

Masterstudiengang JFKI:

Kultur-Modul A

(Amerikanische Ideengeschichte und Theorien amerikanischer Kultur):

Vorlesung

**Lecture Course A2:
A Revolutionary Culture:
Sources of America's Political Imaginary**

Prof. Dr. F. Kelleter

Monday, 14.15 – 16.00 (JFK 319)
(Winter Semester 2016/2017)

This lecture course deals with the sources of a political imaginary in the United States, focusing on documents, debates, and artifacts from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Topics include the impact of the American Revolution on native cultures, the cultural work of *The Federalist*, the French Revolution in America, the parallel emergence of political parties and a national political press, the South and slavery, as well as other issues.

The lecture course serves as “**Vorlesung**” of Culture-**Module A** (*Amerikanische Ideengeschichte und Theorien amerikanischer Kultur*) in the **Master’s degree program**. Recommended preparatory background reading: Frank Kelleter, *Amerikanische Aufklärung: Sprachen der Rationalität im Zeitalter der Revolution* (2002, will be made available on the reserve shelf for this course in the library). **Registration:** All participants must be registered via Blackboard *and* Campus Management before the first session. If you cannot register online or cannot attend the first session, please contact Prof. Kelleter before the beginning of the term. **Requirements:** see Syllabus and Course Description (on Blackboard). Students can take this lecture course in conjunction with the seminar “The American Enlightenment” (same room, immediately after the lecture).

17 October 2016

Discourses and Ideologies of the American Revolution

Reading: John Dickinson, from *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*: "Letter I"; from *The Letters of John and Abigail Adams* (selections); Thomas Paine, from *The Age of Reason* (selections); Thomas Jefferson, from "The Autobiography of Thomas Jefferson" (selections).

Suggested: Frank Kelleter, from *Amerikanische Aufklärung*: chapter 7 (381-429) (*).

Further Suggested Reading: from *Amerikanische Literaturgeschichte* (ed. Hubert Zapf): Hartwig Isernhagen, "Die Kolonien des 18. Jahrhunderts" (*), Helmbrecht Breinig, Susanne Opfermann, "Die Literatur der frühen Republik" (*).

24 October 2016

From the French and Indian War to *Common Sense* and the Declaration of Independence

Reading: Thomas Paine, from *Common Sense*: "Thoughts on the Present State of American Affairs"; Thomas Jefferson et al., "The Declaration of Independence"; Frank Kelleter, "1776: John Adams Disclaims Authorship of *Common Sense* but Helps Declare Independence."

31 October 2016

The Cultural Work of *The Federalist*

Reading: Alexander Hamilton, "The Federalist No. 1"; James Madison, "The Federalist No. 10".

Suggested: Kelleter, from *Amerikanische Aufklärung*: chapter 8.2 (474-500). (*)

Further Suggested Reading: Kelleter, from *Amerikanische Aufklärung*: chapters 8.3 (500-533) and 8.4 (533-46) (*).

7 November 2016

The Constitution

Reading: *Constitution of the United States of America*.

Suggested: Kelleter, from *Amerikanische Aufklärung*: chapters 8.3 (500-533) and 8.4 (533-46) (*).

14 November 2016

– [no session] –

21 November 2016

The French Revolution in America

Reading: Edmund Burke, from *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (selections); Thomas Paine, from *Rights of Man* (selections); Noah Webster, from *The Revolution in France*: chapter "Religion"; John Adams, *Discourses on Davila* (selections).

28 November 2016

Newspaper Wars and the Beginnings of Party Politics

Reading: The Alien and Sedition Acts; Thomas Jefferson, "Draft of the Kentucky Resolutions"; [James Madison,] "Virginia Resolutions Against the Alien and Sedition Acts"; selections from *Aurora General Advertiser*, *Porcupine's Gazette*, *Gazette of the United States* and other sources.

Suggested: James Madison, "Report on the Alien and Sedition Acts."

5 December 2016

Republican Poetry (1)

Reading: Joel Barlow, *The Hasty Pudding*.

12 December 2016

Republican Poetry (2)

Reading: Timothy Dwight, from *Greenfield Hill*: "The Flourishing Village," "The Destruction of the Pequods" (selections); Phillis Wheatley, "On Being Brought from Africa to America," "To the University of Cambridge, in New England"; Philip Freneau, "The Wild Honey

Suckle," "The Indian Burying Ground."

Suggested: Oliver Goldsmith, "The Deserted Village"; George Crabbe, "The Village" (selections); Wheatley, "On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield, 1770."

2 January 2017

– [no session] –

9 January 2017

Nationalist Agrarians, Vanishing Indians

Reading: Thomas Jefferson, from *Notes on the State of Virginia*: selections from "Query VI: A notice of the mines and other subterraneous riches"; François Marbois, "Journey to the Oneidas"; Philip Freneau, "The Indian Student, or Force of Nature"; William Cullen Bryant, "The Prairies."

16 January 2017

The Beginnings of Ethnic Identity Politics

Reading: Olaudah Equiano, from *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself*: "To the Lords Spiritual and Temporal," selected chapters; William Apess, "An Indian's Looking Glass for the White Man."

23 January 2017

The Sentimental Novel

Reading: Susanna Rowson, from *Charlotte Temple*: "Preface," chapters 1, 6-7, 14-15, 17-18, 20, 22, 25-28, 32-35 or Hannah Webster Foster, from *The Coquette*: Letters 1-6, 8, 11-13, 15, 18, 21-22, 25, 36, 42-43, 48, 57, 61-62, 70-74.

Suggested: Kelleter, from *Amerikanische Aufklärung*: chapter 12 (708-66) (*); Foster, *The Coquette* (complete text) (*).

30 January 2017

American Gothic

Required: Charles Brockden Brown, from *Wieland, or The Transformation*: chapters 1-3, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16-17, 19, 22, 27.

Suggested: Brown, *Wieland* (complete text) (*).

6 February 2017

The Western Fictions of James Fenimore Cooper

Reading: Cooper, from *The Pioneers*: chapters 2-3; from *The Last of the Mohicans*: selections from chapters 17 and 33.

13 February 2017

The South and Slavery

Reading: Thomas Jefferson, from *Notes on the State of Virginia*: selections from "Query XIV: Laws"; John Pendleton Kennedy, from *Swallow Barn*: "A word in advance from the Author to the Reader" (Preface to the 1851-edition), "Introductory Epistle," chapters 1, 2, 7, 18, 31, 46-48; selections from *The Confessions of Nat Turner*.

Unmarked texts are included in the course reader, which can be purchased at Copy Shop Königin-Luise-Straße. Marked texts (*) are not included in the course reader; they will be made available on the reserve shelf in the JFKI library.

This lecture course serves as “Vorlesung” of Culture-Module A in the M.A. program.

Documentation of attendance: In each session (except the first), you will be asked to quote (in writing, in-class) one **key-sentence** from the material you have studied **for this session**. Alternatively, you can provide what you consider a **key thought (in one sentence) from last week’s lecture**. Altogether, you need to have provided **at least 10 such in-class notes** by the end of the semester.

(If you cannot attend a specific session, the in-class note can be substituted by a 600-word abstract of the reading assignments or a 600-word summary of last week’s class, to be e-mailed to me no later than the day you’re missing class!)

Documentation of active attendance: **One-page informal reflection paper** on a session of your choice, to be handed in (e-mail) **by 13 February 2017**.

Electronic etiquette policy: You will not be able to follow a lecture with undivided attention when you’re simultaneously surfing the Web. Laptop or tablet screens can also be a distraction for other students. Therefore, I suggest that you take your notes on paper. Only if absolutely necessary, use laptops or tablets for note-taking, and if you do, please disconnect your device from the internet. In addition, please turn off all cell phones in the beginning of class. Thank you!