



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

HCA
Heidelberg Center
for American Studies

M.A. in American Studies (MAS)
Course Catalog
Summer Term 2019

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Dear students of the M.A. in American Studies,

The Heidelberg Center for American Studies welcomes you to the summer term 2019.

In the MAS course catalog, you will find all lectures and courses that are relevant for the program and taught in English. You may also take classes held in German if you speak German on a university level. Please consult with the MAS coordinator prior to signing up with any German taught courses. You may find further classes and lectures in the university's online catalog (LSF) or on the respective department's website.

The here listed classes are offered by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, the English Department, the Institute for Geography, the History Department, the Institute for Political Science, and the Theological Seminary.

Please note that due to the multidisciplinary set-up of our program registration for single classes may differ from each other. You will find directions on how to register in each course description. Please also note the different registration deadlines. It is not necessary to register for lectures.

Please be aware that one class may not count toward two different modules at the same time. E.g., if you choose a seminar for the main module Literature & Culture, the class cannot count toward the research module Literature & Culture as well, but you need to take a different class for the research module. The same applies for courses that are listed in different modules. If you take a class, you must choose toward which module the credit points will count.

If you have any questions, please contact

MAS Coordinator Dr. Anne Sommer (asommer@hca.uni-heidelberg.de).

M.A. in American Studies

The Program

Students enroll in the program each winter semester. The standard duration of study, including the writing of the Master's thesis, is four semesters. The M.A. in American Studies (MAS) program (100%) includes the academic disciplines of geography, history, literature and cultural studies, political science, and religious history. At the start of the program, students will choose two of those as their core disciplines. One of these two core disciplines will receive further emphasis in the research module, which is meant to prepare students for the writing of their M.A. thesis. The flexibility module gives students the opportunity either to take American Studies courses outside their core disciplines in order to broaden their understanding of the comprehensive field of American Studies, or to attend additional classes in one of their two core disciplines for a deeper engagement with their primary fields of interest. The interdisciplinary module is designed to bring the perspectives and methods of the various disciplines into dialogue with one another.

These subject modules are supplemented by a methodology module meant to impart both theoretical proficiency and empirical methods, as well as practical skills; and a module on cross-cutting perspectives, which—in the spirit of a traditional *studium generale*—affords students an opportunity to venture outside of the field of American Studies. There will also be a chance during the “mobility window,” usually slated for the third semester, to study abroad on an exchange, accept an internship, etc. The MAS program concludes with an examination module.

Modules and courses

By dividing the program into various modules, the HCA has three goals for students:

1. To acquire and deepen the latest subject-specific knowledge and research methods of the individual disciplines.
2. To implement multi- and interdisciplinary approaches, and to demonstrate the synergistic potential of such approaches.
3. To practically apply methodological and research skills in order to make graduates competitive in both the academic and the non-academic international job market.

The M.A. program “American Studies” is comprised of:

- A study plan (*Kernfach*)
- An examination module

The study plan encompasses:

- A subject-specific component
- A section on building “comprehensive competencies”

The subject-specific component of the program is divided into four parts:

1. **Main modules:** Students choose two of the HCA's offered disciplines as core disciplines in which they will develop and deepen their subject-specific knowledge and skills. Main modules in the chosen disciplines come with a minimum of one seminar that will be exclusively available to M.A. students, as well as an additional course (in either lecture or seminar format). Students can select their core disciplines freely. They may combine two fields from the humanities or from the social sciences, or they may choose to traverse academic disciplines. All combinations are possible.
2. **Research module:** After finishing the main modules, students complete a research module in order to immerse themselves more fully in one of their two core disciplines. For the research module, students will participate in a seminar offered exclusively to M.A. students. In an "Independent Study" format, students will autonomously work through and discuss with their professor an assigned reading list. This will usually serve as preparation for writing the M.A. thesis.
3. **Flexibility module:** In the flexibility module, students may choose 12 credits worth of courses from any discipline offered in the program. For these elective credits, any combination of courses is allowed. Students can either choose to broaden their understanding of American Studies with classes outside of their core disciplines, or they can choose to focus more deeply on their primary areas of interest.
4. **Interdisciplinary module:** The interdisciplinary module serves to promote an interdisciplinary approach to scholarship and demonstrate the synergistic potential of such an approach. Students will take part in an interdisciplinary seminar offered by instructors from two different disciplines, as well as a two-semester interdisciplinary colloquium in which variegated topics and approaches from the field of American Studies will be discussed.

The section of the program on "comprehensive competencies" is divided into the following three parts:

1. **Methodology module:** In this module, students will deepen their understanding of the theoretical and empirical methods of American Studies, as well as develop their academic writing skills.
2. **Cross-cutting perspectives:** In this module, students will take courses outside of the area of American Studies. These courses may either be related to or independent from the disciplines of American Studies. Language course credits also count toward this module.
3. **Mobility window:** The mobility window provides students with the opportunity for intensive and practical engagement with their degree in American Studies. Students can complete an internship in a relevant field, or can choose to study abroad in order to foster cultural understanding and strengthen intercultural competencies. For students interested in pursuing an academic career, completion of a teaching assignment can also be counted toward this module, provided the assignment does not concern a constituent curricular component of the HCA's B.A. or M.A. programs.

The program concludes with the examination module:

Examination module: With the completion of a Master's thesis in the same area as their research module, students will have acquired specialized knowledge in a particular area of American Studies and will have demonstrated the ability to use academic methods to work on and research a topic independently. The particulars of the M.A. thesis are described in section 7.11 of the *Modulhandbuch*. Completion of the thesis takes four months during which students will present an outline of the thesis to their peers at a research colloquium. After completing the thesis, students will take a 60-minute oral final exam. Additional details about the exam are covered in the exam regulations.

5.2 Sample course of study

<p>First Semester (28 credits)</p> <p>Methodology module Course: Theory & Methods (4 credits) Course: Academic Writing (4 credits)</p> <p>Main module I M.A. seminar: Core discipline I (10 credits) Lecture: Core discipline I (4 credits)</p> <p>Main module II Lecture: Core discipline II (4 credits)</p> <p>Interdisciplinary module MAS Colloquium I (2 credits)</p>	<p>Second Semester (30 credits)</p> <p>Main module II M.A. seminar: Core discipline II (10 credits)</p> <p>Research module M.A. seminar: Core discipline I (10 credits)</p> <p>Flexibility module Discussion group: Discipline III (4 credits) Lecture: Discipline IV (4 credits)</p> <p>Interdisciplinary module MAS Colloquium II (2 credits)</p>
<p>Third Semester (28 credits)</p> <p>Research module Independent study: Core discipline I (4 credits)</p> <p>Interdisciplinary module Interdisciplinary seminar (6 credits)</p> <p>Flexibility module Lecture: Core discipline I</p> <p>Cross-cutting perspectives 2 courses outside of American Studies (8 credits)</p> <p>Mobility window Internship (four weeks) (6 credits)</p>	<p>Fourth Semester (34 credits)</p> <p>Examination module Research colloquium (2 credits) M.A. thesis (24 credits) Oral final exam (8 credits)</p>

Sem	Modules		
4	Cross-Cutting Perspectives (∑ 8 CP) 2 courses outside of the area of American Studies	Examination Module (∑ 34 CP) Research colloquium (2 CP) M.A. thesis (24 CP) Oral final exam (8 CP)	
3		Mobility Window (∑ 6 CP) Study abroad, internship or teaching assignment	
2		Subject-Specific Classes (∑ 54 CP)	
		Research Module (14 CP) Core discipline I or II 1 M.A. seminar 1 Independent Study	Flexibility Module (12 CP) 12 CP worth of classes from any discipline in the program
1	Methodology Module (∑ 8 CP) Theory & Methods (4 CP) Academic Writing (4 CP)	Main Module I (14 CP) Core discipline I 1 M.A. seminar 1 lecture	Main Module II (14 CP) Core discipline II 1 M.A. seminar 1 lecture
		Interdisciplinary Module (∑ 10 CP) 1 Interdisciplinary seminar (6 CP) 2 MAS Colloquium (2 x 2CP)	

Academic Skills

Methodology Module

Course are offered during winter terms only.

Interdisciplinary Module

MAS Colloquium

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach; Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

THU; 18:00-20:00; HCA / Atrium

Registration during first session.

Course Description:

The Interdisciplinary Colloquium provides a venue for MAS students to meet with renowned experts from various fields, such as politics, economics, journalism, or academia. Most of them will be Americans who will share with us their current interests or most recent scholarship. The Interdisciplinary Colloquium will also serve as a forum for the presentation and discussion of state-of-the-art research in academic disciplines that are not otherwise represented in this year's curriculum.

Interdisciplinary Seminar: The American Presidency: Politics, Literature, Culture

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss; PD Dr. Martin Thunert

TUE; 14:15-15:45; HCA / Oculus

Registration via LSF by March 31, 2019.

Course Description:

Co-taught by a political scientist and a literary historian, this interdisciplinary seminar will trace the relationship between the sphere of American politics and the cultural and literary realms from the early republic onwards to the present day. We will assess the ways in which the presidency has changed and yet – from a constitutional point of view – has remained the same over the past

229 years. We shall look at models and tools of presidential leadership, discuss campaign-related issues and study how the American public regards the office. The literature and culture component will address the following questions: What is the attitude, American presidents have taken towards literature and the arts? How have literature and the arts dealt with the institution of the American presidency as well as with individual presidents? Have the emergence of modern media and the increasing importance of popular culture changed the way people view presidents? How has the rise of the social media transformed the relationship between the president and the public?

Students will be introduced to various controversies, theories, and multidisciplinary perspectives concerning the U.S. presidency. From Alexander Hamilton's contributions to the Federalist Papers to current reactions of writers and journalists to the campaign and presidency of Donald Trump, we will study primary source materials as well as read classic and contemporary works – fiction and non-fiction – to uncover many facets of the office and of the personalities that held it.

Most of the material to be discussed will be made available on Moodle2.

Requirements:

Regular attendance, homework assignments and/or presentations, plus one term paper of 15 to 18 pages for MAS, 5 pages for BAS

Introductory Reading:

Mausbach, Wilfried, Dietmar Schloss, and Martin Thunert: "The American Presidency: History, Politics, Culture", in: *The American Presidency. Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. Eds. Wilfried Mausbach, Dietmar Schloss and Martin Thunert, Heidelberg: Winter Verlag, 2012. 1-36.

Interdisciplinary Seminar: Im/Mobilities in US-American Cities.

Prof Dr. Ulrike Gerhard; PD Dr. Margit Peterfy

THU; 14:00-16:00; HCA

Registration via email: nordamerika@geog.uni-heidelberg.de by Feb 28, 2019.

Course Description:

In this interdisciplinary seminar on US-American Cities we will analyze and discuss different aspects of im/mobility in US cities from the combined perspective of Urban Geography and Literary/Cultural Studies. We thus use the new mobilities paradigm, developed by Mimi Sheller, John Urry, Tim Creswell and others to understand how societal development is in myriad ways defined through ever-increasing mobility: ranging from the concrete transportation systems enabling the flows of people negotiating everyday urban and global mobilities, to the dynamics of those migrating by choice, to those fleeing (or being left behind) in the face of war, crisis, or conflict.

Specific topics to be discussed from both literary and urban geographic perspective for the context and development of the US American city comprise aspects such as civil rights and urban transportation (e.g., Montgomery Bus Strike), ethnic geographies / black women, conflicts around the public racial body (e.g., in Ferguson: jaywalking, etc.), cultural memory in cities, cities as destinations for immigration, as well as moments of immobility caused by natural or man-made hazards (e.g. Hurricane Katrina, Nine/Eleven) and their literary reconditioning.

Interdisciplinary Seminar: Race and Religion in American Culture

Prof Dr. Jan Stievermann; Prof. Paul Harvey

SAT; 22.06.2019; 10:00-17:30; HCA / Oculus

FRI; 28.06.2019; 10:00-17:30; HCA / Oculus

SAT; 29.06.2019; 10:00-17:30; HCA / Oculus

FRI; 05.07.2019; 10:00-17:30; HCA / Oculus

Registration via email: jstievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

This compact seminar gives students the opportunity to engage with one of the leading experts on race and religion in the US: Prof. Paul Harvey, who comes to Heidelberg as the eight recipient of the James W.C. Pennington Award. The class will examine four main areas: History, Politics, Popular Culture and Sports. Through each we examine cultural artifacts that show the intersections of religion and race in US culture and the different ways in which race has been produced, applied and perpetuated in American history from the colonial to the present period.

By looking at a broad range of cultural products such as historical texts, art, film, court decisions, political speeches, literature, and music, students will be familiarized with many different facets in the contentious relationship between religion and race in American culture.

Please buy and read:

Paul Harvey and Edward J. Blum. *The Color of Christ: The Son of God and the Saga of Race in America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012.

Flexibility Module

In the flexibility module students can take courses from all disciplines **within** the field of American Studies.

Please consult the course catalogue to find courses that fit your interests. Each course is awarded 4 CP.

Cross-Cutting Perspectives

In this module students can choose 2 classes from **outside** the field of American Studies. Please consult the university's course catalogue (LSF) to find courses in other disciplines. Each course is awarded 4 CP.

Courses by Discipline

Geography

Lecture: Mobilities

Eligibility: Main Module Geography, Flexibility Module

Gregg Culver, PhD

TUE; 11:15-12:45; Berliner Str 48 / HS

Registration during first session.

Course Description:

This course is taught in English. Die Vorlesung vermittelt einen Überblick über die Mobilität aus humangeographischer Perspektive mit besonderem Fokus auf das neue Mobilitätsparadigma. Dabei werden verschiedene Aspekte der aktuellen Mobilitätsforschung vorgestellt, wie z.B.: Mobilität als Schlüsselbegriff der Geographie; Mobilität als sozialproduzierte Bewegung; Mobilitätspolitik; Mobilitätsideologien; Automobilität; ÖPNV; Fahrradfahren und Aktivismus und Mobilität und Gerechtigkeit.

Advanced Seminar: Im/Mobilities in US-American Cities. An Interdisciplinary Seminar.

Eligibility: Main Module Geography, Research Module Geography, Flexibility Module

Prof Dr. Ulrike Gerhard; PD Dr. Margit Peterfy

THU; 14:00-16:00; HCA

Registration via email: nordamerika@geog.uni-heidelberg.de by Feb 28, 2019.

Course Description:

In this interdisciplinary seminar on US-American Cities we will analyze and discuss different aspects of im/mobility in US cities from the combined perspective of Urban Geography and Literary/Cultural Studies. We thus use the new mobilities paradigm, developed by Mimi Sheller, John Urry, Tim Creswell and others to understand how societal development is in myriad ways defined through ever-increasing mobility: ranging from the concrete transportation systems

enabling the flows of people negotiating everyday urban and global mobilities, to the dynamics of those migrating by choice, to those fleeing (or being left behind) in the face of war, crisis, or conflict.

Specific topics to be discussed from both literary and urban geographic perspective for the context and development of the US American city comprise aspects such as civil rights and urban transportation (e.g., Montgomery Bus Strike), ethnic geographies / black women, conflicts around the public racial body (e.g., in Ferguson: jaywalking, etc.), cultural memory in cities, cities as destinations for immigration, as well as moments of immobility caused by natural or man-made hazards (e.g. Hurricane Katrina, Nine/Eleven) and their literary reconditioning.

History

Lecture: The U.S. in the World Economy Since 1945

Eligibility: Main Module History, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

TUE; 09:15 - 10:45; NUni HS 04a

Course Description:

The U.S. has had a decisive influence on international economic policy issues for more than seventy years. U.S. governments were influential in opening borders to free international trade in international organizations such as the GATT in the post-war era. After the collapse of the Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates in the early 1970s, the U.S. opened a new chapter in the international globalization process by encouraging the liberalization of financial flows and markets. In recent years the North American hegemon has entered yet another stage of global involvement. In times of rising international competition from emerging economies and developing countries, trans-border economic activities and international institutions of the liberal world order are viewed more critically by U.S. citizens and governments. In the presidential elections of 2016 all three major contenders had a protectionist agenda.

This lecture provides a basis for understanding changing U.S. international economic policies at the beginning of the 21st century, with a focus on historical developments since 1945 and essential academic discourses from three academic fields: economic history, international economics and international political economy. After an overview of the characteristics and

historical precedents of economic globalization, students are introduced to theories, analytical tools, empirical studies, prominent policy issues and factual knowledge from these three fields.

The lecture occasionally also puts a focus on the public perception of economic issues and controversies.

Advanced Seminar: U.S. International Economic Policy Issues Since 1945

Eligibility: Main Module History, Research Module History, Flexibility Module

Prof Dr. Welf Werner

TUE; 11:15-12:45; HCA / Oculus

Registration via LSF by March 31, 2019.

Course Description:

Based on the knowledge acquired in the lecture The U.S. in the World Economy Since 1945, this seminar offers opportunities for a more in-depth look at U.S. international economic policy issues as they have emerged in the current globalization era.

The Wednesday hour (14-15 hrs.) is set aside for individual tutoring. The classroom language is English, including student presentations and papers. The number of participants is limited to 20. HCA students have priority. Attending the lecture The U.S. in the World Economy Since 1945 in the summer term 2019 is a prerequisite for this seminar.

Suggested Reading: A reader with all mandatory readings will be made available at the beginning of the semester.

Advanced Seminar: Watergate

Eligibility: Main Module History, Flexibility Module

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach

MON; 14:15-15:45; HCA / Oculus

Registration via email: wmausbach@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

Watergate represents a pivotal moment in U.S. history. The “third-rate burglary” (Richard Nixon) of the Democratic Party headquarters at a drab office building in Washington has become the epitome of political scandal. At the same time, it is an object lesson for the workings of American government (executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as the press, often labeled the “fourth branch”). As such it also serves as a frequent reference point in the current discussion about alleged crimes and misdemeanors of President Donald Trump. In this course, we will survey the Watergate scandal through a variety of primary sources: press reports, memoirs, films, White House and FBI documents, Congressional hearings, as well as legal proceedings and Supreme Court decisions. We will trace the scandal from its antecedents in the late 1960s and early 1970s to its escalation during President Nixon’s second term and all the way through its aftermath and memorialization in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, including its importance in molding the popular perception of current events. After taking this course, you should have a better understanding of one of the major domestic crises in twentieth century U.S. history and—more generally—of some of the inner workings of the American political system. In addition, and equally important, you should have been able to develop your skills of analyzing primary (and secondary sources).

There will be an online reader distributed on Moodle.

Übung: Transcultural brokers in the age of global wars

Eligibility: Main Module History, Flexibility Module

Dr. Takuma Melber

TUE; 14:15-15:45; KJC, Voßstr. 2, R 002

Registration via takuma.melber@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de by April 12, 2019.

Course Description:

In comparison to other nation states are Southeast Asian nations comparatively young. Southeast Asia was one of the most colonized regions in the world and major parts of it were ruled by Western powers for decades or centuries. From the first half of the 20th century on a strong desire for nation states and national independence was increasing in many parts of Southeast Asia. World War II triggered these desires when Japan occupied many parts of Southeast Asia:

Some of the national movements became willing collaborators of the Japanese while on the other hand members of Southeast Asian national movements resisted the Japanese occupying power. When the war was over returning Western powers (such as Great Britain on the Malay Peninsula or the Netherlands in Indonesia) tried to reestablish their colonial sphere of influence over the Southeast Asian territories. National movements now resisted heavily these returning power and after years of turmoils, military conflicts and bloodshed was the decolonization process of Southeast Asia completed.

What are the roots of these national and independence movements in Southeast Asia? How and to which extent were these national movements in Southeast Asia influenced by Western models? The seminar will focus on some selected examples, i.a. the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, and also cover theories of Postcolonial Studies.

A good first introductory reading is:

Nicholas Tarling (ed.): The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia, Volume II, Cambridge 1992.

Übung: Indigenous American Religious Cultures

Eligibility: Main Module History, Flexibility Module

Dr. Benjamin Pietrenka

MON; 09:15-10:45; HCA / Oculus

Registration via benjamin.pietrenka@ts.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

This Übung course will introduce students to the historical and contemporary religious beliefs and practices of Native peoples in the Americas from pre-Columbian times to the late-20th century. The course will highlight both broad and distinctive features of Indigenous religious traditions, look at religious traditions as they existed in several of the major Indigenous civilizations (Aztec, Maya, Inca), and integrate religious ethnographies of contemporary Indigenous peoples and the movements they fostered in the Americas. The assigned readings and class discussions will provide scholarly views on the nature and spread of Indigenous religious culture, the agencies exerted by vanquished peoples, and the challenges their descendants face today. As such, this course will emphasize historical change as a result of colonization, encroachment, and removal

as well as cultural continuities and resistance efforts that demonstrate the resilience and survival of Indigenous religious traditions in contemporary America.

Übung: Transatlantic History of Pietism

Eligibility: Main Module History, Flexibility Module

Dr. Benjamin Pietrenka

MON; 16:15-17:45; HCA / Oculus

Registration via benjamin.pietrenka@ts.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

This Übung will consist of an historical exploration of Continental Pietism, its spread into the Atlantic world and beyond, and the theological texts and traditions that fostered and sustained it over time. The course will focus on major Christian devotional writers that predated, shaped, and transformed Pietism, such as Philip Jakob Spener, August Hermann Francke and Hallensian Pietists, Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf and the Moravians, as well as Johann Albrecht Bengel, Friedrich Christoph Oetinger, and the Württemberg Pietists, among others. The course will also offer an introduction to some of the distinctive features of Pietism as it existed in Great Britain and North America and the transformation of Pietism in the 19th century as the movement grappled with the challenges posed by post-Enlightenment secularization in Europe under the auspices of Friedrich Schleiermacher, Søren Kierkegaard, and the German Awakening movement. As such, this course will balance discussions of theological issues with the historical development and transmission of the movement over time.

Literature and Culture

Lecture: American Modernism

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

THU; 11:15-12:45; Neue Uni / HS 09

Course Description:

This lecture course will assess the multifold contributions of US-American writers to the international movement of modernism. Students will be introduced to different American modernist schools and their cultural and aesthetic philosophies. After a consideration of the uses of the terms 'modern', 'modernity', 'modernist', and 'modernism', we will begin with Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, and H.D., a group of American avant-garde poets who decided to make their home in Europe; we will discuss their contention that a modernist writer must, first and foremost, come to terms with 'tradition.' The second section of the lecture course will deal with the poems and poetic theories of Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams, and Wallace Stevens - poets who adopted an anti-traditionalist, 'nativist' stance. In the third section, we will discuss the modernist orientations of three novelists: Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and William Faulkner. A consideration of the Harlem Renaissance (Langston Hughes, Jean Toomer, and Zora Neale Hurston) in the modernist context and a preview of the literature and philosophy of post-modernism will round out this lecture course. Students should read the following novels before the term starts: Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*, Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, and Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*. The Norton Anthology of American Literature (Volume D: Between the Wars, 1815-1945) offers useful selections from the work of the modernist poets and the Harlem-Renaissance writers. For a general introduction to the period and its writers see Part Four of the Columbia Literary History of the United States, ed. by Emory Eliot (New York, 1988).

Literature:

Suggested text books: Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* (Arrow; ISBN: 9780099908500); F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (Penguin; ISBN: 0241965675; William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* (Vintage Classics; ISBN: 9780099475019). Selections from the poets: The Norton Anthology of American Literature, ed. by Robert Levine et al., 9th edition, vol. D (Norton; ISBN: 0393264556; earlier editions are also o.k.)

Advanced Seminar: 19th Century American Poetry

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Margit Peterfy

THU; 09:15 - 10:45; English Department / Kettengasse 12, R. 333

Please register via email: margit.peterfy@as.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

Throughout the 19th century, American readers preferred and read no literary genre, beside popular novels and biographies, more than poetry. Poetry was ubiquitous; in particular it could be found in newspapers and magazines, where it attracted an audience otherwise not particularly interested in literature. Many of these once popular texts have since been relegated to the remotest stacks in the libraries; however, contemporary critics and large audiences celebrated them as expressions of cultural life in the American republic. As a contrast to - and in some sense also rejection against - this middle-brow mainstream poetic production, two names stand out in US-American literary history: Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman. Both Dickinson and Whitman initiated new, long-lasting trends in American poetry, although their initial historical reception was halting at best. In this seminar, we will look both at the mainstream and the more 'elitist' or 'avant-garde' productions of American poetry, alongside issues of canonization and institutional questions with respect to the 'literary field' (Pierre Bourdieu).

Literature:

Please buy the Course Reader from the Copy Corner as of the beginning of the semester.

Advanced Seminar: Modernism and the Portrait of the Artist Novel

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Günther Leypoldt

TUE; 16:15 - 17:45; English Department / Kettengasse 12, R. 110

Please register via email: leypoldt@as.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

In this seminar, we will look at modernist varieties of the portrait of the artist novel, or *künstlerroman*. Our key text will be James Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916), a semi-autobiographical novel about the artistic and intellectual coming of age of a young Dubliner against the background of turn-of-the-century Irish culture and society. We will consider Joyce's literary and thematic innovations by way of placing him next to writers who engage with modernism in the arts and literature from a slightly different perspective. Jack London's *Martin Eden* (1909) is about a self-educated artist from a working-class family trying to forge a literary career in California at the time of the Gold Rush. Rainer Maria Rilke's *The Notebooks of Malte*

Laurids Brigge (1910) uses the form of a fragmentary fictional diary to explore Rilke's experience as a striving young writer in turn-of-the-century Paris. Émile Zola's slightly earlier novel *The Masterpiece* (1886) fleshes out central themes of the *künstlerroman* by charting the Parisian art scene in the age of impressionist painting. Reading these works will help us to understand how the portrait of the artist novel makes sense of the cultural and literary conditions of modernism (for example, the rise of the city as an imagined utopia and site of literary bohemia, the shift of people's sense of what it means to be a writer or artist under conditions of increasing commercialization and cultural professionalism, the question of the artist's moral or political agency, etc.).

Literature:

Please acquire the following texts: James Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (Norton Critical Edition: ISBN: 978-0393926798); Jack London, *Martin Eden* (Penguin Classics: ISBN: 978-0140187724); Émile Zola, *The Masterpiece* (Oxford World Classics: ISBN: 978-0199536917). For those who read German, Rilke's novel is available in a useful Reclam Edition (ISBN: 978-3150096260), for the others I recommend the English version in the Oxford World Classics edition (ISBN: 978-0199646036).

Advanced Seminar: Seriality in/and American Culture

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

Dr. P. Löffler

THU; 16:15 - 17:45; English Department / Kettengasse 12, R. 112

Registration via email: philipp.loeffler@as.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

The idea of the serial has a long tradition in American cultural history, connecting nineteenth-century novelists with early twentieth-century radio pioneers, commercial TV-Shows of the postwar era, and the recent boom in serial storytelling, exemplified not least by the HBO and Netflix universes, but also social media platforms, such as twitter and Instagram.

Our goal in this seminar will be to tell a coherent story of this history at the same time that we will focus on individual case studies that will allow us to ask particular questions about the idea and the uses of seriality: When did serial storytelling and publication become an important issue

in American cultural history? What were the advantages and uses of the serial to present one's fictional or non-fictional product (as opposed to other formats and genres)? How does the idea of seriality relate to market speculations? In how far can we compare a nineteenth-century serial novel to a contemporary Netflix show?

In engaging with these questions, we will read/watch a selection of iconic serials in diverse media genres, familiarize ourselves with a set of prominent serial story telling techniques, and learn about the uses of seriality as a marketing tool. Last but not least, I want to test out how or whether we can assess the most contemporary social media forms (e.g. twitter, Instagram etc.) through the lens of the serial.

Literature:

Please buy Harriet Beecher Stowe Uncle Tom's Cabin (Norton). All other texts will be part of a reader to be purchased at the beginning of the term.

Proseminar: Poe and his Contemporaries

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

S. Isaak

TUE; 14:30 – 16:00; English Department / Kettengasse 12, R. 110

Registration via Signup.

Course Description:

Edgar Allan Poe was both a man of his times and a forerunner. Credited with having invented new literary genres like the detective story, science fiction, the prose poem or the newspaper hoax, Poe's legacy remains invaluable to twentieth-century and twenty-first century popular culture. As a feared literary critic and editor of leading literary newspapers and magazines, Poe was in constant dialogue with his contemporaries, particularly with the Transcendentalists. We will examine Poe's multifaceted writing in his role as both a literary critic and as an author of the American Renaissance.

The course will begin by examining Poe's essays 'The Philosophy of Composition' and 'The Poetic Principle' as well as representative poems like 'The Raven', 'The Bells' and 'Annabel Lee', comparing these with a selection of poems by his contemporaries. Next, some of Poe's dark tales like 'The Tell-Tale Heart', 'The Cask of Amontillado' and 'The Fall of the House of Usher', as well

as his review of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Twice Told Tales* will be discussed. In this context, we will take up Hawthorne's 'The Minister's Black Veil' and Washington Irving's 'Rip Van Winkle.' This will be followed by the detective trilogy and a consideration of how Poe's model served as a blueprint for future detective fiction. Finally, we will examine Poe's only novel, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym* and discuss affinities with themes from Hermann Melville's *Moby Dick*.

Literature:

William Dean Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham*

Henry James, *Portrait of a Lady*

Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*

Frank Norris, *McTeague*

Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*

Please read the novels before the beginning of the semester. A Reader with shorter texts will be made available by the beginning of the semester.

Proseminar: Philip Roth

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

Dr. E. Hänßgen

FRI, 11:15 - 12:45; English Department / Kettengasse 12, R. 116

Registration via Signup.

Course Description:

Philip Roth (1933-2018) was one of the finest and most widely acclaimed American novelists and a truly prolific author: his oeuvre comprises thirty-one books, ending with *Nemesis* in 2010.

The basis of this course is a thorough study of four books: *Goodbye, Columbus* (1959), a collection of fiction which started his career, *Operation Shylock: A Confession* (1993), set in Israel during the First Intifada and the Demjanjuk war crimes trial, and his last two novels, *The Humbling* (2009), about an aging stage actor, and *Nemesis* (2010), set in 1944 during a - fictitious - polio epidemic.

Our analysis will cover various aspects of Roth's work, among them Jewish-American identity, gender relations and family, and the postmodern play with the distinction between life and art. As Roth told Hermione Lee in 1984: 'Making fake biography, false history, concocting a half-

imaginary existence out of the actual drama of my life is my life. There has to be some pleasure in this job, and that's it.'

Literature:

Please purchase and read the texts in these editions:

Roth, Philip.

- Goodbye, Columbus. 1959. New York: Random House, 2006.
- The Humbling. Boston; New York: Houghton Mifflin Hartcourt, 2009.
- Nemesis. 2010. London: Vintage, 2011.
- Operation Shylock: A Confession. 1993. New York: Random House, 1994.

Proseminar: Crime Fiction

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

Dr. P. Löffler

THU; 14:15 - 15:45; English Department / Kettengasse 12, R. 112

Registration via Signup.

Course Description:

This course investigates the history and the forms of crime fiction and the detective novel in particular. We will start out with nineteenth-century pioneers, such as E.A. Poe, Wilkie Collins, and Sir Arthur Canon Doyle, then look at two prominent examples of so called hard boiled detective fiction - Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon* and Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep* - and finally focus on contemporary appropriations of the genre as it expands and subverts earlier traditions of the detective novel.

In reading these texts, we will ask questions pertaining to the aesthetics of the crime novel and to its social function: How is crime presented? What are literary strategies to deal with murder, theft, and abduction? Why is it relevant for societies to tell particular versions of the 'Whodunnit'-story? What can we learn about prevalent notions of good and evil? What, after all, is the relationship between crime fiction and crime in reality?

Texts:

Arthur Canon Doyle A Study in Scarlet AMPERSAND The Sign of the Four (Wordsworth Classics),
Dashiell Hammett The Maltese Falcon(Vintage Crime), Raymond Chandler The Big Sleep(Penguin
Modern Classics), Denis Lehane Live by Night(Harper Collins)

Proseminar: Literature of the Spectacle in US-American Literature

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Margit Peterfy

TUE; 14:15 - 15:45; English Department / Kettengasse 12, R. 114

Registration via Signup.

Course Description:

In this seminar, we will read 19th-century literary texts alongside performative adaptations that I term 'spectacles' because they emphasized pluri-medial aesthetic experiences instead of the abstract written word. In the last decades of the nineteenth century, US-American city dwellers were not just enthusiastic readers of popular literature, but also frequent theatre-goers. In their search for ever new forms of engagement with literature, they also created and attended other forms of public performances. In this seminar, we will look at a sample of these hybrid performative genres, such as burlesques, musicals, melodramas, carnivals, vaudeville productions, extravaganzas, pageants, etc. We will examine these examples of American popular culture with the critical tools of performance and media studies, and with the help of digital archives and electronic databases.

Literature:

Participation in classroom discussions, oral presentation, term paper.

Texts: A Reader with relevant texts will be available in the Copy Corner as of the beginning of the semester.

Proseminar: Chicano/a Literatur

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Margit Peterfy

TUE; 09:15 - 10:45; English Department / Kettengasse 12, R. 110

Registration via Signup.

Course Description:

In this seminar we will look at the development of Chicano/a (or, in Juan Felipe Herrera's spelling, Chican@) literature in the United States since the 1960s. Although individual writers with a Spanish language background had published their works in the US long before this date, it was in this turbulent decade that the notion of a common cultural (and sometimes biographical) heritage, plus a growing political awareness, inspired writers to see themselves as part of a new movement. We are going to read a cross-section from this particular literary tradition, starting with some early works published by the publishing house Quinto Sol Publications, through the, by now, 'classics' of Chican@ literature by Rudolfo Anaya and Sandra Cisneros, and finishing with contemporary writers, such as the former Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera.

Texts: Please buy and read the following longer texts:

Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me Ultima*. (1973)

Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*. (1984)

A Reader with shorter texts will be available in the Copy Corner as of the beginning of the semester.

Political Science

Advanced Seminar: Congress, Parties, Voters: The Domestic Perspective on US Foreign Policy

Eligibility: Main Module Political Science, Flexibility Module

Dr. Florian Böller

FRI; 11:15-12:45; HCA / Oculus

Registration via LSF by March 31, 2019

Course Description:

Foreign policy decisions in democracies are not just the result of power relations among states. Rather, the domestic setting influences the international course of countries. This perspective of a “second-image” in IR also applies to the United States. Against this backdrop, the seminar examines the domestic setting and politics of US foreign policy. Specifically the seminar will investigate the influence of actors and institutions outside the core executive, i.e. the president. Often overlooked, US Congress, partisan politics, and electoral cycles shape foreign policy decision making. After reviewing the US system of checks & balances and its implications for foreign policy, the seminar will discuss several case studies: For example, the topic of congressional checks on presidential wars, treaty politics in the US Senate, public opinion on global issues, and partisan polarization in foreign affairs.

Literature:

Rosati, Jerel A./Scott, James M. 2011: *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*, 5. ed., Boston (MA).

Lindsay, James M. 1994: *Congress and the Politics of U.S. Foreign Policy*, Baltimore (MD).

Krutz, Glen S./Peake, Jeffrey S. (2009): *Treaty Politics and the Rise of Executive Agreements. International Commitments in a System of Shared Powers*, Ann Arbor (MI).

Eichenberg, Richard C. 2005: *Victory Has Many Friends. U.S. Public Opinion and the Use of Military Force, 1981-2005*, in: *International Security* 30:1, S. 140-177.

Milner, Helen V./Tingley, Dustin 2015: *Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy*, Princeton (NJ) et al.

Advanced Seminar: The American Presidency: Politics, Literature, Culture

Eligibility: Main Module Political Science, Research Module Political Science, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Martin Thunert, Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

TUE; 14:15 - 15:45; HCA / Oculus

Registration via LSF by March 31, 2019

Course Description:

Co-taught by a political scientist and a literary historian, this interdisciplinary seminar will trace the relationship between the sphere of American politics and the cultural and literary realms from the early republic onwards to the present day. We will assess the ways in which the presidency has changed and yet – from a constitutional point of view – has remained the same over the past 229 years. We shall look at models and tools of presidential leadership, discuss campaign-related issues and study how the American public regards the office. The literature and culture component will address the following questions: What is the attitude, American presidents have taken towards literature and the arts? How have literature and the arts dealt with the institution of the American presidency as well as with individual presidents? Have the emergence of modern media and the increasing importance of popular culture changed the way people view presidents? How has the rise of the social media transformed the relationship between the president and the public?

Students will be introduced to various controversies, theories, and multidisciplinary perspectives concerning the U.S. presidency. From Alexander Hamilton's contributions to the Federalist Papers to current reactions of writers and journalists to the campaign and presidency of Donald Trump, we will study primary source materials as well as read classic and contemporary works – fiction and non-fiction – to uncover many facets of the office and of the personalities that held it.

Most of the material to be discussed will be made available on Moodle2.

Literature:

Mausbach, Wilfried, Dietmar Schloss, and Martin Thunert: "The American Presidency: History, Politics, Culture", in: *The American Presidency. Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. Eds. Wilfried Mausbach, Dietmar Schloss and Martin Thunert, Heidelberg: Winter Verlag, 2012. 1-36.

Proseminar: U.S. Foreign Policy in the Trump Era

Eligibility: Main Module Political Science, Research Module Political Science, Flexibility Module

Gordon Friedrichs

WED; 18:00 - 20:00; BergheimerS 58, SR 02.034

Registration via email: gordon.friedrichs@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

This course examines traditional themes and patterns of U.S. foreign policy in the light of the current Trump administration. Students will explore institutions and individuals responsible for foreign policy decision making while considering different levels of analysis, i.e. the international system, domestic politics, as well as organizational and bureaucratic explanations. The goal is to obtain a fundamental understanding about the more general forces shaping U.S. foreign policy and apply this knowledge to the Trump presidency.

Besides acquiring theoretical and analytical knowledge, students will engage with a broad variety of empirical cases on how U.S. foreign policy (and international order) has been shaped by the Trump presidency, across various policy areas. This includes, but is not limited to cases of policy towards pivotal areas such as Europe, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East.

The course will use readings, discussions, case studies, and practical examinations to illuminate general patterns and processes, but also specific choices and trade-offs of U.S. foreign policy in the Trump Era and beyond.

Religion and Culture

Lecture: History of American Evangelicalism from the Civil War to the Present

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

TUE; 11:00-13:00; Neue Uni / HS 06

WED; 11:00-13:00; Neue Uni / HS 06

Course Description:

The evangelical movement is often regarded as the most distinct feature of the American religious landscape. It has had a major influence on U.S. culture and society more generally. This lecture course offers a survey of the history American evangelicalism from the era following its ascendancy in the pre-Civil War period through the present day. We will look at how evangelical churches dealt with the challenges of industrialization, urbanization, and cultural as well as theological modernization in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, culminating in the Fundamentalist-Modernist controversy. The lecture will discuss the ways in which evangelicals have been involved in American politics, especially since the rise of the Religious Right and the

close alliance with the GOP. Students will also be familiarized with the great theological, ethnic and social diversity of evangelical Christianity and learn about the rise of Pentecostalism and non-denominational mega-churches.

After the lecture class on Wednesday (11-12) we will discuss one central primary document relevant to each week's topic. This additional "Quellenübung" is highly recommended but optional.

Recommended Reading:

Mark A. Noll, *American Evangelical Christianity: An Introduction*(Blackwell, 2001).

Barry Hankins. *American Evangelicals: A Contemporary History of a Mainstream Movement*. Lanham, 2008.

Advanced Seminar: Issues and Theories in American Religious History

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Research Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

THU; 14:15-15:45; HCA / Meeting Room

Registration via stievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

Geared toward students specializing in American religious history, this advanced seminar will examine important theories and issues currently debated in the field. This semester's focus will be on recent literature exploring unorthodox forms of religion, skepticism, and forms of anti-religious thought from the colonial period to the present. But our course reading list will accommodate student interests and projects.

A reading list will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Advanced Seminar: Race and Religion in American Culture

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Research Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann; Prof. Paul Harvey

22.06., 28.06., 29.06., 05.07.: 10:00-17:00; HCA / Oculus

Registration via stievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

This compact seminar gives students the opportunity to engage with one of the leading experts on race and religion in the US: Prof. Paul Harvey, who comes to Heidelberg as the eighth recipient of the James W.C. Pennington Award. The class will examine four main areas: History, Politics, Popular Culture and Sports. Through each we examine cultural artifacts that show the intersections of religion and race in US culture and the different ways in which race has been produced, applied and perpetuated in American history from the colonial to the present period. By looking at a broad range of cultural products such as historical texts, art, film, court decisions, political speeches, literature, and music, students will be familiarized with many different facets in the contentious relationship between religion and race in American culture.

Please buy and read the following text: Paul Harvey and Edward J. Blum. *The Color of Christ: The Son of God and the Saga of Race in America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012.

Advanced Seminar: Religion in Contemporary America

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Research Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

THU; 11:15-12:45; HCA / Oculus

Registration via stievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

This course offers an advanced introduction to religion in contemporary America from a multidisciplinary angle, taking into account the multiple intersections of religion with politics, race, sexuality/gender, class, and broader trends of historical change. We will explore the transformations of the American religious landscape from the 1950s up to the present day,

looking at the major traditions including mainline Protestantism, the evangelical-Pentecostal family of churches, Catholicism, Judaism, African-American religions and new religious movements. The course will engage with questions surrounding secularization and examine how religious thought in the US has moved from traditional systematic theology to approaches such as black and feminist theology.

Please buy and read: Charles H. Lippy and Eric Tranby. *Religion in Contemporary America*. Routledge, 2013.

Übung: Rhetoric of the American Apocalypse

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Caitlin Smith Oyekole

FRI; 09:00-11:00; HCA / Oculus

Registration via Caitlin.B.Smith.1023@nd.edu

Course Description:

Why are Americans constantly predicting their own doom? From Michael Wigglesworth's 'Day of Doom'(1662) to the bestselling Left Behind series (1995-2007), the impending apocalypse remains a recurrent trope of American fiction. The Puritan jeremiad, abolitionist novel, Cold War intrigue, and cli-fi thriller all predict imminent disaster to argue for urgent action, reform, or protest. The term 'Apocalypse' implies a teleological history; the 'American Apocalypse' implies one in which 'being American' matters. American stories about 'the End' –whether a cosmic, national, or global end—are also stories about America's role (if any) in bringing about that end.

American apocalyptic fiction promises a true glimpse into a hidden reality (spiritual, political, or scientific). It persuades its readers to either hasten or avert a national progression towards eschaton, utopia, or annihilation. By presenting the American story from the privileged vantage-point of the apocalyptic prophet, the narratives on our syllabus argue for a specialized, totalizing view of history, culture, and nationhood. In this course, we analyze how and why the American apocalypse endures as a rhetorical means of constructing, challenging, reforming, and rewriting national identity. A course reader will be available at the beginning of the semester.

Übung: Indigenous American Religious Cultures

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Dr. Benjamin Pietrenka

MON; 09:00-11:00; HCA / Oculus

Registration via benjamin.pietrenka@ts.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

This Übung course will introduce students to the historical and contemporary religious beliefs and practices of Native peoples in the Americas from pre-Columbian times to the late-20th century. The course will highlight both broad and distinctive features of Indigenous religious traditions, look at religious traditions as they existed in several of the major Indigenous civilizations (Aztec, Maya, Inca), and integrate religious ethnographies of contemporary Indigenous peoples and the movements they fostered in the Americas. The assigned readings and class discussions will provide scholarly views on the nature and spread of Indigenous religious culture, the agencies exerted by vanquished peoples, and the challenges their descendants face today. As such, this course will emphasize historical change as a result of colonization, encroachment, and removal as well as cultural continuities and resistance efforts that demonstrate the resilience and survival of Indigenous religious traditions in contemporary America.

Proseminar: Transatlantic History of Pietism

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Research Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Dr. Benjamin Pietrenka

MON; 16:00-18:00; HCA / Oculus

Registration via benjamin.pietrenka@ts.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

This Übung will consist of an historical exploration of Continental Pietism, its spread into the Atlantic world and beyond, and the theological texts and traditions that fostered and sustained it over time. The course will focus on major Christian devotional writers that predated, shaped, and transformed Pietism, such as Philip Jakob Spener, August Hermann Francke and Hallensian Pietists, Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf and the Moravians, as well as Johann Albrecht Bengel,

Friedrich Christoph Oetinger, and the Württemberg Pietists, among others. The course will also offer an introduction to some of the distinctive features of Pietism as it existed in Great Britain and North America and the transformation of Pietism in the 19th century as the movement grappled with the challenges posed by post-Enlightenment secularization in Europe under the auspices of Friedrich Schleiermacher, Søren Kierkegaard, and the German Awakening movement. As such, this course will balance discussions of theological issues with the historical development and transmission of the movement over time.

Proseminar: Introduction to American Religious History

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Research Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Ryan Hoselton, M.Div., M.Th.

MON; 11:00-13:00; HCA / TBA

Registration via ryan.hoselton@ts.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description: TBA

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