VORLESUNG

A Revolutionary Culture: Sources of America’s Political Imaginary

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 emergence and consolidation of a “republican” elite during and after the American Revolution, the cultural work of The Federalist, the French Revolution in America, the parallel appearance of political parties and a national political press, the Haitian Revolution, the South and slavery, the impact of the American Revolution on native cultures, the advent of the novel and its early genres (sentimental, Gothic, historical) as well as other issues.

The 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). First session: October 15.

(Tuesday, 4–6, JFKI 340)

HAUPTSEMINAR

Post-Classical Theory

This seminar serves as “Hauptseminar” of Culture-Module A (also possible: Module C) in the Master's degree program. It will deal with select examples of cultural theory that have emerged after the “classical” paradigms of psychoanalysis, phenomenology, traditional Marxism and their poststructuralist inflections. Individual sessions will be dedicated to field theory, actor-network-theory, systems theory, post-critique, affect theory; additional topics (to be chosen and prepared by students) can include, but are not restricted to, intersectionality, critical race theory, critical whiteness studies, new queer theories, contemporary types of media studies, post-cinema theory, critical university studies, perspectives on “settler colonialism”, global history, theories of neoliberalism, and other paradigms. Unlike Prof. Kelleter’s lecture course, this seminar will be largely student-driven; about half of the sessions will be designed and moderated by the participants. Students are expected to
familiarize themselves with potential course material (theoretical paradigms and texts) before the first meeting, when all participants will be asked to propose and sign up for one session topic (theoretical paradigm and/or set of texts) for classroom use (compare Syllabus). **Registration:** All participants must be registered via Blackboard and Campus Management prior to the first session. If you cannot register online, please contact Prof. Kelleter before the beginning of the term. **Requirements and Organization:** See Syllabus and Course Description (on Blackboard). To participate in this course, you need to be present and prepared in the first session (no exceptions)! If you would like to participate but cannot attend the first session, please contact Prof. Kelleter no later than October 8. **First session:** October 22.

(Tuesday, 6–8, JFKI 319.)

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**GRADUATE SCHOOL**

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

This Ph.D.-course deals with theoretical and methodological issues in the study of American culture, focusing on current research projects (doctoral and post-doctoral level) at the John F. Kennedy Institute. Members of the Graduate School are invited to attend; please register prior to the first class with Prof. Kelleter (no later than October 9).

(Tuesday, 2–4, Graduate School.)

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**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 a B.A.-Thesis (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.