Vorlesungen:

Prof. Dr. Dennis Chester (California State University)

Points and Vectors in African American Literature (VL)

Monday 12:00 c.t. – 14:00 Brechtbau, HS 037 Begin: 22nd of Oct. 2018

and

Wednesday 12:00 c.t. – 14:00 Brechtbau, HS 037 End: 5th of December 2018

This series of lectures for undergraduate students will address the earliest canonical works in the African American literary tradition, the issues and themes that have resonated within that tradition over time, that tradition’s engagement with American and global culture, and the tradition’s contemporary trends and directions. At the end of this course, students will be able to articulate a basic timeline of events in African American literary history, to identify some key figures and texts that are central to this tradition, and to express some of the primary ideas that these works present.

Though primarily an historical overview, our course will look at this literary tradition through three specific lenses. In the first unit, the course will take an historical approach to examining African American writing from the slave-era through the Reconstruction. In the second, we will delve into African American experiences of modernity with a discussion of the Harlem Renaissance. In the third we will examine how black authors have used a distinct genre – the Detective Novel – to express African American themes and to challenge the genre’s forms and associations. In all three sections we will examine African American texts and images as points at the intersection of race, gender, sexuality, and nationality, along with a variety of other determining perspectives: we will look to see how individual African American authors describe black experiences and what literary methods they have used to navigate intersectional spaces.

Prof. Dr. Astrid Franke

Introduction to Cultural Studies (VL)

Tuesday 12:00 c.t. – 14:00 Kupferbau, HS 21 Begin: 23rd of Oct. 2018

This lecture course will introduce concepts and methods suitable for the study of American culture. For this purpose, it will offer an overview over relevant theories of culture and various approaches in the field of cultural studies. In a next step, we will analyze and interpret a wide variety of texts, media products and popular culture items and see how theoretically informed readings can deepen our understanding of American culture.

The lecture can be taken without the accompanying seminar. Because of the different requirements in different programs, the technicalities of exams and credit points will be explained in the first session of the lecture.
Prof. Dr. Horst Tonn

Issues in American Literary & Cultural History IV: From the First World War to the Present (VL)

Wednesday 10:00 c.t. – 12:00 Brechtbau, HS 037 Begin: 24th of October 2018

This lecture is part of a series that provides an overview of important issues and key concepts in American literary and cultural history from early colonial times to the present. This semester will cover roughly the twentieth century beginning with World War I and move to the present moment. The topics will touch upon America’s global role and its impact on Western modernity as well as on domestic issues such as the Great Depression, civil rights conflicts, the student movement, Watergate, 9/11, etc. Lectures on literary topics will address modernism, postmodernism, multiculturalism and documentary.

Hauptseminare & Oberseminare:

Prof. Dr. Michael Butter

Hawthorne and Melville (HS / OS / LHS)

Thursday 10:00 c.t. – 12:00 Room: 406 Begin: 25th of October 2018

In this class we will explore the writings of two of the most famous writers of the antebellum period. We will pay special attention to how the novels and short stories of Hawthorne and Melville were shaped by and, in turn, shaped the political, social and cultural debates of the time. We will discuss how Hawthorne evaluates the impact of the Puritan past in *The Scarlet Letter* and how he depicts the Transcendentalist communal experiment in *The Blithedale Romance*, and how Melville responds to the unfettering of capitalism in "Bartleby, the Scrivener," intervenes in debates about the death penalty in "Billy Budd," and engages all kinds of contemporary issues in *Moby-Dick*.

Pre-Civil War: M.A. American Studies students: suitable for modules AMS-MA-01 & AMS-MA-02 & AMS-MA-03

Prof. Dr. Dennis Chester (California State University, USA)

HS: Ex-Pats and Aliens – Genre and Nation in African American Literature (HS)

Monday 16:00 c.t. – 18:00 Room 406 Begin: 22nd of October 2018 and Wednesday 16:00 c.t. – 18:00 Room 406 End: 5th of December 2018

This course will weave together two themes. It will first address how African American authors have developed, adopted, engaged with or transformed ideas of national identity. Following this brief survey, the course will place a particular emphasis on how these writers have used the occasion of African Americans travelling abroad to create visions of an African Diaspora. The second theme that will shape our course is a study of genre fiction. Our class will develop a definition for genre fiction
and discuss some examples of genre types written by African American authors. Weaving these two thematic strands of genre and diaspora together will lead the course to an examination of Afrofuturism, a developing voice in the science fiction genre that speaks to diasporic African identity. We will examine ways that this popular genre creates new ways of imagining black identities.

**Post-Civil War: M.A. American Studies students: suitable for modules AMS-MA-01 & AMS-MA-03 & AMS-MA-04**

**Prof. Dr. Astrid Franke**

**Modernist Experiments in Literature and Art (HS)**

Monday 10:00 c.t. – 12:00 Room: 406 Begin: 22nd of October 2018

This seminar will look at the various ways in which modernist writers and artists experimented with new ways of representation in prose, poetry, and the visual arts. We will try to understand what “modern” meant and what it might still mean, and we will read a variety of texts from fairly known authors such as Gertrude Stein, T.S. Eliot, or William Faulkner, but also lesser known ones such as Vachel Lindsay.

**Post-Civil War: M.A. American Studies students: suitable for modules AMS-MA-01 & AMS-MA-03 & AMS-MA-04**

**Microaggression and Symbolic Violence in Literature (HS)**

Tuesday 16:00 c.t. – 18:00 Room: 106 Begin: 23rd of October 2018

Microagression is a controversial concept meant to capture subtle forms of racism, homophobia or misogyny that occur in everyday personal interactions, often without awareness or intention of the “perpetrator,” sometimes even the “victim.” Conceptually, it bears resemblance to the idea of symbolic violence as used by Pierre Bourdieu. Both concepts are helpful to understand oppression and the resistance to it, as well as contemporary controversies in the US. They are also helpful to understand how the workplace, or places of learning, or sports inadvertently contribute to make some people feel ill at ease or even undesired. Since literature has always captured minute details of personal interactions, we will resort to them for examples to discuss how these concepts help us illuminate our social realities.

**Post-Civil War: M.A. American Studies students: suitable for modules AMS-MA-01 & AMS-MA-03 & AMS-MA-04**

**Dr. Nicole Hirschfelder**

**American Landscapes- 19th and 20th paintings (S / LPS)**

Wednesday 8:00 s.t. – 10:00 Room: 406 Begin: 17th of October 2018 + extra appointments > must be attended (see Campus) End: 5th of Dec. 2018

In this class, we will mainly focus on the questions of how America (as a new nation) was mediated through paintings and why this particular artform was and still is considered highly successful at conveying crucial messages about "America's self-image". In order to tackle these questions, we will focus on the work of artists (e.g. Cole, Iness, Bierstadt etc.) as well as on important concepts connected with their art
(e.g. the sublime) and also take a look at examples of particular landscapes in America, e.g. the South & the plantation. Moreover, we will explore the role of maps compared to other forms of representation of space and ponder the question why the representation of space is crucial for the formation of a nation's self image. Since central (political & social) issues in history, such as Imperialism, slavery, and the nature/culture debate are all negotiated in these seemingly merely aesthetic works of art, we will also discuss these topics while using the paintings as a starting point for our conversations. Accordingly, this seminar focuses on the analysis of images as one of the key skills in Cultural Studies.

**Dr. Isabell Klaiber**

"Lifting as We Climb" - African American Writing before the Harlem Renaissance (Pre-1900) (PS II / S / LPS / EPG II)

Friday 10:00 c.t. – 12:00  Room: 406  Begin: 26th of October 2018

After the American Civil War, when slavery was abolished, new forms of social control and repression of black people emerged; among these were the economic neo-slavery of tenancy and sharecropping, the racial violence of lynch mobs, which reached a peak in the 1890s, and the systematic political disenfranchisement of African Americans via "Jim Crow" laws, which eroded the civil rights guaranteed by the 14th and 15th Amendments. In response to this atmosphere of extreme hostility, the second half of the 19th century witnessed a flowering of African American fiction, a growing black readership, and an increase of African American journals and publishing houses. Many black intellectuals and activists were convinced that literature was a powerful tool in the battle of racial images: in and through fiction and non-fiction they could question and possibly overcome racial stereotypes, reinforce the budding cultural pride and self-awareness of African Americans, and foster the process of so-called "racial uplift."

In order to explore the strategies used by African Americans authors to propose complex and innovative representations of the cultural heritage, the complex human experience, and the history of resistance of African Americans, we will discuss fictional and non-fictional texts by Frances Harper, Pauline Hopkins, Charles Chesnutt, and Ida B. Wells.

**Dr. des Katharina Thalmann**

**Space/Place** (S / LHS)

Thursday 14:00 c.t. – 16:00  Room: 406  Begin: 25th of October 2018

This is not a class about Star Trek, Star Wars, or Dogs in Space (although, to be fair, we sometimes teach those, too). This is a class about two of the core concepts in cultural studies that have only gained in importance since the spatial turn of the late 1980s: space and place. As these concepts are inextricably intertwined, this class will a) look at specific places (from Appalachia and Canada to Japanese-American internment camps), b) think about how places and spaces have been represented, produced, consumed, and regulated (from kitchens to highways, from nations to neighborhoods), and c) investigate these places and spaces from the intersection of gender, class, and race. Although, strictly speaking, the class does not follow a
diachronic approach, we’ll nevertheless analyze a variety of texts (film and television, prose and poetry, cookbooks and autobiographies) from the 17th to the 21st century, alternating between close readings and discourse analysis.

In addition to our class discussions, students will work on individual projects which will be presented during our additional session on February 1st (attendance mandatory). Similar to the structure of the seminar, students will choose specific places and spaces (Los Angeles, The South, Silicon Valley, Wall Street, Brooklyn, La Frontera/The Border, Disneyland, Wakanda) and analyze them by focusing on specific concepts or issues. Topics could include, for instance: Austin: Food Trucks and the Regulation of Space; San Francisco: Gentrification and Hipster Culture; New York in Musicals; Juarez/El Paso: Liminal Spaces; Hyperreality and Commercialization in Disneyland; From Monticello to Georgia: Remembering Slavery; Charlottesville: Remembering the Confederacy; The South-West in Cormac McCarthy’s Border Trilogy; The Beauty Parlor in Movies; Roswell: Conspiracy Theory and the Commercialization of Space; The Creole South in Beyonce’s Lemonade and Daughters of the Dust. *Disclaimer: The reading load is not exactly light.*

**Prof. Dr. Horst Tonn**

**Transatlantic Seminar: Intercultural Perspectives on Contemporary U.S. Culture**  
(FD II / LHS)  
Tuesday 16:00 c.t. – 18:00  Room: 406  Begin: 23rd of October 2018

See American culture through the eyes of U.S. students! In this class we will work together with a parallel course conducted at the University of Maryland. You will be collaborating with students from the University of Maryland/College Park via video conferences, social media, and email, exchanging ideas about contemporary American culture and issues of global relevance.  
The class will focus on two issues: First, we will discuss the current refugee crisis in Europe in relation to the US experience with immigration and multiculturalism. Clearly, these developments have consequences on how individuals and groups form their identities and their relations of belonging. In a second section this course will look at Western youth culture (film and music) and explore differences and similarities in practices and attitudes between German and American students.

**The U.S.-Mexican Border: Its History and Culture**  
(HS / OS / LHS)  
Monday 14:00 c.t. – 16:00  Room: 107  Begin: 22nd of October 2018

This class will study the history, literature and contemporary culture of the U.S.-Mexican borderlands. What is today the southwestern United States was part of Mexico until the Mexican-American War (1846-48). Often referred to as “Greater Mexico” the region is shaped by Hispanic, Native American and Angloamerican influences. Major issues addressed in this class will be immigration, cultural nationalism, citizenship, language, labor and civil rights.  
*Post-Civil War: M.A. American Studies students: suitable for modules AMS-MA-01 & AMS-MA-03 & AMS-MA-04*
**Landeskundliche, Literatur- & Kulturwissenschaftliche Proseminare und EPG II:**

*Annika Brunck, M.A.*

**Introduction to Literary Studies** (PS I)

Wednesday 14:00 c.t. – 16:00  Room: 406  Begin: **24th of October 2018**

This class introduces students to the study of literature. We will read and discuss a variety of poems, a play, a novel, some short stories and a film. We will also dedicate time to different theoretical approaches to literature and to the intricacies of academic writing.

*Dr. Esther Earbin*

**Criminal Law & The American Experience: Intersectionality** (PS)

**Blockseminar:**

Mon. 21.1.2019, 12:00 c.t.-18:00 (R. Neue Aula, Raum 2.36)  
Tue. 22.1.-Thu. 24.1.2019, 10:00 c.t.-16:00 (R. Neue Aula, Raum 2.36)

This seminar will focus on the concept of intersectionality, a phrase coined by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, which refers to the concept that a person can be identified or identify themselves under social classifications, including race, class, gender, and sexual orientation, which may create overlapping, independent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. Students will learn about the basic principles behind intersectionality and how it can be used in the evaluation of crime or crime-related policies and the American government’s administration of “justice”. Students will also examine court cases, media and pop culture references, current news stories, and individual perspectives of intersectionality relating to the American experience.

*Prof. Dr. Astrid Franke*

**Introduction to Literary Studies** (PS I)

Thursday 12:00 c.t. – 14:00  Room: 406  Begin: **25th of October 2018**

This class introduces students to the study of literature. We will read and discuss a variety of poems, a play, a novel, some short stories and a film. We will also dedicate time to different theoretical approaches to literature and to the intricacies of academic writing.
Dr. Thomas Gijswijt

Congressional Elections (PS)

Blockseminar:
Mon. – Wed. 15.10.-17.10.2018, 8:00 c.t.-12:00 (R. 306) & zwei längere Blöcke Anfang November, wenn Wahlen sind)

Participants in this course will enhance their understanding of the American political system by preparing a detailed prediction of one of the Senate Election races in this year’s mid-term elections. Because the elections take place on November 6, much of the work for this course will take place in October. We will start with three 4-hour sessions in early October, followed by a phase of intensive group work and individual meetings. Shortly before the election, we will present our findings in a public poster presentation. A public elections event organized by the d.a.i. will also be part of the course.

The 2018 mid-term election will be unusually important, because the results will decide how aggressively Congress will investigate and control the Trump Administration. A possible impeachment investigation of President Trump will probably depend on the Democratic Party winning back a majority of seats in the House of Representatives.

Watergate (Post-1900) (PS II)

Tuesday 8:00 c.t. – 10:00 Room: 306 Begin: 23rd of October 2018

What did he know and when did he know it? The quintessential question of the Watergate scandal has again caught the attention of the public in the face of Russia’s interference in the U.S. presidential elections and the possibility of collusion with the Trump campaign. Moreover, the parallels between Nixon and Trump are striking: from their deep-seated distrust of the coastal elites and the mainstream media to their campaigns focused on law and order, and their obsession with toughness coupled with a problematic relationship with the truth.

In this course we will reassess the events of Watergate and their impact on American political culture and the politics of scandal.

US Foreign Policy III - Kennedy and Europe (PS)

Tuesday 10:00 c.t. – 12:00 Room: 107 Begin: 23rd of October 2018

In this course, we will examine the complex, multifaceted relationship between John F. Kennedy and Europe. Starting with JFK’s European travels in the 1930s and 1940s, we will analyze Kennedy’s views of Europe. During his presidency, no single issue took more of his time and attention than the Berlin crisis, leading to serious disagreements with European leaders such as Konrad Adenauer and Charles de Gaulle. Moreover, one of the most serious crises in transatlantic relations took place in early 1963, setting the stage for JFK’s famous visit to Germany in the summer of 1963. After JFK’s death, the Kennedy myth took hold as much in Europe as in the United States.

Although much has been written about Kennedy and Europe, important primary sources remain understudied. The Kennedy tapes in particular have not received as
much scrutiny as they deserve. Many conversations Kennedy held with European visitors have never been published. In this course, we will transcribe and analyze some of these tapes for the first time.

**U.S. Foreign Policy II (PS)**

**Wednesday 8:00 c.t. – 10:00  Room: 030  Begin: 24th of October 2018**

The aim of this course is to help students develop a more advanced understanding of key American foreign policy traditions and ideas, as well as of important theories concerning International Relations. We will read and discuss classic texts ranging from NSC 68 to President Eisenhower's famous warning about the Military-Industrial Complex. Students will also have a say in the composition of the syllabus. This is the second of three courses IAS students can take to specialize in U.S. foreign policy in their elective curriculum.

**Guns and Gun Control in the United States (Pre-/ Post-1900) (PS II)**

**Wednesday 10:00 c.t. – 12:00  Room: 406  Begin: 24th of October 2018**

The debate over gun control and gun rights continues to divide the United States. Despite frequent mass shootings, Congress remains unable or unwilling to pass more effective gun regulation. In this seminar we will examine both the history of guns and gun control in America and their current importance in terms of American culture and society. Issues we will discuss include the role of the courts and the Second Amendment; the politics of gun control; the role of special interest groups such as the National Rifle Association (NRA); guns and popular culture; and the societal cost of gun violence.

**Dr. Nicole Hirschfelder**

**(Beyond) Prison Culture (Post-1900) (PS II)**

**Thursday 8:00 s.t. – 10:00  Room: 306  Begin: 18th of October 2018 + extra appointments > must be attended (see Campus) End: 6th of Dec. 2018**

In this seminar, we will focus on prison culture, the role of so-called "correctional facilities" and the issue of massincarceration in the United States. The term ‘Prison culture’ does not primarily refer to the culture behind bars but rather to the idea that the existence of prisons leaves its mark on all members of (American) society and its culture in general. In this context, we will also explore what scholars, such as Peterson, Hartnett and Alexander refer to as the "prison industrial complex" and learn about its (precursors in) history. In order to get a better idea of the development of ‘prison culture,’ we will not only examine the history of the prison but also the impact and effects of prison culture on American society from a variety of perspectives. Readings from scholars, such as Michel Foucault, Loic Wacquant, or Michelle Alexander will serve as starting points for our discussions about the implications of the issues of race, class, and gender. Moreover, we will also analyze other questions surrounding prison culture, such as: How do corporations (through advertising, the music industry, TV) make use of and thus profit from (stereotypical) ideas of prison culture? Why is ‘the prison’ (as both a concept and a site) even appealing to these
realms of popular culture? Or: How do artists come to terms with notions of ‘freedom’ and ‘incarceration?’

**Introduction to Cultural Studies (PS I)** (2 separate courses)

1) Friday 8:00 s.t. – 10:00 Room: 406 Begin: 19th of October 2018 + extra appointments > must be attended (see Campus) End: 7th of Dec. 2018

2) Friday 12:00 s.t. – 10:00 Room: 406 Begin: 19th of October 2018 + extra appointments > must be attended (see Campus) End: 7th of Dec. 2018

This seminar accompanies the lecture course "Introduction to Cultural Studies“. We will have the opportunity to continue our work with the texts and issues introduced in the lecture course. We will deepen our understanding of terms, concepts, and analytical methods by reading (additional) texts and by looking at other types of media, such as images.

*Dr. Isabell Klaiber*

**Introduction to Literary Studies (PS I)**

Friday 12:00 c.t. – 14:00 Room: 226 Begin: 26th of October 2018

This class introduces students to the study of literature. We will read and discuss a variety of poems, a play, and some short stories. We will also dedicate time to different theoretical approaches to literature and to the intricacies of academic writing.

**Emily Dickenson's Poetry in Context (Pre-1900) (PS II)**

Thursday 8:00 c.t. – 10:00 Room: 406 Begin: 25th of October 2018

Emily Dickinson is best known as an intensely private, even reclusive writer, who today appears particularly modern.
Upon closer inspection, however, Dickinson’s poems prove to be deeply engaged with the issues of her own day. In order to better understand how her poems tie in with and respond to them, we will explore them within the historical context of her time, which includes the Civil War, the suffrage movement, and the rapid industrialization of the United States. It is within these contexts that Dickinson’s personal struggles with romantic love, religious faith, friendship, and community shape her poetry. It is only within her historical context that we can fully appreciate her independence of mind and her originality.
In a further step, we will also take the complex publication history of her works into consideration as well as their reception.
Anthony Obute, M.A.

The Harlem Renaissance (Post-1900) (PS II)

Wednesday 12:00 c.t. – 14:00  Room: 406  Begin: 24th of October 2018

American historical antecedents of Slavery, Civil War, and the Jim Crow Laws enforced trauma and relegation of human bodies. These historical experiences in the South exuded a systemic pattern of oppression, leading to the Great Migration of late 1800 and early 1900 towards the North. The Great Migration informed one of the most remarkable resistance movements by African-Americans in Harlem Renaissance to reclaim human dignity. This seminar briefly engages the historical roots leading to Harlem Renaissance. It focuses on the artistic, cultural and intellectual movement of African-Americans in the quest for self-rediscovery and the location of their culture within the larger American society. Reading selected literary and cultural materials of the Harlem Renaissance through a diachronic lens, students will appreciate the success of the movement as well as the foundations it laid for subsequent emancipatory movements. The seminar promises an insight to understanding current conversations on race relations in the United States of America.

Dan Poston, M.A.

Staging Native America (Pre-1900) (LS Bauer) (PS II)

Tuesday 10:00 c.t. – 12:00  Room: 106  Begin: 23rd of October 2018

This seminar will investigate the history of dramatic texts in English that feature indigenous American characters. We will read chronologically from Shakespeare (The Tempest) through John Dryden (The Indian Emperor), switching sides of the pond in the 18th century to follow the theatrical trajectory of native people increasingly empowered to act out their own stories, on their own stages for large audiences. This simple progressive narrative will be necessarily complicated by reading shorter paratheatrical and scholarly texts that reveal how the linked discourses of colonialism, invasion, nativism, and indigeneity were historically contested in changing ways on all sides throughout the last five centuries.

Albrecht Raible, M.A.

Media Theory (PS II)

Tuesday 10:00 c.t. – 12:00  Room: 406  Begin: 23rd of October 2018

This class is designed to introduce you to some of the most prominent theories in media studies. After an introduction to general theories of perception and representation, we will read theory on different modern media, from the radio to Netflix. We will encounter different philosophies, that complement and contradict each other, which enables us to analyse, compare and apply them to today’s media culture.
Janine Schwarz

**Introduction to Literary Studies (PS I)**

Friday 8:30 s.t. – 10:00 Room: 030 Begin: 26th of October 2018

This class introduces students to the study of literature. We will read and discuss a variety of poems, a play, a novel, some short stories and a film. We will also dedicate time to different theoretical approaches to literature and to the intricacies of academic writing.

Lisa Spieker, M.A.

**Introduction to Literary Studies (PS I)**

Tuesday 16:00 c.t. – 18:00 Room: 121 Begin: 23rd of October 2018

This class introduces students to the study of literature. We will read and discuss a variety of poems, a play, a novel, some short stories and a film. We will also dedicate time to different theoretical approaches to literature and to the intricacies of academic writing.

Dr. des Katharina Thalmann

**Jeffersonian America (Pre-1900) (PS II)**

Friday 8:30 s.t. – 10:00 Room: 306 Begin: 26th of October 2018

Thomas Jefferson has been heroized and venerated as a member of the Founding Fathers, (co-)author of the Declaration of Independence, and the country's third President. He has been praised for his contributions to architecture and agriculture, his writings, and his promotion of science and scholarship. Yet Jefferson was already a controversial figure during his lifetime and has come under intense scrutiny since the mid-20th century because of his views of slavery and race, in particular when DNA tests suggested that Jefferson had fathered children with Sally Hemings, one of the many slaves that he owned. Daveed Diggs, who used to play Jefferson in the hit musical Hamilton, has succinctly summarized Jefferson's many contradictory and at times problematic traits when he said: "You don't have to separate these things with Jefferson. He can have written this incredible document and several incredible documents with things that we all believe in, and he sucks."

The purpose of this class is neither to determine whether Jefferson "sucks" nor to sketch a biography of his life. Instead, we will take a closer look at the era in U.S. history in which Jefferson lived, wrote, and worked - a period shaped by his ideas and politics. This class is structured in a roughly chronological fashion - beginning with the Revolutionary War and ending with Jefferson's legacy today -, but we will mostly access "Jeffersonian America" by discussing a variety of issues and topics (slavery and racism, Republicanism, early American political culture and electioneering, national identity, women in the Early Republic, etc.), and analyzing a variety of texts, ranging from Jefferson's own writings, including speeches and the Declaration, to essays, plays, songs and poems, Clotel (the first novel published by an African-American), and the musical Hamilton.
Introduction to Literary Studies (PS I)

Friday 12:00 c.t. – 14:00   Room: 306   Begin: 26th of October 2018

This class introduces students to the study of literature. We will read and discuss a variety of poems, a play, a novel, some short stories and a film. We will also dedicate time to different theoretical approaches to literature and to the intricacies of academic writing.

Prof. Dr. Horst Tonn

Introduction to Literary Studies (PS I)

Monday 12:00 c.t. – 14:00   Room: 406   Begin: 22nd of October 2018

This class introduces students to the study of literature. We will read and discuss texts from various literary genres: a novel, a play, poetry and short fiction. In addition, the course will provide an introduction to different theoretical approaches to the reading of literature.

Prof. Dr. Betsy Wheeler (University of Oregon, USA)

Body Comics (LS Küchler) (PS II)

Tuesday 12:00 c.t. – 14:00   Room: 108   Begin: 23rd of October 2018

One could say that most comics are about the human body, in all its variations, exaggerations, eroticism, poses, powers, and vulnerabilities. This course examines the human body in contemporary English language comics with particular attention to disability and gender. This seminar shows education students how to use comics as a powerful tool for English language learning and how to introduce central concepts of diversity and identity through the genre of comics. It teaches the methods for analyzing comics as a multimedia, visual and verbal artistic form while holding up a mirror to social norms through disability studies and gender theory. The works on the reading list represent the emergence of disability communities into the public sphere. Comics display the negative effects of prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination as characters encounter violence or contort themselves to fit into impossible social norms. Comics also create more tolerance in the public sphere by expanding the definitions of heroism. Through memoirs and scholarship by authors with disabilities, students gain direct insight into the worldviews of disability communities. This insight provides an invaluable foundation for work in inclusive education. We’ll look at three important comics genres: memoir, fantasy, and superheroes. With each text we’ll also read essays about body image, violence, depression, Deaf culture, ADHD, and spinal cord injury—and we’ll see how comics renders such profound matters through fantasy, visual metaphors, and good storytelling. Popular texts like Hyperbole and a Half, Axe Cop, and Marvel superhero comics offer a portal into the deepest questions of self and diversity. How can anyone communicate the experience of isolation or despair to other people? Does the intergenerational trauma of racism produce disabilities, and how is that trauma visually represented? Is it possible to make disability cool and superhuman without falling back into gender stereotypes? How does the representation of disability rely on national identity?
Escaping the Asylum: Popular Culture, Disability, and Race in the United States (LS Küchler) (PS II)

Wednesday 14:00 c.t. – 16:00 Room: 108 Begin: 24th of October 2018

This seminar introduces students to the methods and principles of inclusive education and disability studies through reading and viewing the experiences of people of color with a wide range of disabilities and placing them in historical and theoretical context. We will compare the multiracial history of disability in America to the creative accomplishments of Native Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans. Students of English will gain familiarity with texts rarely presented in the university classroom. The seminar creates meaningful opportunities for students to engage actively in the modes of inquiry that define the study of literary, visual, and multimedia arts as well as the modes of inquiry that define disability studies. The seminar promotes multiple literacies, showing students how to teach multimedia representations, critique stereotypes, and interpret a wide variety of art forms and new media, including websites, music videos, spoken word and American Sign Language poetry, performance art, experimental hybrid narrative, the novel, film, memoir, theater, and photography. It takes as its central examples two sites of deep meaning for understanding disability in the United States: the asylum and the freak show. These historical settings also haunt the imagination of American popular culture to shock and capture audiences. In real life, these institutions drastically changed the lives of people of color with disabilities. In this course we’ll think about race and disability at the same time, studying the real history but also the creative work of people of color today who remake that history. Contemporary theater, science fiction, hip hop poetry, music videos, memoirs, art, and movies imagine a better future—and past—for people of color with disabilities. These new works of popular and literary culture escape the asylum.

Please note: Students will only be able to complete the course with a term paper! It is not possible to take an oral exam in either literary or cultural studies in this course!
Kolloquien:

Prof. Dr. Michael Butter

Kolloquium für StaatsexamenskandidatInnen (Lehramt)

Friday 14:00 c.t.–16:00 Room: 406 Begin: 26th of October 2018

Master-Kolloquium

Friday 10:00 c.t.–12:00 Room: 306 Begin: 26th of October 2018

Prof. Dr. Horst Tonn

Kolloquium für ExamenskandidatInnen (Lehramt)

Tuesday 18:00 c.t.–20:00 every 2nd week Room: 406 Begin: 23rd of Oct. 2018

Updated: Monday, October 15, 2018