been a motivating force in various political and

social reforms, such as abolitionism, women's emancipation, charity and social equity movements as well as civil rights advocacy.

## **Cultural Studies IV**

### The USA as a Sentimental Nation

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5 / online

On the basis of the lecture course we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussion leaders.

If necessary, the class will be online.

Please note: the attendance of the lecture course is mandatory but you can only earn credit for either CS IV or the lecture course, NOT for both.

## **Graduate Seminar**

### Great Awakenings

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P103 / online

American culture has been marked by recurring periods of religious awakenings characterized by Evangelical fervor and calls for (individual and social) reformation. The seminar will discuss the various historical contexts and will venture into the fields of religious psychology and the sociology of religion. Its main focus will be on specific documents in order to ascertain by which means religious fervor was generated and how they expressed religious experience. Texts will include works by Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, Charles Finney and examples of recent fundamentalism and Tele-Evangelism.

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, P101 by invitation only.

## **Sommersemester 2021**

### **Vorlesung**

#### Education in America: The Great Equalizer

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5 / online

Ever since the founding of the U.S., the notion that education provides equal opportunity to all Americans has been a tenet of American ideology. In the 20th century education was considered a prerequisite for upward mobility by the middle classes. The lecture series will trace this idea in the history of the American education system and discuss its shaping forces. How did the functions of

schools and colleges change, which (political or social) purposes should the educational process serve? How did racial inequality or the zip code (the neighborhood where a student lived) affect the performance. What are the effects of "No Child Left Behind" and the controversy over affirmative action?

## **Cultural Studies IV**

### Education in America: The Great Equalizer

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5 / online

On the basis of the lecture course we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussion leaders.

If necessary, the class will be online.

Please note: the attendance of the lecture course is mandatory but you can only earn credit for either CS IV or the lecture course, NOT for both.

## **Graduate Seminar**

### Puritanism and Its Legacy

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P103 / online

The seminar will take students back to the original sources: what did Puritans believe, how is this reflected in their way of life and expressed in their literature? On this basis, we will then analyze how later generations perceived the Puritans, either as a culture-shaping force and heritage, or as a legacy to overcome.

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, P101 by invitation only.

## **Wintersemester 2020/21**

### **Vorlesung**

#### The Pursuit of Un-American Activities in U.S. Culture

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5 / online

Ever since the U.S. was founded, those who did not seem to share the assumptions of a consensual republic/democracy, have frequently been considered Un-American. Examples from history include the "Alien and Sedition Acts" of the 1790s, Xenophobic Nativism of the mid-19th century,

the "Red Scare" after WWI, the hearings of the Dies Committee in the 1930s, and McCarthyism in the 1950s. What were the reasons and strategies employed to declare some people "Un-American"? Who had the power to do so, and what ideas of the meaning of "American", thus, came to the fore? "Un-American" must be distinguished from "Anti-American," as the lecture course hopes to show.

If necessary, the class will be online. Active participation may require response papers.

## **Cultural Studies IV**

### **The Pursuit of Un-American Activities in U.S. Culture**

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5 / online

On the basis of the lecture course we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussion leaders.

If necessary, the class will be online.

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## **Graduate Seminar**

### **Suspicious of Conspiracy in the American Imaginary**

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P103 / online

Extra-ordinary events (natural catastrophes, epidemics, political upheavals) throughout the centuries have caused uneasiness and anxieties which triggered imaginary responses in the form of conspiracy myths that claim to reveal secret designs and machinations (plots) of some (evil) power. Examples in American culture include the Kennedy assassination, 9/11, and the recent corona pandemic. Texts to be discussed in the seminar include: "Nightmare Town" by Dashiell Hammett, " THE CRYING OF LOT 49" by Thomas Pynchon, , and Don DeLillo´s " LIBRA". More recent visual representations will include the film series THE LOOSE CHANGE, and videos displaying the pandemic controversy. Online sessions will use video conferencing. If possible, occasional small group in-class sessions will be held. Students are strongly urged to read DeLillo´s LIBRA before the seminar starts in November.

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, P101 by invitation only.

## Sommersemester 2020

### Vorlesung

Canonized Texts: Books Every American Studies Student and Future English Teacher Should Know

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5 / online

*Throughout history, a number of works have helped people to come to terms with the American experience. We will discuss some of these books in their historical context and their influence on world opinion. They address various issues and changing perspectives.*

*The following books will be discussed: Tocqueville, Alexis de. Democracy in America. 1835/1840; Bryce, James. The American Commonwealth. 1888; Riis, Jacob August. How the Other Half Lives. 1890; DuBois, W.E.B. The Souls of Black Folk. 1903; Weber, Max. Die protestantische Ethik und der ‚Geist‘ des Kapitalismus. 1904; Sombart, Werner. Warum gibt es in den Vereinigten Staaten keinen Sozialismus? 1906; Locke, Alain LeRoy. The New Negro. 1925; Lynd, Robert and Helen Lynd. Middletown: A Study in American Culture. 1929; Myrdal, Gunnar. An American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy. 1944; Niebuhr, Reinhold. The Irony in American History. 1952; Friedan, Betty. The Feminine Mystique. 1963; Kammen, Michael G. People of Paradox: An Inquiry Concerning the Origins of American Civilization. 1972; Horsman, Reginald. Race and Manifest Destiny – The Origins of American Racial Anglo-Saxonism. 1981.*

### Cultural Studies IV

Canonized Texts: Books Every American Studies Student and Future English Teacher Should Know

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5 / online

*In conjunction with the lecture course we will analyze and interpret specific passages from the books presented in the lecture. There will be weekly assignments and students are expected to serve as discussion leaders. Presentations will focus on the reception of these books.*

**Please note:** The attendance of the lecture course is mandatory but you can only earn credit for either CS IV or the lecture course, NOT for both.

### Graduate Seminar

John Updike - Chronicler of Post WW II America

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P103 / online

John Updike (1932-2009) was one of the most prolific American writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He became widely known for his representation of the sexual revolution in his novel Couples (1968). The seminar, however, will focus on the "Rabbit"-Tetralogy—*Rabbit Run* (1960), *Rabbit Redux* (1971), *Rabbit is Rich* (1981) and *Rabbit at Rest* (1990)—which fictionalizes the life story of Harry Angstrom, from his youth as a popular highschool basketball star to his death as a successful Toyota dealer. The novels can be read as a chronicle of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, its desires and problems. A selection of Updike's short stories will also be discussed.

### Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, P101 by invitation only.

## **Wintersemester 2019/20**

### **Vorlesung**

American Narratives. Answers to Questions asked by Americans: Who are we? Where have we been? Where are we going?

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

The lecture will first deal with the enduring master narratives of American exceptionalism and America as the "home of the free" and then move on to challenging narratives such as America as a sentimental nation, a nation of immigrants (melting Pot ideology), a nation built on slave labor, nature's nation and manifest destiny, etc.

### **Cultural Studies IV**

American Narratives. Answers to Questions asked by Americans: Who are we? Where have we been? Where are we going?

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

On the basis of the lecture course we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussion leaders. Please note: the attendance of the lecture course is mandatory but you can only earn credit for either CS IV or the lecture course, NOT for both.

### **Graduate Seminar**

American Political Rhetoric

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P103

This seminar will pursue two goals: 1) discuss methods of analyzing political rhetoric, 2) identify typical rhetorical strategies in American political discourse.

Texts to be analyzed will include presidential oratory, political propaganda, debate culture past and present (including Trump's tweets). Students are advised to consult John Wilson's "Political Discourse" (*The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*) and Robert and Susan Cockroft's *Persuading People: An Introduction to Rhetoric*.

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, P101 by invitation only.

## **Sommersemester 2019**

### **Vorlesung**

What They Are Saying About "America": Problematizing Common Interpretative Constructions in American Studies

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

The lecture course will discuss well-known terms and concepts stereotypically used to explain "America" such as Puritanism, the Frontier, the American Dream, Individualism, Middle Class, etc.

## **Cultural Studies IV**

What They Are Saying About "America": Problematizing Common Interpretative Constructions in American Studies

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P5

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## **Graduate Seminar**

How Germans Saw the Others in America

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P205

When Germans immigrated (or merely travelled) to the United States they encountered other ethnicities and races. By contradistinction they held particular opinions about those others, e.g. the English ("Americans"), Irish, Spanish, etc., Indians and Blacks. We will discuss travel accounts, letters, and works of fiction to determine how these non-German ethnicities and races are perceived and described in the course of 19th century.

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

## **Wintersemester 2018/19**

### **Vorlesung**

Americans in Europe

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P4

The lecture course will consider how Americans perceived Europe as tourists, students, soldiers, etc. It will first deal with nineteenth century tourism when Americans flocked to the Rhine River, and wrote about their experience. Next, Italy and France, especially Paris, became favorite destinations. Besides

tourism, academic exchange will be discussed, i.e. American students being attracted by the German university system. Furthermore, the impact of American soldiers in Europe will be treated.

Guiding questions will concern: What were Americans looking for in Europe? What did they find remarkable and how did they compare what they observed in Europe to their home country?

## **Cultural Studies IV**

### Americans in Europe

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P4

The lecture course will consider how Americans perceived Europe as tourists, students, soldiers, etc. It will first deal with nineteenth century tourism when Americans flocked to the Rhine River, and wrote about their experience. Next, Italy and France, especially Paris, became favorite destinations. Besides tourism, academic exchange will be discussed, i.e. American students being attracted by the German university system. Furthermore, the impact of American soldiers in Europe will be treated.

Guiding questions will concern: What were Americans looking for in Europe? What did they find remarkable and how did they compare what they observed in Europe to their home country?

## **Graduate Seminar**

### Expatriate Modernism: Americans in Paris

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P6

In the early twentieth century Paris became a favorite place for Americans who were dissatisfied with American civilization and sought an escape from the stifling conditions in the U.S. to develop their creativity and experiment with emancipating personal lifestyles. Woody Allen nostalgically portrayed the situation in his movie *Midnight in Paris*.

The seminar will discuss why authors like Hemingway and Fitzgerald were attracted by Paris where they pursued a particular avant-garde modernism. Likewise we will look at the African American experience in Paris where authors of the Harlem Renaissance encountered African intellectuals and their idea of "negritude", and after World War II existentialism.

We will start with Allen's *Midnight in Paris*, and then read Ernest Hemingway's *Movable Feast* and his novel *The Sun Also Rises*. Furthermore, we will study diaries, such as Harry Crosby's *Shadows of the Sun*, and consider Paris as a publishing center of texts which were unacceptable for American publishing houses. Finally, African American writings will be discussed as examples of Black modernism.

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

## **Sommersemester 2018**

### **Vorlesung**

#### **You are Where You Live: Environmental Determinism in American Literature and Culture**

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P4

Readers of American local color literature are familiar with the assumption that the mentality and ways of life are determined by the physical environment. The lecture course will trace this idea back to the 17th and 18th centuries and forward to the 20th century and the present. Nature as "wilderness" had to be cultivated in order for the physical world to allow spiritual growth and reflect human improvement. Architecture, landscaping and interior furnishings of houses were designed in a way that would influence human souls in a positive way, while chaotic spaces such as inner cities were considered harmful. Examples to be discussed will include the wilderness trope, the idea of suburbanization, residential segregation, the social significance of parks, gardens and lawns, the "City Beautiful" movement, social reform, urban renewal, as well as advice literature on interior decoration.

### **Cultural Studies IV**

#### **You are Where You Live: Environmental Determinism in American Literature and Culture**

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P4

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### **Graduate Seminar**

#### **Walt Whitman**

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P108

Walt Whitman must be considered one of the most important American poets. He extended the range of poetry beyond the conventions of the 19th century by celebrating the body (as equal to the soul) and aiming for a democratic poetics, rooted in rhetorical forms and oral performance.

The seminar will focus on his "Song of Myself" and analyze the possible meanings of "Leaves of Grass". In addition, Whitman's essays on democracy and the function of literature in democratic societies will be considered. Finally, his impact on the literature and the arts of the 20th century will be discussed (esp. the reasons why certain modernists rejected him, while the beat poets considered him a forefather).

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

## **Wintersemester 2017/18**

### **Vorlesung**

#### Americans Between Patriotism and Chauvinism

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P2

The lecture course will explore notions of patriotism in the United States and its collateral chauvinism. Ideas to be discussed include civil religion, exceptionalism, liberal consensus, "us vs. them rhetoric", beneficent imperialism, jingoism, God's own people, nature's nation, a sense of mission, the racist turn, the function of the school system to educate citizens.

### **Cultural Studies IV**

#### Americans Between Patriotism and Chauvinism

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P2

The lecture course will explore notions of patriotism in the United States and its collateral chauvinism. Ideas to be discussed include civil religion, exceptionalism, liberal consensus, "us vs. them rhetoric", beneficent imperialism, jingoism, God's own people, nature's nation, a sense of mission, the racist turn, the function of the school system to educate citizens.

### **Graduate Seminar**

#### The 1950s: American Literature and Culture Between Complacent Tranquility and Nascent Rebellion

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P207

The seminar will discuss (mostly familiar) texts and documents representative of the issues that might be said to characterize the years between 1947 and 1963. Students will be expected to read:

Arthur Miller - Death of a Salesman

J.D. Salinger - The Catcher in the Rye

Sylvia Plath - The Bell Jar

Allen Ginsberg - Howl

Lorraine Hansberry - A Raisin in the Sun

Richard Yates - Revolutionary Road

Additional works can be chosen for presentations. We will also consider movies, sitcoms, and popular music of the period. Theoretical concerns will be, a.o. Talcott Parson's Role Theory, Erik Erikson's Identity Formation, and the promotion and criticism of Suburbia.

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

## **Sommersemester 2017**

### **Vorlesung**

United States of Paranoia

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P3

As suggested by The New York Times that "Mr. Trump continues to exhibit paranoia," we will discuss the history of the paranoid style, conspiracy scare, and stalking in American politics, culture, and literature from the Puritans and King Philip's war to 19th century xenophobia, the Red Scare after WWI, McCarthyism in the early 1950s to the present.

### **Cultural Studies IV**

"What then is the American, this new man?" – From the Melting Pot to Multiculturalism and then some

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P3

As suggested by The New York Times that "Mr. Trump continues to exhibit paranoia," we will discuss the history of the paranoid style, conspiracy scare, and stalking in American politics, culture, and literature from the Puritans and King Philip's war to 19th century xenophobia, the Red Scare after WWI, McCarthyism in the early 1950s to the present.

### **Graduate Seminar**

The '60s - Literature and Culture in a Decade of Tumult and Change

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P108

The seminar will focus on the rise of feminist consciousness-raising, the Civil Rights Movement, the counter culture of the baby boomers, and the Vietnam conflict. Required reading will include Betty Friedan's The Feminine Mystique,

Alix Kates' *Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen*, and Norman Mailer's *The Armies of the Night*. We will also discuss how the 1990s looked back on the 1960s in the emerging memory culture.

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

## **Wintersemester 2016/17**

### **Vorlesung**

"What then is the American, this new man?" – From the Melting Pot to Multiculturalism and then some

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P2

The lecture course will trace the demographics of "America" from the Mayflower to present-day racism. We will discuss how "ethnic" was originally a term of exclusion of those who did not "belong." In the 19th century the U.S. was conceived as an Anglo-Saxon nation whose racialism only reluctantly accepted new immigrants from (Catholic) Ireland and Eastern and Southern Europe. The idea of the "melting pot" was increasingly doubted, and led to demands for multiculturalism. By the 1950s ethnicity became a term of inclusion, which posited the right to be different, and yet belong. The ensuing "culture wars" of the 1970s/80s were fueled by the insistence of minorities to have their heritage recognized and conservative warnings against the "Balkanization" of America. The euphoria of the 1990s claiming that America had become a post-ethnic (and even post-racial) society has recently been shattered by new outbreaks of racism.

### **Cultural Studies IV**

"What then is the American, this new man?" – From the Melting Pot to Multiculturalism and then some

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P2

On the basis of the lecture course (attendance required) we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussion leaders.

### **Graduate Seminar**

The 1920s: American Literature and Culture between Nostalgia and Fundamental Change, Hedonism and Depression

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P15

The 1920s have become known as the Golden Twenties or the Roaring Twenties, and also the Jazz Age. But it was also one of the most reactionary periods of U.S. history with overt racism and laissez-faire capitalism. We will discuss documents of the period, and the image of the time which was constructed by later decades. We will start with Woody Allen's *Midnight in*

Paris, and then will proceed to interpret Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* and Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* as nostalgic clinging to pre-WWI ideals. Besides examples of the significance of popular culture and mass consumption, the changes in morals and manners will be traced in Robert S. and Helen Lynd's *Middletown: A Study in American Culture*. The emergence of African American culture in the "Harlem Renaissance" will also be treated. The plight of African Americans will be illustrated by Du Bois' journal *The Crisis*.

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

## **Sommersemester 2016**

### **Vorlesung**

Justification by Victimization - USA as a Nation  
Built on Sentimentality

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P2

We are used to perceive the United States project a self-image which stresses an American sense of mission, America as "the city upon a hill" or the vanguard of democracy and freedom. Instead of addressing such time-worn images, the present lecture course will trace another discursive formation which has hitherto been largely overlooked, namely a recurrent tendency to justify its actions by insisting that Americans have been victimized by others. The sentimental pattern of innocent suffering on the part of the United States which justifies righteous retribution can be traced to the Puritans (victimized by the Anglican establishment) and the American Revolution (the colonists victimized by the British motherland). It can also be found in the treatment of the Natives ("Indians" attacking the settlers in the course of Western expansion) and in the justification in the American use of force in wars, i.e. the explosion of the Maine in Havana triggering the Spanish-American War with the help of the "yellow press," the sinking of the *Lusitania*, and the attack on Pearl Harbor in the two major world wars. More recently, George W. Bush's rhetoric of pursuing the "War on Terror" referred to 9/11 and the loss of so many innocent lives.

### **Cultural Studies IV**

American Studies: Justification by Victimization - USA as a Nation  
Built on Sentimentality

2-st.- Mo, 16:15-17:45, P2

On the basis of the lecture course (attendance required) we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussion leaders.

### **Graduate Seminar**

Sentimentality and Emotion in American Literature and Culture

2-st.- Mi, 18:15-19:45, P108

Based on the theories of the "moral sense school" (which claims that humans know what is right or wrong by what their heart tells them) the seminar will analyze the sentimental mode in literature and the way sympathy and emotions are used to make readers identify with characters suffering innocently. Texts to be studied will include Charlotte Temple and Uncle Tom's Cabin, as well as modern and postmodern modes of expressing (or subduing) emotions. We will also discuss forms of popular culture, such as country music and certain TV series which appeal to the emotions, mostly without the original moral purpose of the sentimental mode.

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, P15, by invitation only.

## **Wintersemester 2015/16**

### **Vorlesung**

Who's Afraid of Uncle Sam? Anti-Americanism Past and Present

2-st.- Mo, 16:00-18:00, P5

The lecture course will attempt to describe and analyze the discourse of anti-American sentiments as they emerged in the early 19th century and continue - often as stereotypes - to the present day. We will discuss in what ways anti-Americanism is a reaction to a particular experience or whether it is rather a projection of the "images in our heads" that increasingly frame the perception of "America". We will try to determine what fuels popular anti-American sentiments, for instance envy or a sense of (cultural) superiority that is closely linked to a sense of (political) impotence. It may also be that "America" serves as a convenient "Other" which allows nations to define their identity by way of contradistinction.

### **Cultural Studies IV**

Who's Afraid of Uncle Sam? Anti-Americanism Past and Present

2-st.- Mo, 16:00-18:00, P5

On the basis of the lecture course we will analyze and discuss specific texts. There will be weekly assignments, and students are expected to serve as discussion leaders. We will attempt to determine in what ways anti-Americanism is expressed, and how to detect bias. We may also try our hands at a "bias watch" to monitor contemporary anti-Americanism in the German media.

### **Graduate Seminar**

Interpreting Modern American Drama

2-st.- Mi, 18:00-20:00, P15

The seminar will discuss modern American plays likely to be part of the English curriculum in secondary schools. We will analyze and interpret plays by Eugene O'Neil, Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Lorraine Hansberry and August Wilson. For a start, changes from melodrama to the social problem play at the beginning of the 20th century will be discussed. We will finish by studying some avant-garde American plays. The seminar will focus on the traditional question of how plays mean. Students will also be asked to analyze some exemplary interpretations.

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

## **Sommersemester 2015**

### **Vorlesung/Cultural Studies IV**

'Women's Things, Women's Bodies: Women's Lives of so Little Consequence'? Waves of American Feminism

2-st.- Montag, 16:00-18:00, P3

The class will discuss the strategies and rhetoric of women who fought for their emancipation from the domination of men in the US. We will take a closer look at the agitation for the "New Woman" at the beginning of the 20th century, the women's liberation movement of the late 1960s, and more recent discourse of "Third Wave"-feminism. There will be weekly reading assignments.

### **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 103

The "Lektürerepetitorium" (Oberseminar) serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the spring / summer term the focus will be on American literature and culture from Edgar Allan Poe to the present. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Students taking the Seminar for credit will take an oral exam after the semester is over. Weekly assignments must be completed by all participants.

Most texts will be found in The Norton Anthology of American Literature. An additional Reader will be provided.

Registration: **in person during office hours** (aside from Jogustine), R 02 - 622

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

**Sprechstunde:** Dienstags 11- 18 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Wintersemester 2014/15**

### **Vorlesung/Cultural Studies IV**

Cultural Studies IV - American Studies - Morals and Manners in American Culture and Literature

2-std., Mo. 16:15-17:45, P 5

The cultural studies course will consist of a weekly presentation (the "lecture") followed by a discussion section.

Please note that the 2 hour course consists of the lecture (45min) followed by a discussion section which will take a closer look at selected texts and issues raised during the lecture.

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/innen**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 105

The "Lektürerepetitorium" (Oberseminar) serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the fall/winter term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the beginnings to the American Renaissance. Participants are expected to prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in the *Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional reader will be provided.

Registration in person only during office hours.

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

**Sprechstunde:** Dienstags 11-18 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

Sommersemester 2014

### **Vorlesung**

**Lecture: American Literature I - Whom Shall We Welcome?  
Controversies over US Immigration Policy Past and Present: VL  
mit Gesprächskreis**

2-std., Mo 16:15-17:45

The cultural studies course will consist of a weekly presentation (the "lecture")

followed by a discussion section.

It will deal with one of the key ideas of contemporary American Culture. Any mission statement on the website of American educational institutions or of cooperation will certainly list diversity as one of their goals. What is meant by the term and how it is implemented will be discussed. We will look at websites as well as videos which promote the idea and also consider the controversies it has aroused, such as allotting quotas (e.g. for minorities or women) and whether the feel-well factor really contributes to corporate profit or the educational experience.

**Inhalt:**

Americans like to call themselves a "nation of immigrants". What is often overlooked or forgotten are the controversies each wave of new arrivals caused. The lecture course will discuss the arguments and pseudo-arguments (used to cover up specific interests and power constellations) put forward to prevent newcomers to share the "plenty of America". Until the 1960s and even today, the US practiced a restrictive immigration policy. This year, the Obama administration will try to reform that policy and to find a way of how to deal with the millions of people who live in the US without having properly immigrated (illegal immigrants).

**Empfohlene Literatur:**

Please note that the 2 hour course consists of the lecture (45min) followed by a discussion section which will take a closer look at selected texts and issues raised during the lecture.

## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/innen** 2-std., Mi 18-20, P 105

The "Lektürerepetitorium" (Oberseminar) serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the spring / summer term the focus will be on American literature and culture from Edgar Allan Poe to the present. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Students taking the Seminar for credit will take an oral exam after the semester is over. Weekly assignments must be completed by all participants.

Most texts will be found in The Norton Anthology of American Literature. An additional Reader will be provided.

Registration: **in person during office hours** (aside from Jogustine), R 02 - 622

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

**Sprechstunde:** Dienstags 11-18 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Wintersemester 2013/14**

### **Vorlesung**

American Studies II: Difference as Asset: Diversity Management in the US (Vorlesung mit Gesprächskreis)

2-std., Mo. 16:15-17:45, P 5

The cultural studies course will consist of a weekly presentation (the "lecture") followed by a discussion section.

It will deal with one of the key ideas of contemporary American Culture. Any mission statement on the website of American educational institutions or of corporation will certainly list diversity as one of their goals. What is meant by the term and how it is implemented will be discussed. We will look at websites as well as videos which promote the idea and also consider the controversies it has aroused, such as allotting quotas (e.g. for minorities or women) and whether the feel-well factor really contributes to corporate profit or the educational experience.

Please note that the 2 hour course consists of the lecture (45min) followed by a discussion section which will take a closer look at selected texts and issues raised during the lecture.

### **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

#### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/innen**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 105

The "Lektürerepetitorium" (Oberseminar) serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the fall/winter term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the beginnings to the American Renaissance. Participants are expected to prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in the *Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional reader will be provided. Registration in person only during office hours.

#### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

**Sprechstunde:** Dienstags 11-18 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Sommersemester 2013**

### **Vorlesung**

American Studies II: Religion and Politics in the USA

1-std., Mo. 16:15-17.00, P 5

The relationship of religion and politics is highly controversial in the United States, partly because of the constitutional separation of state and church on the one hand, and various fundamentalist demands on government policies on the other hand. The lecture course will discuss this paradox as it evolved from colonial times to the present.

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

1-std., Mo., 17:00-17:45, P 5

Please note that the 2 hour course consists of the lecture (45min) followed by a discussion section which will take a closer look at selected texts and issues raised during the lecture.

Regular attendance of the lecture and the discussion section may earn credit for Culture Studies III/IV.

### **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

#### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte II für Examenskandidaten/innen**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 15

The "Lektürerepetitorium" (Oberseminar) serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the spring / summer term the focus will be on American literature and culture from Edgar Allan Poe to the present. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Students taking the Seminar for credit will take an oral exam after the semester is over. Weekly assignments must be completed by all participants.

Most texts will be found in The Norton Anthology of American Literature. An additional Reader will be provided.

Registration: **in person during office hours** (aside from Jogustine), R 02 - 622

#### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, by invitation only.

**Sprechstunde:** Dienstags 11- 18 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Wintersemester 2012/2013**

### **Vorlesung**

American Studies II: "Wicked, Crooked, Brutal": Anti-Urbanism in American Culture and Literature

1-std., Mo. 16:15-17.00, P 2

The lecture course will trace American anti-urban sentiment from the Colonial Period to the present. We will discuss how and why big cities and urban life have been seen as demoralizing, dehumanizing, disorienting and unhealthy. We will also deal with the consequences and responses such as suburbia and the exurba sprawl as well as attempts at revitalizing urbanity.

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

1-std., Mo., 17:00-17:45, P 2

The discussion section in connection with the lecture will take a closer look at texts displaying anti-urban sentiments.

Regular attendance of the lecture and the discussion section may earn credit for Culture Studies III/IV.

### **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

#### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/innen**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The "Lektürerepetitorium" (Oberseminar) serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the fall/winter term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the beginnings to the American Renaissance. Participants are expected to prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in the *Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional reader will be provided.

Registration in person only during office hours.

#### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Do, 18:15- 19:45, P 203 by invitation only.

**Sprechstunde:** Dienstags 11-18 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Sommersemester 2012**

### **Vorlesung**

Paranoia in American Culture and Literature

1-std., Mo. 16:15-17.00, P 5

"Paranoia" names the conviction that one's actions are being controlled or manipulated by powerful malevolent agents or organizations secretly conspiring to destroy the individual, community, nation, or even civilization as a whole. It can manifest itself as personal (as a psychological defect), political (as a manipulative strategy) or cultural (as a knowledge system presuming that the world and individual lives have "plots"). It can be traced back all the way to the Puritan Colonial Period (King Philip's War and Salem Witchcraft); it re-emerges in the Early Republic, in the fear of conspiracies (e.g. by the Bavarian illuminati and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century) the anxiety about slave revolts and Catholic subversion. As to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the lecture course will discuss the dread of the anarchists and Communists, which resulted in the hearings of the Committee on Un-American Activities in the late Thirties and under Senator McCarthy. Finally, the reaction to 9/11 will be considered.

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

Paranoia in American Culture and Literature

1-std., Mo., 17:15-18:00, P 5

Each lecture will be followed by an optional discussion section (Gesprächskreis), which will further explore the topics addressed, taking a closer look at selected texts. Richard Hofstadter, "The Paranoid Style in American Politics" will be the foundational text. Works of fiction may include Thomas Pynchon, The Crying of Lot 49, Don DeLillo, Libra – as well as Oliver Stone's film JFK – and Diane Johnson, The Shadow Knows.

Regular attendance of the lecture and the discussion section may earn credit for Culture Studies III/IV. B.A./B.Ed. and Masters' students must register in Jogustine.

### **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

#### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte II für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The "Lektürerepetitorium" (Oberseminar) serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the spring / summer term the focus will be on American literature and culture from Edgar Allan Poe to the present. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Students taking the Seminar for credit will take an oral exam after the semester is over. Weekly assignments must be completed by all participants.

Most texts will be found in The Norton Anthology of American Literature. An additional Reader will be provided.  
Registration: **in person during office hours** (aside from Jogustine), R 02 - 622

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

Sprechstunde: Dienstags 11-14 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Wintersemester 2011/12**

### **Vorlesung**

"Nothing like us ever was" - American Patriotism Past and Present

1-std., Mo. 16:15-17.00, P 11

Foreigners tend to be impressed by the pride Americans take in their country. In this series of lectures, we will explore possible reasons and the various expressions of patriotism in the United States. Concepts such as exceptionalism, civil religion, and jingoism will be discussed. Examples will refer to war rhetoric and propaganda from the Civil War to 9/11 and its consequences.

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

"Nothing like us ever was" - American Patriotism Past and Present

1-std., Mo., 17:15-18:00, P 11

Each lecture will be followed by an optional discussion section (Gesprächskreis), which will further explore the topics addressed, taking a closer look at selected texts.

## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The Oberseminar ("Lektürerepetitorium") is meant as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the fall / winter term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the beginnings to the American Renaissance. Participants are expected to prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Students taking the seminar for credit will take an oral exam after the semester is over. Weekly assignments must be completed by all participants.

Most texts will be found in The Norton Anthology of American Literature. An additional Reader will be provided. Bibliographies can be found in Reader Plus.

Registration: in person during office hours (aside from Jogustine), R 02 - 622

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

Sprechstunde: Dienstags 11-14 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Sommersemester 2011**

### **Vorlesung**

Americans Abroad

1-std., Mo. 16:15-17:00, P 10

The lecture course will explore American travelogs and travel fiction. We will explore why Americans left home to experience a world different from theirs, where they went, and how they related their perceptions. Aspects of intercultural encounters, the "grand tour", mass tourism as well as self-finding trips will be treated. We will also briefly look at the way Americans have been viewed by other nationals and typified as "ugly American", provincial patriots, busy-body Yankees, etc.

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

Americans Abroad

1-std., Mo., 17:15-18:00, P 10

Each lecture will be followed by an optional discussion section (Gesprächskreis), which will further explore the topics addressed, taking a closer look at selected texts, which, for instance, deal with Americans on the Rhine, Americans seeking ultimate alterity in Italy and the Orient, learning about joie de vivre in Paris, the Côte d'Azur or in Mexico.

## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte II für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The "Lektürerepetitorium" (Oberseminar) serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the spring / summer term the focus will be on American literature and culture from Edgar Allan Poe to the present. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Students taking the Seminar for credit will take an oral exam after the semester is over. Weekly assignments must be completed by all participants.

Most texts will be found in The Norton Anthology of American Literature. An additional Reader will be provided.  
Registration: in person during office hours (aside from Jogustine), R 02 - 622

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

Sprechstunde: Dienstags 11-14 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Wintersemester 2010/11**

### **Vorlesung**

Constructions of American Identity

1-std., Mo. 16:15-17:00, HS 13

The lecture course will discuss certain myths and master narratives which have served to construct and propagate American identity, as for example: God's Own Country, Land of the Free, New Man, Nation of Futurity, Usable Past, Exceptionalism, Manifest Destiny, Individualism, Liberalism, Frontier, Work Ethic, American Creed, American Dream, Civil Religion.

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

Constructions of American Identity

1-std., Mo., 17:15-18:00, HS 13

The discussion section will further explore the topics addressed, taking a closer look at selected texts from public discourse and literature.

## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The Oberseminar ("Lektürerepetitorium") is meant as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the fall / winter term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the beginnings to the American Renaissance. Participants are expected to prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Students taking the seminar for credit will take an oral exam after the semester is over. Weekly assignments must be completed by all participants. Most texts will be found in the Norton Anthology of American Literature. An additional Reader will be provided. Bibliographies can be found in Reader Plus.

Registration: in person during office hours, R 02 - 622

## **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

Sprechstunde: Dienstags 11-14 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Sommersemester 2010**

### **Vorlesung**

Waste Land to Wasteland? American Uses of Space, from the Beginnings to the 21st Century

1-std., Mo. 16:15-17:00, P1

The lecture course will discuss in what way the American uses of space and its underlying ideologies have generated particular cultures, mindsets, and lifestyles. We will start by comparing Native American attitudes and practices and the European (English, Puritan) justifications of taking the land because it supposedly lay waste and was in need of cultivation according to God's decree. The westward movement is considered in terms of mastering the "wilderness" by ax, plow, and gun. What was thought of as an improvement of nature was eventually recognized as exploitation that will lead to a new wasteland unless the environment is protected. In this context, the processes of industrialization and urbanization, and particularly the move to the suburbs and exurbs with the ensuing urban sprawl, must be addressed.

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

Waste Land to Wasteland? American Uses of Space, from the Beginnings to the 21st Century

1-std., Mo., 17:15-18:00, P3

The discussion section will further explore the topics addressed, taking a closer look at selected texts from public discourse and literature.

## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte II für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The "Lektürerepetitorium" (Oberseminar) serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the spring / summer term the focus will be on American literature and culture from Edgar Allan Poe to the present. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Students taking the Seminar for credit will take an oral exam after the semester is over. Weekly assignments must be completed by all participants. Most texts will be

found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional Reader will be provided.

Registration: in person during office hours, R 02 - 622

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

Sprechstunde: Dienstags 11-14 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Wintersemester 2009/10**

### **Vorlesung**

Negotiating Gender Roles in 20th-Century American Literature and Culture

1-std., Mo. 15:15-16:00, P1

This lecture course will trace issues of gender roles in American society from the 1920s to the present. Particular attention will be paid to the two or three waves of feminism and the attempts to revitalize masculinity in the 1970s/80s. Race and class must also be considered.

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

Negotiating Gender Roles in 20th-Century American Literature and Culture

1-std., Mo., 16:15-17:00, P2

The discussion section will further explore the topics addressed, taking a closer look at selected texts from public discourse and literature.

### **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

#### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The „Lektürerepetitorium“ serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the fall/winter term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the beginnings to the American Renaissance.

Participants are expected to fulfil weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional Reader will be provided.

Registration: during office hours, R 02 - 622

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

Sprechstunde: Dienstags 11-14 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Sommersemester 2009**

### **Vorlesung**

#### **Changing Gender Roles in American Literature and Culture around 1900**

1-std., Mo. 15:15-16:00, P1

This lecture course will discuss the ways American society tried to redefine gender roles between 1870 and the 1920s. We will deal with the "crisis of masculinity" and the concepts of the "New Woman" who demanded more equality, independence and participation in public life. Each lecture will be followed by an optional discussion session (Gesprächskreis), which will further explore the issues addressed, taking a closer look at selected texts from public discourse and literature.

#### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

#### **Changing Gender Roles in American Literature and Culture around 1900**

1-std., Mo 16:15-17:00, P2

The discussion section will further explore the issues addressed in the lectures, taking a closer look at selected texts and research opportunities.

### **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

#### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte II für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The „Lektürerepetitorium“ serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the spring/summer term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the American Renaissance to the present. Participants are expected to fulfil weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional Reader will be provided.

Registration: during office hours, R 02 - 622

#### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

Sprechstunde: Dienstags 11-14 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Wintersemester 2008/09**

### **Vorlesung**

The Best-Educated American Generation Ever? Issues in American Education.

1-std., Mo 15:15-16:00, P1

The title refers to an assertion made by President Bush, who set out to be – yet another – “education president.” The lecture course will put this claim to the test by discussing issues and problems in the American educational system past and present. Particular attention will be paid to the political and cultural work education has to perform in the US.

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

The Best-Educated American Generation Ever? Issues in American Education.

1-std., Mo. 16:15-17:00, P2

The discussion section will further explore the issues addressed in the lectures, taking a closer look at selected texts and research opportunities.

### **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

#### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The „Lektürerepetitorium“ serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the fall/winter term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the beginnings to the American Renaissance.

Participants are expected to fulfil weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional Reader will be provided.

Registration: during office hours, R 02 - 622

#### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

Sprechstunde: Dienstags 11-14 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

## **Sommersemester 2008**

### **Vorlesung**

#### **The USA – Diversity vs. Defining Culture**

1-std., Mo 15:15-16:00, P1

Instead of insisting on one defining culture (“Leitkultur”) many Americans advocate equality that respects difference (race and ethnicity, religion and

culture, gender and sexual preference, age and physical abilities). Lately, diversity has become the focal boom word of American corporations, educational institutions etc. aiming for a greater variety of employees and students. The lecture course will discuss the origins of the idea in the civil rights movement and determine in what ways diversity is different from equal opportunity employment and affirmative action, who benefits from diversity, why corporations find it in their interest, and what practical means are taken to achieve greater diversity. Examples from advertising and corporate websites will illustrate the impact of the concept.

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

#### **The USA – Diversity vs. Defining Culture**

1-std., Mo. 16:15-17:00, P2

The discussion section will further explore the issues addressed in the lectures, taking a closer look at selected texts and research opportunities.

### **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

#### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte II für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The „Lektürerepetitorium“ serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the spring/summer term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the American Renaissance to the present. Participants are expected to fulfil weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional Reader will be provided.

Registration: during office hours, R 02 - 622

#### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten**

2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

Sprechstunde: Dienstags 11-14 (während des Semesters und in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit nach vorheriger Anmeldung)

### **Wintersemester 2007/08**

#### **Vorlesungen**

##### **Divining America: Religion in U.S.**

**Culture** 1-std., Mo 15:15 - 16:00, P 1

The lecture course will survey the history and significance of religions and denominations in American society. Issues to be discussed include the following: What does it mean that Americans tend to think of themselves as the most religious people in the world? How can they pledge to be "one nation under God" and yet insist on the separation of Church and State? In what

ways is the link between religion and politics to be understood? What accounts for the recent rise of evangelicalism and fundamentalist positions (such as creationism or "intelligent design")? Is there an American Islam?

**Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit  
Vorlesung: Divining America: Religion in U.S.  
Culture** 1-std., Mo 16:15 - 17:00, P 2

The discussion section will further explore the issues addressed in the lectures, taking a closer look at selected texts and research opportunities.

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## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

**Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I  
für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**  
2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The „Lektürerepetitorium“ serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the fall/winter term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the beginnings to the American Renaissance. Participants are expected to fulfil weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional Reader will be provided.

Registration: during office hours, R 02 - 622

**Kolloquium zu laufenden  
Forschungsarbeiten** 2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

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## **Sommersemester 2007**

### **Vorlesungen**

**Ties and Tensions. Germany and the  
USA** 1-std., Mo 15-16, P 1

Auf Culture Studies III Amerikanistik als Ergänzung wird verwiesen

The lecture course will discuss the changing relationships between the two nations and the history of German immigration and ethnicity in the United States. Topics will include German perceptions of "America" and vice versa, German anti-Americanism and American anti-German sentiment, cultural exchanges and tourism, Americans in Rhineland-Palatinate.

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## **Culture Studies III (Amerikanistik)**

**Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit  
Vorlesung: Ties and Tensions. Germany  
and the USA** 1-std., Mo 16-17, P 2

The discussion section will further explore the issues addressed in the lectures, taking a closer look at selected texts and research opportunities.

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## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

**Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte  
II für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The „Lektürerepetitorium“ serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the spring/summer term the focus will be on American literature and culture from Edgar Allan Poe to the present. Participants are expected to fulfil weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional reader will be provided.

Registration during office hours, P 02-622.

**Kolloquium zu laufenden**

**Forschungsarbeiten** 2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

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## **Wintersemester 2006/07**

### **Vorlesungen**

**The American Sense of Mission**

1-std., Mo 15-16, P 1

Auf Culture Studies III Amerikanistik als Ergänzung wird verwiesen

People in other countries – but also within the United States – have been fascinated and bothered by proclamations of a peculiar American mission in world history. President Bush’s rhetoric and foreign policy is only the latest example of certain cultural and ideological assumptions which the lecture course will trace back to late 19<sup>th</sup> century imperialism (insisting on American “disinterested benevolence”), Early Republic Enlightenment, and colonial beginnings. Slogans and catch phrases to be discussed will include the “errand into the wilderness” of the Puritans, Jefferson’s vision of an “empire of liberty” in the West, America as the “nation of futurity” as well as Wilson’s goal to “make the world safe for democracy.” The challenge of Americanization will also be considered.

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## **Culture Studies III (Amerikanistik)**

## **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung: The American Sense of Mission**

1-std., Mo 16-17, P 2

The discussion section will further explore the issues addressed in the lectures, taking a closer look at selected texts.

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## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The „Lektürerepetitorium“ serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the fall/winter term the focus will be on American literature and culture from the beginnings to the American Renaissance. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional Reader will be provided. Registration: during office hours, R 02 - 622

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten** 2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

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## **Sommersemester 2006**

### **Vorlesungen**

#### **The U.S.A. - A Nation of 'Burbers**

1-std., Mo 15-16, P 1

Auf Culture Studies III Amerikanistik als Ergänzung wird verwiesen

More than half of all Americans live in the so-called 'burbs. What started as a move to the suburbs has developed into an experience of decentered living in the ex-urbs that can no longer be defined in terms of center and periphery but appear to be accumulations of locales set in a virtually unlimited sprawl, linked by a network of highways and technology. The lecture course will trace the history and ideology of suburbanization, and discuss its socio-political and cultural impact. Furthermore, more recent developments which blurred the boundaries of urban, suburban and rural space, and the emerging social and mental patterns of exurbia will be considered. A bibliography is available upon request.

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## **Culture Studies III (Amerikanistik)**

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung: The U.S.A. - A Nation of 'Burbers**

1-std., Mo 16-17, P 2

The discussion section will further explore the issues addressed in the lectures, taking a closer look at selected texts from cultural criticism and literature.

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## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte**

#### **II für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The „Lektürerepetitorium“ serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the spring/summer term the focus will be on American literature and culture from Edgar Allan Poe to the present. Participants are expected to fulfil weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional reader will be provided. Registration during office hours, P 02-622.

#### **Kolloquium zu laufenden**

**Forschungsarbeiten** 2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

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## **Wintersemester 2005/06**

### **Vorlesungen**

#### **The U.S.A. - A Nation of Strangers**

1-std., Do 12-13, P 5

Auf Culture Studies III Amerikanistik als Ergänzung wird verwiesen

The lecture course will trace the history of immigration, ethnicity and racism in the U.S.A. as a struggle of those who "belong" and those who do "not (yet) belong" but claim the right to be different as an acknowledged part of American society. We will consider how the census determines race and ethnicity, ideological constructs such as Anglo-Saxon racialism and WASP superiority, the melting pot, cultural pluralism and multiculturalism, and post-ethnicity as well as the controversies over cultural memory and the curriculum, affirmative action, and political correctness.

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## **Culture Studies III (Amerikanistik)**

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung:**

#### **The U.S.A. - A Nation of Strangers**

1-std., Do 13-14, P 2

The discussion section will further explore the issues addressed in the lectures, taking a closer look at selected sources and investigating the possibilities of information retrieval on the internet.

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## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The "Lektürerepetitorium" serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final exams. During the fall/winter term, the focus will be on American literature and culture from the beginnings to the American Renaissance. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare for in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional reader will be provided.

Registration: during office hourse, R 02-622

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden**

**Forschungsarbeiten** 2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

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## **Sommersemester 2005**

## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte II für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The "Lektürerepetitorium" serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final examination. During the spring term, the focus will be on American literature from the American Renaissance to the present. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional reader will be provided.

Registration: during office hours, R 02-622 (Bibliothek I)

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden**

**Forschungsarbeiten** 2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

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Wintersemester 2003/04

Sommersemester 2004

## Wintersemester 2004/05

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The "Lektürerepetitorium" serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final examinations. During the fall/winter term, the focus will be on American literature from the beginnings to the American Renaissance. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional reader will be provided.

Have a look at the syllabus

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden Forschungsarbeiten** 2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.



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## Sommersemester 2004

### **Vorlesungen**

#### **Americans in Europe**

1-std., Do 11-12, P 1

Auf Culture Studies III Amerikanistik als Ergänzung wird verwiesen

Americans in Europe were not just "Innocents Abroad", as Mark Twain dubbed them. Americans came to Europe as tourists to see the "sights" - the Rhine River, the castles, the cathedrals, etc. - but they also came as students, artists, expatriates, diplomats and soldiers. For some it meant a nostalgic encounter with the "old country" that supposedly withstood the ills of modern times, for others Europe provided an escape from the provincialism of their home environment or an opportunity to spread American ideas. How these Americans perceived Europe, how their experience was shaped by preconceptions, and how their transcultural contacts strengthened their sense of identity, makes a fascinating story that the lectures will trace.

Have a look at the bibliography

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## **Culture Studies III (Amerikanistik)**

## **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung: Americans in Europe**

1-std., Do 12-13, P 109a

This course, in conjunction with lecture course "Americans in Europe", will further elaborate on the topics treated in the lectures. Discussions will focus on specific sources. Students are expected to fulfill weekly assignments and to pass a final written examination.

Have a look at the bibliography

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## **Seminar**

### **Going West with Lewis and Clark**

2-std., Di 18-20, P 110

2004 marks the twohundredth anniversary of the expedition by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark who were commissioned by President Jefferson to explore the vast territory newly acquired in the Louisiana Purchase. The seminar will study the journals the explorers kept and discuss their dealings with native Americans, their perception of nature and their strategies of appropriating "Western" space. We will also be concerned with the ideological and touristic uses to which the expedition have been put, and we will monitor the memorial celebrations during the summer and have a look at the PBS TV-series.

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## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte II für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The "Lektürerepetitorium" serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final examinations. During the spring term, the focus will be on American literature from the American Renaissance to the present. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional reader will be provided.

Have a look at the syllabus

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden**

**Forschungsarbeiten** 2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.



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**Wintersemester 2003/04**

## **Vorlesungen**

### **American Literature 1870-1920**

zusammen mit PD M. Banerjee, Prof. A. Hornung und Prof. M. Siebald 2-std., Di, Do, 10-11, P1

The fourth of our six basic lecture courses on American literature and culture will cover the period between the Civil War and the end of World War I. Among the authors treated are Mark Twain, Henry James, William Dean Howells, Frank Norris, Stephen Crane, Theodore Dreiser, Sherwood Anderson; Sarah Orne Jewett, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, Kate Chopin, Gertrude Stein; Edwin Arlington Robinson, Robert Frost, Edgar Lee Masters, and Carl Sandburg. Most of the texts can be found in the latest edition of The Norton Anthology of American Literature (shorter sixth edition). Students are advised to purchase this anthology, which will also be used in other American Studies classes. There will be a discussion section for first to third semester students to help them understand selected texts and source materials.

### **Educating Americans: Theories and Practice**

1-std., Do 11-12, P 1

Auf Culture Studies III Amerikanistik als Ergänzung wird verwiesen

This lecture course will attempt to go beyond a mere description of the US educational system. It will rather focus on the principles of education and the problems of implementation. Particular issues to be addressed will include the role of the school as a socializing factor, preparing students for life in a democratic society, educational reforms and national defense, equal opportunity and affirmative action, private and public / church and state / local control, the "culture wars" over the curriculum and national standards, the social status of teachers.

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## **Culture Studies III (Amerikanistik)**

### **Gesprächskreis in Verbindung mit Vorlesung: "Educating Americans: Theories and Practice"**

1-std., Do 12-13, P 109a

This course, in conjunction with lecture course 008, will further elaborate on the topics treated in the lectures. Discussions will focus on specific sources. Students are expected to fulfill weekly assignments and to pass a final written examination.

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## **Seminar**

### **Morals and Manners in American's Literature and Culture** 2-std., Di 18-20, P 110

American often pride themselves of their informality, and to the unsuspecting it may indeed seem that theirs is a society where "anything goes".

Nevertheless, as in any culture, there is a sense of civility and codes of behavior apply in certain social and personal situations. In the seminar we will try to determine what these codes imply, who sets norms and who feels obliged to observe them in order not to appear rude or offensive, and furthermore, whether there is a connection between manners and morals in American culture. To discuss these questions we will take a look at novels of manners (such as William Dean Howells' *The Rise of Silas Lapham* and Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*), popular TV shows and the "Hollywood code," books of etiquette, guide booklets for high school students, foreign students, adolescent girls, and newspaper advice columns.

Further information and a bibliography will be available upon registration during my office hours, R 02-575; forms are available in R 02-579.

Have a look at the bibliography

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## **Oberseminare und Kolloquien**

### **Oberseminar zur amerikanischen Literaturgeschichte I für Examenskandidaten/inn/en**

2-std., Mi 18-20, P 110

The "Lektürerepetitorium" serves as a refresher course for students preparing for their final examinations. During the fall/winter term, the focus will be on American literature from the beginnings to the American Renaissance. Participants are expected to fulfill weekly reading assignments and prepare in-class discussions on the basis of study questions. Most texts will be found in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. An additional reader will be provided. For interested students, the Oberseminar will be continued in the spring/summer term (Lektürerepetitorium II).

Have a look at the syllabus

### **Kolloquium zu laufenden**

**Forschungsarbeiten** 2-std., Z. u. O. n. V.

