

Culture Department Course Offerings Winter Term 2021/22

Please note: Unless otherwise specified, courses in the culture department will be conducted in person at the JFKI. Please make sure to study the Covid-19 guidelines of the Institute before joining a class in the first week of the term. Only students who have received an official spot in the class by signing up on Campus Management will be able to enter the course rooms. Students who do not receive a spot or who do not have access to Campus Management should contact instructors individually to inquire about participation.

Please see the JFKI guidance on teaching in the winter semester 2021/22 here: https://www.ifki.fu-berlin.de/news/covid19_winter2122.html

Bachelor

Grundlagenmodul

32001 Sebastian Jobs/Martin Lütke/Ulla Haselstein

Understanding North America A

Fri 10-12 and 14-16 h, **online**

This comprehensive course introduces students to the fundamentals of the interdisciplinary field of North American Studies. "Understanding North America" (UNA) follows a two-semester format, with the first part (UNA-A) covering the disciplines of literary studies, cultural studies, and history. The second part (UNA-B) will be offered during the summer term and expands the overall framework with the disciplinary perspectives of sociology, economics, and political science. While UNA is one of the most challenging courses at the John F. Kennedy-Institute, it will reward students with insights into multiple disciplines along with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills for further studies.

This class consists of a lecture part and the tutorials. Due to the current health situation all lectures will be online events. The lecture videos for the respective week will be available on the course VBrick channel on Mondays (link on Blackboard). In addition to that, each week there will be a question-and-answer session online (link on Blackboard), in which we will discuss the contents of the lectures.

Orientierungsmodul Kultur - Proseminar

32100 Maxi Albrecht

Rhetorics of Continuity and Change: A Survey of American Cultural History (Proseminar)

Thu 12-14 h, Room 340

This course provides an extended overview of US-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, Ida B. Wells, Martin Luther King, and Betty Friedan. This course will attempt to overview US-American history by way of key texts while also examining marginalized voices. 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.

As of now, I am planning to teach this course live, barring any new restrictions because of the CoViD-pandemic. Should attending sessions in person not be possible for you, please send an email to maxi.albrecht@fu-berlin.de in the first week of October.

Vertiefungsseminare Kultur

32101 Alexandra Deem

The Woman Question, Past and Present: Antifeminist Women and Illiberal Gender Politics (Vertiefung A)

Fri 12-14 h, Room 340

After a firestorm of white supremacist memes and hyper-misogynistic trolling helped propel Donald Trump to victory during the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the so-called “alt-right” eventually found itself confronted by “the woman question.” A phrase long used in far-right nationalist circles in the U.S. and Europe, the woman question refers to the conflicting need to actively involve women while maintaining their subordination to men. From exit poll statistics revealing that more than half of white women helped vote Trump into office to the current influx of tradwife influencers, the alt-right has clearly managed to garner female support despite the climate of virulent misogyny surrounding it. This course investigates the outcomes, negotiations, and stakes surrounding the woman question in the digital era (as well as some of its historical figurations) from the perspectives of antifeminist women themselves. Tracing the issue through contestations and cracks in second wave feminism to the present moment, we will look at how feminine antifeminism extends beyond a right-wing political context, rooted in histories of slavery and colonialism and intertwined with contemporary white neoliberal feminism. Combining the methodologies of cultural studies with digital ethnography, the course verses students in theories and practices of (anti)feminism from the second half of the 20th century to today’s fast-paced digital setting. Exploring both the agency of women and the structural conditions shaping their participation in antifeminism, we will develop awareness of contemporary illiberal mobilizations of gender and femininity as well as their imbrication with race, class, and sexuality.

32102 Fabius Mayland

Writing About and Living Through Climate Change (Vertiefung A)

Thu 16-18 h, Room 319

In this course we will read science fiction alongside non-fiction writing with an eye towards climate change, ecological degradation, and other (real or imaginary) global catastrophes from the post-1945 period until today. Apart from gaining general knowledge on the science and politics of climate change itself, we will read both fictional and non-fictional texts as cultural responses to crises, and try to understand the work that they do or perform. We will also study the uses of literary styles and genres in writing about such real, ultimately political issues, and consider how fiction and non-fiction may share (or contest) the same literary spaces. Texts will include fiction by Liu Cixin, Octavia Butler, and Kim Stanley Robinson, and non-fiction by Rachel Carson, David Wallace-Wells, and Elizabeth Kolbert, along with relevant secondary literature.

32103 Maxi Albrecht

Utopian Communities in the United States (Vertiefung A)

Mon 16-18 h, Room 201

While the founding and settlement of the United States has often been described as a utopian project in and of itself, a host of utopian or intentional communities across US history have undertaken political, economic, religious or identity-based projects of living separately from the status quo. From Old Economy village, founded in 1824 in Pennsylvania, to those still existing today such as Twin Oaks, founded 1967 in Virginia, utopian communities challenge the hegemonic ideals of mainstream society from a variety of ideological and socio-cultural vantage points while simultaneously withdrawing from that society in order to seek individual and collective improvement in their own and separate communities. Aside from these real-life utopian projects, fictional texts have experimented with utopian forms of communal living, from Hawthorne's Blithedale Romance to a multitude of science fiction texts and other literary or media forms. In this course we will explore utopian project across US history and across several fictional texts in order to assess their aims, lifestyles and their relation to mainstream US society.

As of now, I am planning to teach this course live, barring any new restrictions because of the CoViD-pandemic. Should attending sessions in person not be possible for you, please send an email to maxi.albrecht@fu-berlin.de in the first week of October.

32104 JoAnne Mancini (Terra Visiting Professor)

Landscapes of American Art (Vertiefung A/B)

Tue 16-18 h, **online**

This module will explore the history of American art through the theme 'Landscapes of American Art'. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, it will consider some of the ways in which American artists have engaged with built and natural environments, how that engagement has changed over time, and how that engagement relates to broader trends in American culture. At the same time, it will also explore some of the ways in which the making and unmaking of landscapes is itself an aspect of American visual and material culture, analysed not only by art historians but also by disciplines such as geography, history, and urban studies.

This course is online only in November and December; starting January there might be some in-person teaching if possible.

Master

Modul B

32110 Frank Kelleter

Capitalism, Sectionalism, and American Nationhood

(Grundlagenvorlesung)

Mon 18-21 h, Room 340

This lecture course deals with American culture in the four decades following the Civil War. Topics include: the failure of Reconstruction; Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; the interlocking of progressivism and imperialism; African American activism; anarchism (Lucy Parsons, Emma Goldman); the emergence of a capitalist-nationalist imaginary; realism and naturalism as literary modes; the "New Woman"; urbanization and media transformations.

The lecture course serves as "**Vorlesung**" of Culture-**Module B** (*Kultur der Nationalität und Diversität*) in the **Master's degree program**. **Registration:** All participants need to be registered via Blackboard *and* Campus Management by 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** in the "Teaching" section of Prof. Kelleter's JFKI website or on Blackboard (go to "Kursmaterial"; you may have to click on "open Syllabus here" to download it; if this doesn't work, try a different browser: students have reported problems with the Chrome browser). Depending on the COVID19-situation in the fall, this course will be offered *either* as a classroom course (on campus) *or* as an asynchronous online course. Please note that it is listed as a three-hour "Vorlesung mit integriertem Tutorium." The idea is to give us a more flexible time-slot in case of mandatory "Hygienemaßnahmen" (such as checking Corona tests or airing the room midway through a session), but also to provide additional time for Q&A. Ideally, however, participants will gain credit on the basis of the regular (two-hour) lecture slot; attendance of the additional academic hour ("tutorial") will be optional. **First session:** October 25 (note: this is the second week of the semester).

32113 Winfried Fluck

Changing Narratives about American Diversity (HS)

Wed 12-14 h, **online**

The field of American studies was founded on the idea of American exceptionalism, that is, the (superior) uniqueness of American culture and society. This idea shaped the research agenda of the first generation of Americanists who tried hard to identify a specific, monolithically conceived American identity. Taking its point of departure from the revisions of this starting premise of the field, this course will focus on the (re)discovery of the diversity of American life and its many manifestations of difference. Significant stages on which we will focus will be the concepts of cultural pluralism and multiculturalism, the rise of ethnic studies and its challenges to the American canon, the critique of ethnic studies by race and gender studies, and the subsequent differentiations of these approaches that have led to the critical debates of today. Each session will discuss representative texts of these approaches. The analytical focus will

lie on the changing narratives that the different versions of the idea of diversity offer and on the concepts of equality and justice, of society and recognition that provide their normative basis. Tracing the way in which the narratives rapidly challenged and replaced each other can help to gain a clearer sense of the major theoretical developments of American studies over the last decades.

The course will be taught as a synchronous online seminar; student participation is encouraged.

Registration: All participants must be registered via Blackboard and Campus Management before the first session. If you cannot register online, please contact the department's secretary Regina Götz (culture@ifki.fu-berlin.de) before the beginning of the term; or if you would like to participate, but cannot attend the first session, please contact me (winfried.fluck@fu-berlin.de).

32114 Maxi Albrecht/Thomas Howard

A Genealogy of the Neoliberal Subject? — Tracing the human mind in (multiple) intelligence discourses (HS)

Tue 12-14 h, Room 340

Across US history, public, economic, and scholarly discourses engage questions as to the nature of human intelligence. These discourses contain a multitude of fractures and conflicts, ranging from the seemingly base question how to define intelligence in the first place, debates about a single form of intelligence or multiple forms, as well as a myriad of socio-culturally based discriminations with regard to questions of race, gender and class. These intelligence discourses stand in close relation to fundamental questions of human nature and the formation of hegemonic and marginalized subjectivities. This course will trace a genealogy of human intelligence discourses beginning with John Locke's *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1695), a foundational text of the US-American liberal tradition. Topics include racial intelligence discourse, including the debate between W. E. B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington, feminist discourse and the integration of education, intelligence testing, and the multiple intelligence discourse of the late 20th century. Texts include psychological and sociological writing, nonfiction essays and treatises, and economic self-help literature, as well as consider new media.

This course can be taken as both MA interdisciplinary seminar and MA seminar in the discipline of culture. As of now, we are planning to teach this course live, barring any new restrictions because of the CoViD-pandemic. Should attending sessions in person not be possible for you, please send an email to maxi.albrecht@fu-berlin.de in the first week of October.

Modul C

32111 Frank Kelleter

American Modernities (Grundlagenvorlesung)

Tue 16-19 h, Room 319

This lecture course deals with American culture between the 1910s and the 1940s: a period that saw the birth of new technologies of production, representation, and destruction, along with far-ranging revolutions in the organization of knowledge. Sociology, ethnology, psychoanalysis, and other disciplines emerged in the early 20th

century as institutionalized modes of theorizing modernity. Many of these “modern” transformations can be studied in a prototypical fashion in US history. Our topics in this lecture course include: early film; the New Immigration; the Hollywood studio system; the Great War and modernist aesthetics (fiction, poetry, drama); the “New Negro” movement and the Harlem Renaissance; radio and New Deal culture; the Southern agrarians and anti-modern modernisms.

The lecture course serves as “**Vorlesung**” of Culture-**Module C** (*Kulturgeschichte einzelner Medien und ästhetischer Darstellungsformen*) in the **M.A. program**. **Registration:** All participants need to be registered via Blackboard *and* Campus Management by 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** in the “Teaching” section of Prof. Kelleter’s JFKI website or on Blackboard (go to “Kursmaterial”; you may have to click on “open Syllabus here” to download it; if this doesn’t work, try a different browser: students have reported problems with the Chrome browser). Depending on the COVID19-situation in the fall, this course will be offered *either* as a classroom course (on campus) *or* as an asynchronous online course. Please note that it is listed as a three-hour “Vorlesung mit integriertem Tutorium.” The idea is to give us a more flexible time-slot in case of mandatory “Hygienemaßnahmen” (such as checking Corona tests or airing the room midway through a session), but also to provide additional time for Q&A. Ideally, however, participants will gain credit on the basis of the regular (two-hour, 4-6) lecture slot; attendance of the additional hour (“tutorial”, 6-7) will be optional.

First session: October 26 (note: this is the second week of the semester).

32112 Frank Kelleter

From Theories of Culture to Theories of Race, Gender, and Class (1980-2020) (HS)

Mon 16-18 h, Room 340

This seminar synthesizes two courses from previous semesters: “Postclassical Theory” and “Black Theory, Theories of Blackness.” Taking our departure from select examples of cultural theory that have emerged after the “classical” paradigms of psychoanalysis, phenomenology, orthodox Marxism and their poststructuralist inflections, we will engage with more contemporary developments in the critical theories of race, gender, and class—many of which have been first articulated in the context of Black theory after the 1980s. Possible topics include Stuart Hall, Black feminism (e.g., Combahee River Collective, Audre Lorde, bell hooks), Intersectionality (Kimberlé Crenshaw), critical race theories (e.g., Claudia Rankine), critical Whiteness studies, Afropessimism, Black Marxism, Hortense Spillers, Saidiya Hartman, new queer theories, perspectives on “settler colonialism,” and other paradigms. ----- Unlike Prof. Kelleter’s lecture courses, this seminar will be largely student-driven; more than 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 discussion (compare Syllabus).

Registration: All participants need to be registered via Blackboard *and* Campus Management by the first session. If you cannot register online or cannot attend the first session, please contact Prof. Kelleter before the beginning of the term.

Organization: Please download the **Syllabus and Course Description (with a description of all requirements)** from the “Teaching” section of Prof. Kelleter’s

**JFKI website or from Blackboard (go to “Kursmaterial”; you may have to click on “open Syllabus here” to download it; if this doesn’t work, try a different browser: students have reported problems with the Chrome browser). Please read the Syllabus/Course Description carefully: It contains detailed information about the seminar’s structure and suggestions for preparing “your” session. Note that we will finalize our class schedule in the first two meetings. This means that everyone who wants to attend this course needs to be present in the first session in order to sign up for a topic (student-run session) or have contacted Prof. Kelleter beforehand by e-mail (no later than October 23).
First session: October 25 (note: this is the second week of the semester).**

32115 Brett Mills

Animals on Screens (HS)

Wed 14-16 h, Room 319

This seminar asks the question: what happens to the study of television, film and other forms of mass media if the representation of animals is taken into account? Throughout this seminar you will discover, critique, engage with, and apply multiple frameworks useful for thinking about the functions animals fulfil within media. In doing so, you will critique the hitherto anthropocentric nature of the vast majority of academic thinking, and examine why thinking beyond the human matters. Key analytical frameworks that will be explored will include human-animal studies, critical animal studies, posthumanism and the environmental humanities. Given the seminar’s focus on media forms, it will explore the audio-visual nature of animal representation, as well as the relationships between animals and media contexts such as narrative and genre.

Key authors include Carol J. Adams, John Berger, Jonathan Burt, Jacques Derrida, Erica Fudge, Donna Haraway, and Akira Mizuta Lippit. The seminar will draw on a wide range of audio-visual media, including *Bear 71* (Mendes and Allion 2017), *Carnage* (BBC3 2017), *Electrocuting an Elephant* (Porter or Smith 1903), *Lassie* (CBS/Syndication 1954-73), *Me at the Zoo* (YouTube 2005), *Planet of the Apes* (Schaffner 1968) and pet videos on YouTube. Via this material the seminar will examine the contribution analytical approaches from the humanities can make to contemporary debates about human-animal relations, animal rights/justice/advocacy, animal labour, and the consequences of the normalisation of anthropocentrism.

32117 JoAnne Mancini (Terra Visiting Professor)

Issues in American Art History (HS)

Tue 14-16 h, Room 340

This module will explore the history of American art through recent research and writing. What issues, themes, and concepts have motivated recent scholarship? How has recent scholarship attempted to change the discourse and the discipline of American art? How have recent scholars in the field engaged with other disciplines, and what might the future hold for American art history?

Interdisziplinäres Modul

32114 Maxi Albrecht/Thomas Howard

A Genealogy of the Neoliberal Subject? — Tracing the human mind in (multiple) intelligence discourses (HS)

Tue 12-14 h, Room 340

See description above

Colloquium

32116 Maxi Albrecht

MA-Colloquium Culture/Literature

Thu 16-18 h, Room 201

The colloquium is designed for students currently working on their master's thesis or in the planning stage of their thesis. Since the exact format of the course will depend on particular questions students may have with regard to their thesis and the number of participants, we will decide on the syllabus together in the first session. Please make sure to attend the first session and register on Campus Management for the course. We will meet for an orientation session online on Thursday, November 5, at 6 pm. I will circulate a link to my WebEx room to registered students. We will discuss the format and number of sessions in our first meeting, as they depend on the number of participants.

As of now, I am planning to teach this course live, barring any new restrictions because of the CoViD-pandemic. Should attending sessions in person not be possible for you, please send an email to maxi.albrecht@fu-berlin.de in the first week of October.

Graduate School

32120 Frank Kelleter

Theory and Methods in the Study of Culture (Oberseminar)

Tue 14-16 h, Room 319

This Ph.D.-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 (no later than October 12).