

# **Abteilung Literatur – 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, Kurzessays 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).

### *Orientierungsmodul Literatur - Proseminar*

32200 Thomas Dikant  
**Introduction to Literary Studies I**  
Do 10-12, Raum 201

In this seminar, students will be introduced to the basic terms and methods for analyzing and interpreting literary texts. We will read classic works of 19th and 20th-century American literature, focusing on short stories, poems, and plays, and will discuss how narrative works, how to do close readings of prose as well as poetry, and how to analyze drama. This seminar provides a better understanding of how literature works and offers students a toolbox to be used throughout their studies.

### *Vertiefungsmodul Literatur*

32201 James Dorson  
**The Slave Narrative**  
(Vertiefungsseminar A+B)  
Fr 12-14, Raum 203

This class examines the genre of the slave narrative from its earliest development in the eighteenth century until recent rewritings of the genre and its contemporary relevance for reflecting and challenging processes of racialization today. We will be concerned with both the formal elements of the genre and its historical context, specifically the brutal management of slave labor and its psychological, cultural, and socioeconomic repercussions for African Americans ever since. Among other aspects of the slave narrative, we will examine how authors gain narrative authority through the use of different literary strategies, how they use the genre to challenge the institution of slavery as well as to fashion their own identities, how slave narratives represent various forms of forced and free labor, and the changing function of the slave narrative over time from its original use in the abolitionist movement to the scrutiny of race relations in the neo-slave narrative today.

32202 Jie Feng

**Memory, Identity and Diasporic Imaginary: Reading Chinese American Writers**

(Vertiefungsseminar A)

Do 14-16, Raum 201

The deconstruction or reconstruction of memories and identity has been the pervasive motif in Chinese American literature, which is a major component of Asian American literature established in the late 1960s as a field in response to anti-Asian legislations and various forms of racist cultural production in America. As an introductory survey of Chinese American literature, this course will explore how different generations of Chinese American writers draw on their earlier memories for their literary experimentation and innovation so as to engage with the articulation of identity in particular social and political contexts. We will read writings from the late 19th century to the present (with emphasis on the contemporary), and will also study selected works of criticism and history for a better understanding of how Chinese American identity is contextualized and negotiated. Since the demographics of Chinese American writers has changed over the past two decades, our seminar canon will not be confined to the constellation of earlier ethnic writers such as Maxine Hong Kingston and Frank Chin who solidly occupy the field, but will also include contemporary diasporic writers such as Ha Jin and Yiyun Li whose border-crossing experiences and writings often associated with trauma of political turmoil in their native land China are transforming the terrain of Chinese American literature.

32203 Dominique Haensell

**African/American –Blackness in Contemporary Diasporic Fiction** (Vertiefungsseminar A+B)

Di 10-12, Raum 319

Recently, the global literary marketplace has been flushed with narratives by young authors of African descent. While these bestselling authors have been equally praised for providing a “fresh” perspective on the African continent, as for their cosmopolitan or transnational sensibilities, it is remarkable that most works are predominantly set, produced and received in a US context, oftentimes illustrating what Louis Chude-Sokei has called the “category crisis” of the “Newly Black Americans”. In this class, we will look at some of the most popular writing by “Afropolitan” authors and explore how the shifting role of Africa in the global black imaginary determines the oftentimes tense negotiations of race, nationality and black

identity between the so called old and new diaspora. Primary readings will include novels, essays and short stories by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Teju Cole, Yaa Gyasi and Taiye Selasi.

32204 Birte Wege  
**BA-Colloquium**  
Mi 12-14, Raum 203

## Master

### *Modul A*

32210 Ulla Haselstein  
**Native American Literature** (Grundlagenvorlesung),  
Di 12-14, Raum 203

The lecture will present a historical survey of Native American literature as a medium of collective identity, political protest, individual self-expression and cultural nationalism. Every account of Native American Literature must take historical events and political developments into account: settler colonialism, savagism, war, missionary work, enforced assimilation, the American Indian Movement, and indigeneity are some key terms which are reflected in literary texts. We will study a broad variety of genres (stories, memories, autobiographies, novels, reports, poems etc.) and discuss concepts such as orality vs writing; myth vs literature; collective vs individual authorship together with concepts that stress interstitiality, transculturality and cultural hybridity.

32211 Thomas Dikant  
**Postwar American Poetry (HS)**,  
Mo 10-12, Raum 203

In this seminar, we will discuss poetry written in the United States between 1945 and the 1980s. We will study the various influential literary movements and schools of the time, such as the Black Mountain School, the San Francisco Renaissance, the Beat Generation, the New York School of Poetry, the Black Arts Movement, and Language poetry. Authors will include: Charles Olson, Jack Spicer, Elizabeth Bishop, John Ashbery, Frank O'Hara, Allen Ginsberg, Amiri Baraka, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sylvia Plath, Robert Lowell, and Lyn Hejinian. We will examine these works both in terms of their poetics and aesthetics and their interplay with the politics of the postwar era.

32212 David Hadar  
**Jewish-American Literature (HS)**  
Fr 12-14, Raum 201

This class will acquaint students with the main traditions of Jewish American literature, from the 1880s to the present moment. For the most part, our reading will consist for of short stories, but will also include novels, poetry, and literary essays, as well

academic papers. Through writers like Emma Lazarus, Abraham Cahan, Anzia Yezierska, Y. B. Singer, Delmore Schwarz, Saul Bellow, Bernard Malamud, Grace Paley, Philip Roth, Cynthia Ozick, and Nicole Krauss, we will engage with the issues of immigration, multilingual literature, religion and secularization, assimilation, the memory of the Holocaust, feminism and masculinity, and anti-Semitism. Our central theme, however, will be the formation of individual and group identity in an ever-changing American environment.

### *Modul B*

32213 James Dorson

### **Methods in Literary and Cultural Studies (GV)**

Do 14-16, Raum 319

The seminar, open to PhD and advanced MA students, explores a wide range of theories and methods, which have been relevant to twentieth-century literary and cultural studies. These include critical theory, new criticism, structuralism and poststructuralism, new historicism, reception aesthetics, postcolonial studies, and various recent methodological turns such as distant reading and new formalism. The aim of the seminar is both to provide an overview of various critical practices and to foster a historicized understanding of methods and theories relevant to the study of literature and culture.

### *Modul C*

32214 Ulla Haselstein/Heinz Ickstadt

### **Representing Consciousness: The 19th Century Novel**

Do 10-12, Raum 203

This is a seminar which will continue with a focus on modernism and postmodernism in the next semester. The general approach is genealogical: we will study a major trajectory of the history of the novel as a medium of social knowledge. Our main focus will be the textual strategies of presenting individuality and subjectivity and the changing models of literary representation. We have chosen relatively short but complex classics of American literature, but we will look at them transnationally by including some French texts as well.

### *Colloquium*

32115 Martin Lüthe

### **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 Lüthe before the beginning of the term.

## **Graduiertenschule:**

**32621 Ulla Haselstein/ Harald Wenzel**  
**Values, Identity, and Communication**  
**Do, 14-16, Villa**