

# Abteilung Kultur – Wintersemester 2017/18

## Bachelor

### *Grundlagenmodul*

32001 Kunkel/Lüthe/Wege

#### **Understanding North America A**

Fr. 10-12 und 14-16 Uhr, Hörsaal 1b

Dieser 6 SWS umfassende, interdisziplinäre Grundkurs soll allen Studierenden des Studienganges "Nordamerikastudien" einen Überblick über die Entwicklung der amerikanischen Literatur, Kultur und Geschichte vermitteln. Mit Hilfe von computergestützten Lehr- und Lernmaterialien werden historische und gegenwartsbezogene Grundlagen vermittelt. Zentrale Problemkreise und Texte werden zunächst in einer Vorlesung dargestellt und anschließend in den obligatorischen Tutorien weiter vertieft. Der Überblicks- und Einführungscharakter dieser Lehrveranstaltung legt nahe, sie im ersten Semester zu besuchen. Die Studierenden sollen dabei nicht nur mit inhaltlichem Fachwissen vertraut gemacht, sondern auch für disziplinübergreifende Fragestellungen sensibilisiert werden. Durch den auf diese Weise vermittelten Einblick in disziplintypische Herangehensweisen soll der Kurs zudem bei der Auswahl der Studienschwerpunkte helfen. Scheinerwerb: Regelmäßige Teilnahme an Vorlesung und Tutorium, Kurzsays und Abschlussklausur. Students may consider purchasing the following two readers for their personal North American Studies library: - Laura Belmonte (ed.), *Speaking of America: A Reader in U.S. History*, 2 vols., 2nd ed., (Boston: Cengage, 2006); - Paul Boyer et al., *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People*, 8th ed. (Boston: Cengage, 2014).

### *Multidisziplinäre Studien A oder B - Ringvorlesung*

32000 Kienscherf/Lüthe

#### **Ringvorlesung Capitalism and the North American City**

Mi 18-20 Uhr, Hörsaal 1b

### *Orientierungsmodul Kultur - Proseminar*

32100 Alexander Starre

#### **Rhetorics of Continuity and Change: A Survey of American Cultural History**

Mi 8-10, Raum 319

This course provides an extended overview of American cultural history ranging from the period of British settlement in the 17th century to present issues in US society. We will read influential texts (speeches, legal documents, essays, etc.) by authors such as John Cotton, Thomas Jefferson, Frederick Douglass, Randolph Bourne, Martin Luther King, Betty Friedan, and Joan Didion. Throughout our readings, we will explore public rhetoric as key factors shaping the cultural trajectory of the United States. After a brief introduction to basic methodologies of cultural analysis, students

will investigate the rhetorical, structural, and discursive features of the primary texts through close readings. We will also explore select representations from the fields of visual culture, art, and film. In addition, students need to do independent research on a selection of key terms that are essential for understanding the evolution of American public discourse and intellectual history. ----- **Please note:** This course functions as "Proseminar" in the "B.A. Aufbaumodul Kultur." As such, it builds on the lecture course "Understanding North America" and accompanies the seminar "Theorizing Culture." The module exam can be taken in either one of the two courses of the Aufbaumodul.

### *Vertiefungsmodul Kultur*

32101 Lauren Kroiz

#### **Race and Representation in the United States since 1890**

(Vertiefungsseminar A+B)

Mi 10-12 Uhr, Raum 319 (first session November 1)

This class focuses on theories and visualizations of race in the United States during the twentieth century. Class sessions will be organized around chronological case studies of diverse subjects made in varied media, including Thomas Dewing's tonalist paintings, baby albums, the art of the Harlem Renaissance, photographs of WWII Japanese American internment, civil rights movement posters, and conceptual art by the collective ASCO. Drawing on critical theories of race and representation, in this course we will interrogate complex and sometimes vexing notions of race, ethnicity, visibility, visibility, authorship, identity and display in historical context. ----- **Please register at:** [culture@jfki.fu-berlin.de](mailto:culture@jfki.fu-berlin.de)

32102 Caroline Heuer

#### **Patrolling Boundaries, Mediating Differences: Ekphrasis and the Contemporary Novel** (Vertiefungsseminar A)

Mi 14-16 Uhr, Raum 203

Ekphrasis – the verbal representation of visual art – is a literary device prominently employed by a number of contemporary U.S. novelists such as Don DeLillo, Rachel Kushner, Siri Hustvedt and Ben Lerner. Their fictional representations of artworks and the experiences they elicit form an aesthetic discourse that functions as a gateway to analyze different conceptions of the American novel in the 21st century: its aesthetic strategies, communicative potential, and cultural significance. Key for this analysis is the concept of ekphrasis which has undergone considerable changes over the course of its two-thousand-year-long history. From an exercise in rhetoric, it has turned into a site for an often hostile competition between word and image and a means to reflect on the specificity of medial forms and aesthetic qualities. It has been used as a meta-fictional device, vehicle for art criticism and catalyst for remediation. This seminar will retrace these changing conceptions of ekphrasis and the challenges it faces in light of the conceptual turn of the twentieth century (characterized by dematerialization, de-objectification and de-aestheticization). What happens when literature sets out not only to represent statues and paintings but performance pieces, video installations, conceptual works and land art?

32103 Talel Ben Jemia

**Comically Challenged - Political (In)Correctness and Stand Up Comedy as Cultural Practice** (Vertiefungsseminar A+B)

Mo 14-16 Uhr, Raum 203

“Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand,” said Mark Twain. In this seminar, we will have a closer look at one of the most pervasive offenders in American popular culture: the standup comedian. The history of standup comedy can, in fact, be traced as far back as to the humorist monologues of Mark Twain. In the second half of the twentieth century the field experienced a surge of popularity and professionalization. From the live experience at the comedy club to today’s Netflix specials, standup has permeated various media, particularly television: Sitcoms, late night talk shows and sketch comedies like Saturday Night Live would not be conceivable without the ascendance of comedians on stages across America, post WWII. This seminar will investigate different intellectual approaches to the cultural practice of standup comedy. We will delve into humor and performance theory and explore conceptualizations of standup comedy as cultural anthropology and/or folklore. Further we will dissect diverse categories such as ethnic humor, observational and insult comedy, political comedy (and its frequent circumvention of political correctness) and functions and challenges of comedy in the current cultural and political climate. Looking at the history of the comic style of standup, we will look at various comedians and different formats they have appeared in: live sets, comedy specials, sitcoms, movies, comedy records and Twitter. The seminar will conclude with a symposium during which students are encouraged to engage the topics of our seminar from various creative angles. (No, you won’t be forced to perform a comic routine).

## Master

*Modul A*

32110 Alexander Starre

**Discourses and Practices of Colonization and Settlement, 1492-1790** (Grundlagenvorlesung),

Di 16-18, Raum 319

This lecture course deals with colonial societies and intercultural contact zones in North America between the 15th and 18th 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 17th century and in the context of the Great Awakening (Cotton Mather, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Chauncy, Benjamin Franklin). ----- **Please note:** This course functions as “Vorlesung” in the M.A. Culture Module A (“Amerikanische Ideengeschichte und Theorien amerikanischer Kultur”). As such, it accompanies the seminar “18th-Century Colonial Cultures and the Biopolitics of Settlement” (Prof. Lütke).

32111 Martin Lütke

**18th-Century Colonial Cultures and the Biopolitics of Settlement**

(HS),

Mi 12-14 Uhr, Raum 340

*Modul B*

32112 Lauren Kroiz

**Th U.S. Modernism and the Culture of Things (HS);**

Mi 14-16 Uhr, Raum 340 (first session November 1)

This seminar will introduce students to the burgeoning interdisciplinary field of “thing” theory to examine the relationships of objects, subjects and things. We will consider the materiality and agency of inanimate objects themselves, as well as the role of objects in establishing and mediating social relationships. In addition to our theoretical focus on things, we will also situate U.S. modernism historically as a phenomenon formulated within a culture of proliferating consumer goods. We will draw on methodologies from art history and material culture studies, as well as literature studies, anthropology, and political science. We will also examine primary source materials from the turn of the nineteenth to the twentieth century. ----- **Please register at:** [culture@jfki.fu-berlin.de](mailto:culture@jfki.fu-berlin.de)

*Modul C*

32113 Frank Kelleter

**American (Media)Culture after World War II (HS),**

Mo 14-16 Uhr, Raum 319

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 20th 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, the decline of New Deal liberalism, the entangled rise of cultural radicalism on the left and right. In the early 21st 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 2017, when American novels and films, TV shows and songs often defined the global state of art in their respective fields. We will concentrate on literary sources, sociological writings, political documents, 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. **First session:** October 16.

32114 Frank Kelleter

**Post-Classical Theory (HS),**

Mo 16-18, Raum 319

This seminar serves as "**Hauptseminar**" of Culture-**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, postcolonialism or "traditional" Marxism. Individual sessions will be dedicated to field theory, actor-network-theory, systems theory; additional topics (to be chosen and prepared by students) can include, but are not restricted to, post-critique, intersectionality, critical race theory, critical whiteness studies, new queer theory, new media studies, post-cinema theory, critical university studies, the settler colonialism paradigm, global history, theories of neoliberalism, and other paradigms. Unlike Prof. Kelleter's lecture course, this seminar will be almost completely student-driven: participants will be in charge of nearly all sessions, topics, and discussions. Participants are expected to have familiarized themselves with potential course material (theoretical paradigms and texts) *before* the first session. In the beginning, all participants will be asked to propose 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 before 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). This course is not an introductory course to Cultural Theory; it is designed for advanced

M.A. students. First-semester students can sign up as but some background knowledge in classical and contemporary Theory is recommended. To participate in this course, you need to be present and prepared in the first session (no exceptions)! Preparation includes being ready to present one theoretical paradigm and/or set of texts of your choice for classroom use. If you would like to participate but cannot attend the first session, please contact Prof. Kelleter immediately (not later than October 9). **First session:** October 16.

32112 Lauren Kroiz

**The U.S. Modernism and the Culture of Things (HS);**

Mi 14-16 Uhr, Raum 340 (first session November 1)

This seminar will introduce students to the burgeoning interdisciplinary field of “thing” theory to examine the relationships of objects, subjects and things. We will consider the materiality and agency of inanimate objects themselves, as well as the role of objects in establishing and mediating social relationships. In addition to our theoretical focus on things, we will also situate U.S. modernism historically as a phenomenon formulated within a culture of proliferating consumer goods. We will draw on methodologies from art history and material culture studies, as well as literature studies, anthropology, and political science. We will also examine primary source materials from the turn of the nineteenth to the twentieth century. ----- **Please register at:** [culture@jfki.fu-berlin.de](mailto:culture@jfki.fu-berlin.de)

32115 Sophie Spieler

**Ladies of Leisure: Gender and Recreation in the US, 1945-Now (HS),**

Mi 16-18 Uhr, Raum 340

“To have leisure is one of the earliest dreams of human beings: to be free to pursue what we want, to spend our time meaningfully in pleasurable ways” writes Ruth V. Russell in *Pastimes: The Context of Contemporary Leisure* (2013: 4). And yet, the ways in which these dreams of leisure are put into practice vary greatly depending on a range of socio-cultural and economic factors. In 2015, for instance, men spent almost an hour a day more on recreational activities than women—and this gap in time use is only one aspect of leisure that is gendered. Attitudes, expectations, and access to recreational activities alike are informed by gender, as Sheila Scraton and Samantha Holland point out: “Women’s leisure [can] only be understood within the context of unequal structural power relations and the persistence of dominant ideologies of domesticity, motherhood and femininity” (236). ----- In this seminar, we explore various facets of women’s leisure in the United States during the second half of the twentieth and into the twenty-first century. We follow an intersectional approach in which gender is the primary focus, but one that is always informed by other variables, such as race and ethnicity, class and status, age and health. In order to map the vast landscape of gendered leisure in contemporary America, we draw on an array of different materials, ranging from advertising, travel guides, and magazines to literary and audiovisual negotiations of women’s recreation (e.g. *Parks and Recreation*, a political sitcom exploring the nexus of leisure, bureaucracy, and small-town America). ----- Building on two introductory sessions that theorize and historicize the basic con-

cepts of leisure, play, and recreation in America, we will examine a range of activities pursued by women, alone and in groups, actively and passively, in structured and spontaneous ways: book clubs and hiking, shopping and fitness, rugby and crafts, but also illicit or stigmatized forms of taboo leisure activities. These explorations take us through a number of contested public and private spaces, ranging from the national park and the public swimming pool to the suburban home and the gambling hall. In addition to the changing trajectory of gender politics, the seminar traces the development of the leisure industry in the emerging neoliberal era and interrogates the notions of amateurism, affective labor, and semi-professionalism, in particular in the sphere of social media.

### *Interdisziplinäres Modul*

32112 (+ Lektürekurs 32112L) Lauren Kroiz

**The U.S. Modernism and the Culture of Things (HS);**

Mi 14-16 Uhr, Raum 340 (first session November 1)

This seminar will introduce students to the burgeoning interdisciplinary field of “thing” theory to examine the relationships of objects, subjects and things. We will consider the materiality and agency of inanimate objects themselves, as well as the role of objects in establishing and mediating social relationships. In addition to our theoretical focus on things, we will also situate U.S. modernism historically as a phenomenon formulated within a culture of proliferating consumer goods. We will draw on methodologies from art history and material culture studies, as well as literature studies, anthropology, and political science. We will also examine primary source materials from the turn of the nineteenth to the twentieth century. ----- **Please register at:** [culture@jfki.fu-berlin.de](mailto:culture@jfki.fu-berlin.de)

32000 Kienscherf/Lüthe

Ringvorlesung **Capitalism and the North American City**

Mi 18-20 Uhr, Hörsaal 1b

### *Colloquium*

32115 Martin Lütke

**MA-Colloquium Culture/Literature,**

Do 16-18 Uhr, Raum 201 (Blockveranstaltung)

The colloquium is for students who are currently working on their master thesis. It is divided into three longer workshop sessions taking place on Fridays during the semester. For our first orientation session, we will meet on Thursday, October 19. Please make sure you are there. Registration: all participants must be registered via Blackboard and Campus Management before the first session. If you cannot register online, or if you would like to participate, but cannot attend the first session, please contact Martin Lütke before the beginning of the term.

## **Graduiertenschule:**

32120 Frank Kelleter:

**Theory and Methods in the Study of Culture** (Oberseminar),

Di 14-16, Villa

This course deals with theoretical and methodological issues in the study of American culture, focussing 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.

32121 Winfried Fluck:

**American Exceptionalism** (Oberseminar)

Mi 10-12 Uhr, Villa