

# ANKÜNDIGUNGSTEXTE KELLETER (SOMMERSEMESTER 2016)

## VORLESUNGEN

### **Discourses and Practices of Colonization and Settlement**

This lecture course deals with colonial societies and intercultural contact zones in North America between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. We will look at competing European settler cultures, practices of intercultural conflict and intermixture, as well as interdependent socio-economic, aesthetic, and ecological transformations in early modern times (shifting perspective from a Europe-centered narrative of “discovery” to a postcolonial account of conflictive hybridity). Topics include: Early European New World writings (Bacon, Montaigne, Shakespeare, Las Casas, De Vaca, etc.), the first British descriptions of Virginia and New England (John Smith, Thomas Harriot, William Bradford, Thomas Morton), Puritan writings both orthodox and heterodox (John Winthrop, Anne Hutchinson, Edward Taylor, Anne Bradstreet, and others), Indian captivity narratives and missionary tracts (Mary Rowlandson, John Eliot, the Gookins), mental and intellectual shifts in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and in the context of the Great Awakening (Cotton Mather, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Chauncy, Benjamin Franklin). This lecture course serves as "**Vorlesung**" of **Culture-Module A** ("*Amerikanische Ideengeschichte und Theorien amerikanischer Kultur*") in the M.A. program. **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).

(Tuesday, 4-6, JFKI 319.)

### **American Culture after World War II**

Having emerged from World War II as a world power, the United States faced numerous problems of cultural self-definition in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Cold War produced not only an ideology of international leadership but also new anxieties about America's social identity and its changed position in the world. Topics discussed in this lecture course include the advent of a postindustrial economic order, suburbanization, the decline of New Deal liberalism, the entangled rise of cultural radicalism on the left and right. In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, many of these developments have been radicalized under conditions of military hegemony, globalized capitalism, corporate anti-statism, and potentially catastrophic ecological transformations. Altogether, the lecture course focuses on select phases and moments of *cultural production* between 1945 and 2016, when American novels and films, TV shows and songs defined the global state of art in their respective fields. This has been one of the most innovative but also one of the most nervous periods in American

cultural history, equally playful and belligerent, hilarious and outrageous. It gave us the Beat Movement, the 1960s counterculture, PopArt, the New Hollywood, the blockbuster movie, postmodernism, identity politics, neoliberalism, meritocratic extremism, various golden ages of television, transmedia franchises, and the internet. We will concentrate on literary sources but individual sessions will also be dedicated to political and sociological writings, television, and other cultural fields. The lecture course serves as "**Vorlesung**" of Culture-**Module C** ("*Kulturgeschichte einzelner Medien und ästhetischer Darstellungsformen*") in the M.A. program. **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 "Media, Aesthetics, Culture (1945-2016)" (same room, immediately after the lecture); other seminars in Module C will be available as well.

(Monday, 2-4, JFKI 319.)

## **HAUPTSEMINARE**

### **Media, Aesthetics, Culture (1945-2016)**

This seminar builds on—and ideally should be taken in conjunction with—the lecture course "American Culture after World War II" (same room, immediately preceding the seminar). It serves as "**Hauptseminar**" of Culture-**Module C** ("*Kulturgeschichte einzelner Medien und ästhetischer Darstellungsformen*") in the **Master's program**. Unlike the lecture, this course will be almost completely student-driven: participants will be in charge of nearly all sessions, topics, and discussions. While the lecture course provides broad historical background information, focusing on a wide range of representative texts (mostly but not exclusively literary), the seminar will concentrate on the aesthetics and politics of media transformations in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, especially concerning the (often implicit) influence of digital communication on American literature, cinema, television, and comics (or popular music). Participants are expected to have familiarized themselves with theories of media change before the semester starts (see, for instance, Jay Bolter and Richard Grusin, *Remediation: Understanding New Media* and/or Lisa Gitelman, *Always Already New: Media, History, and the Data of Culture*). All participants will have to propose potential research projects in the beginning of the term (compare Seminar Description; further readings listed there). **Registration:** All participants must be registered via Blackboard *and* Campus Management before the first session. If you cannot register online, please contact Prof. Kelleter before the beginning of the term. **Requirements and Organization:** See Seminar Description (on Blackboard). To participate in this course, you need to be present and prepared in the first session. Preparation includes being ready to present and discuss possible research topics. If you would like to participate but cannot attend the first session, please contact Prof. Kelleter immediately (not later than April 11).

(Monday, 4-6, JFKI 319.)

## **GRADUATE SCHOOL**

### **Advanced Theory and Methods in the Study of Culture**

This course continues last semester's "Theory and Methods in the Study of Culture." Members of the Graduate School are invited to attend. Please register prior to the first class with Prof. Kelleter.

(Tuesday, 12-2, Graduate School.)

### **POLICY FOR B.A. AND M.A. THESES**

If you want Prof. Kelleter to be advisor/first reader of your Master's Thesis ("Abschlussarbeit"), you should have written at least one paper in one of his seminars. Alternatively, you can use one of his seminars (preferably plus lecture course) as an M.A. colloquium, in which you will present your M.A. project. You will have to choose a topic connected to the seminar's material. Similar arrangements can be made for B.A.-Theses (please discuss in office hours). Seminar topics are always broad enough—usually covering an entire period—to provide interesting material for a final Thesis to all students of American cultural history.