



American Studies

Courses for MEAS

Winter Term 2020/21

Sprechstunden Wintersemester 2020/21

Due to the current covid19 pandemic, in-person office hours will not be possible until further notice. To inquire about and register for office hours (via telephone and/or ZOOM), please send an email.

Name	Email
BAURIDL, Dr. Birgit	Birgit.Bauridl@ur.de
DEPKAT, Prof. Dr. Volker	Volker.Depkat@ur.de
DEXL, Dr. Carmen	Carmen.Dexl@ur.de
GEBAUER, Dr. Amy	Amy.Gebauer@ur.de
GOTTESWINTER, Lena	Lena.Gotteswinter@ur.de
HEBEL, Prof. Dr. Udo	siehe Homepage
HEGER, Tamara	Tamara.Heger@ur.de
STETLER, Julia	Julia.Stetler@ur.de
TU, Jiann-Chyng	Jiann-Chyng.Tu@ur.de
UPPENDAHL, Steve	Steve.Uppendahl@ur.de
WIEGMINK, Prof. Dr. Pia Lehrstuhlvertretung	Pia.Wiegink@ur.de

Amerikanistik (American Studies)

35084 From Seneca Falls to #MeToo: Cultural Theories and Practices of American Feminism(s)

Wiegink

Module: GES-MA-M18., GES-MA-M18.2a, GES-MA-M18.3a, EGW-M09.1, EGW-M09.2, ENGYM-M32A.1 (4.0), AMST-M32.1 (4.0), AMST-M23.3 (4.0), ENG-UF-WB (4.0), ENG-DF-ZP (4.0), AMS-M32.2 (8.0), AMS-M33.2 (7.0), AMS-M33.3 (7.0), NAS-FKN-ZP (4.0), NAS-M01.3 (4.0), EAS-M34.1 (8.0), EAS-M34.2 (8.0), EAS-M34.3 (8.0), EAS-M33.1 (8.0), EAS-M33.2 (8.0), EAS-M33.3 (8.0), EAS-M31.4 (8.0), WB-IAA (4.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Vorlesung, SWS: 2

Tag	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Beginn	Ende	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch	14	16	c.t.					Wiegink	Auch für Nordamerikastudien (FKN)

Feminists are ugly, angry women who do not shave their legs, hate men and who burn their bras in public, or are they? Not at all! This lecture will introduce students to feminist politics, theories, and cultures. It will trace the emergence and formation of the so-called "three waves" of American feminist thought and politics ranging from the first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls in 1848 and the early twentieth-century women's suffrage movement, the foundation of NOW in the 1960s and the writings Betty Friedan, Kate Millet, and Shulamith Firestone, to contemporary feminist theory by bell hooks, Judith Butler, Kimberly Crenshaw, Patricia Hill Collins, Gloria Anzaldúa, Sara Ahmed, and many others. The lecture will look at feminist thought and politics, taking into account aspects like the intersection of race, class, and gender, as well as queer studies and recent political movements such as V-day, Code Pink or #metoo. Furthermore, the lecture will discuss a broad range of feminist cultural expressions ranging from abolitionist-feminist gift books, feminist utopias and dystopias, poetry and theater, to fanzines, punk music, LGBTQ ballroom culture, and activist performances.

Credit requirement: Final exam: Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021. All course materials will be available on GRIPS.

Credit requirements for electives EAS-M7.2, EAS-M8.1 and EAS-M8.2: Final exam: Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, All course materials will be available on GRIPS. For Modulprüfung please also check the Modulbeschreibung:

https://www.uni-regensburg.de/studium/modulbeschreibungen/medien/master/eas_master_ws1819.pdf. All course materials will be available on GRIPS.

First Semester MA Courses in European American Studies

35846 Fundamentals and Frames of Transnational American Studies

Bauridl

Module: EAS-M1.1 (7)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Tag	Rhyth.	Von	bis	Zeit	Beginn	Ende	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch	16	18	c.t.					Bauridl	

The course introduces students to key methods and theories of the interdisciplinary field of American Studies on graduate level. It discusses perspectives that are central for an understanding of both core agendas of the discipline and its development toward *Transnational* American Studies. First, it critically reflects on central concepts and issues such as nation, globalization, identity, ethnicity, gender, memory, or neoliberalism, settler colonialism, and racial grammar. Second, it traces approaches to American Studies as a discipline from its beginnings to the so-called New American Studies and recent frameworks of Post-Exceptionalist and Transnational American Studies. Third, it engages in a critical discussion of recent theoretical and methodological trends shaped by the visual, performative, spatial, and transnational turns in American Studies. This course is based on central theoretical and methodological texts, which will be available on GRIPS.

Course requirement: oral presentation.

Credit requirements: *Modulprüfung* (module exam: Theories, Approaches, Methods); Final exam: Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021, All course materials will be available on GRIPS. Credit for: MEAS.

35847 Theories and Concepts in European-American Studies

Bauridl

Module: EAS-M1.2 (7)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Tag	Rhyth.	Von	bis	Zeit	Beginn	Ende	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	14	16	c.t.					Bauridl	

Approaching European-American Studies within the frameworks of Transnational American Studies and Critical Area Studies, this course introduces students to scholarly theories that are central for a critical understanding of past and present European-American relations, negotiations, trajectories, exchanges, and entanglements as well as their impact on other areas in the world. First, the course discusses key concepts of American Studies and related interdisciplinary fields that are at the core of European-American Studies, e.g. space, mobility, and region as well as Americanization or Westernization. Second, it debates transnational approaches to American Studies that specifically inform the project of European-American Studies, e.g. circumatlantic and transatlantic studies as well as critical (transnational) regionalism and new/critical area studies. Third, it traces transnational dimensions of concepts of American Studies that allow for a particularly apt investigation of topics from the field of European-American Studies, e.g. contact zones, cultural transfer, transnational / European-American memory, transnational interpictureliarity, etc. This course is based on central theoretical and conceptual texts, which will be available on Grips.

Course requirement: oral presentation.

Credit requirements: *Modulprüfung* (module exam: Theories, Approaches, Methods); Final exam:

Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021, All course materials will be available on GRIPS. Credit for: MEAS.

Seminars in American Studies and European American Studies

35835 Body Matters in the Contact Zone: Constructions of Bodies and Transnational Space in Contemporary Cultural Production (Topics in Spaces, Regions, Spheres, EAS-M3) Dexl at

Module: AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0), NAS-FKN-ZP, EAS-M31.3 (8.0), EAS-M31.4 (8.0), EAS-M33.1 (8.0), EAS-M33.2 (8.0), EAS-M33.3 (8.0), EAS-M3.1 (8.0); EAS-M3.2 (8.0).

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Tag	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Beginn	Ende	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch	12	14	c.t.					Dexl	Auch für Nordamerikastudien (FKN)

This seminar is concerned with the body as a key site for the interrogation of power relations and main vehicle of the generation of social meanings in the context of what Mary L. Pratt has called "contact zones." Through cultural practices, performances, and cultural productions, we will explore how these contested sites of intercultural encounters inform social constructions of bodies (including social behavior, social actions, and cultural norms), their representation, and social perception.

To better understand the body in the intersection of discursive construction, materialization, and representation from different angles, we will engage theories of the body by Michel Foucault (the disciplined body), Judith Butler (gendered bodies) and Eve Sedgwick (queer bodies), Sara Ahmed and Frantz Fanon (race and racialized bodies), Baudrillard (the body as consuming/consumed object), and Donna Haraway (the posthuman body) and turn to selected case studies to explore constructions of bodies, power relations, and socio-political agency in the context of the Black Atlantic, the Caribbean, the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, the urban space of New Orleans, and the internet. Our primary sources for discussion include the novel *Americanah* (2013) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, selected texts by Nalo Hopkinson, the TV series *The Bridge – America* (2013–2014), developed by Meredith Stiehm and Elwood Reid, Spike Lee's documentary film *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts* (2006), the novel *Parable of the Sower* (1993) by Octavia Butler, and musician Janelle Monáe's futuristic work, which is set in the fictional city of Metropolis and features her android alter ego Cindi Mayweather. The seminar will provide a better understanding of the interrelation between constructions of space and bodies, their negotiation in different cultural formats and, related to that, their implications for social insights into and critical reflections of the body.

Course requirement: oral presentation

Credit requirement: LA/BA: presentation handout and/or PowerPoint presentation; advanced academic writings in English (ca. 15 pages).

Credit requirement master's program: prior to WS 2018/19: presentation and final research paper (ca. 15 pages for 8 CP or ca. 20 pages for 10 CP, depending on credit type); master's program as of WS 2018/19: presentation and proposal for a possible research paper (5 pp.). Please also check the Modulbeschreibung.

https://www.uni-regensburg.de/studium/modulbeschreibungen/medien/master/eas_master_ws1819.pdf

Required readings: Information on the books you need to purchase will be given in the first session.

35839 Performance in America: Trans/National Perspectives
(Topics in Mobilities and Cultural Transfers, EAS-M4)

Wiegink

Module: : EAS-M31.1 (10.0), EAS-M31.4 (8.0), EAS-M33.1 (8.0), EAS-M33.2 (8.0), EAS-M33.3 (8.0), EAS-M4.1 (8.0), EAS-M4.2 (8.0); AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0).

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 20

Tag	Rhyth.	Von	bis	Zeit	Beginn	Ende	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch	14	16	s.t.					Wiegink	

This seminar explores the methodological impetus of two recent, important turns in American Studies: the performative turn and the transnational turn. After studying the theoretical foundations of these two turns, the seminar will explore diverse performances, among them theatrical performance, political enactments, commemorative events, festive activities, as well as protest events. We will examine specific performative cultural practices in their cultural, social, and political contexts and we will analyze transnational processes and transfers that shaped and continue to shape American culture. Students will thus deepen their understanding of theater and performance practices in the United States as well as of the performative character of American culture(s). Students will learn to analyze how particular performances located in places in- and outside the United States negotiate 'America' in global contexts. They will investigate the potential of particular performances to perpetuate, but also to challenge and counteract cultural, social, and political discourses and phenomena. Performances to be discussed will be of mostly contemporary nature but we will also examine some 19th and early 20th century examples. All course materials will be available on GRIPS.

Course requirement: oral presentation

Credit requirement: LA/BA: presentation handout and/or PowerPoint presentation; advanced academic writings in English (ca. 15 pages).

Credit requirement master's program: prior to WS 2018/19: presentation and final research paper (ca. 15 pages for 8 CP or ca. 20 pages for 10 CP, depending on credit type); master's program as of WS 2018/19: presentation and proposal for a possible research paper (5 pp.). Please also check the Modulbeschreibung.

https://www.uni-regensburg.de/studium/modulbeschreibungen/medien/master/eas_master_ws1819.pdf

35841 Histories and Legacies of the American 'Color Line'
(Topics in Politics and Responsibilities, EAS-M5)

Wiegink

Module: EAS-M5.1 (8.0), EAS-M5.2 (8.0); AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0).

Hauptseminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Tag	Rhyth.	von	Bis	Zeit	Beginn	Ende	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	12	14	c.t.					Wiegink	

In *Souls of the Black Folks*, W.E.B. DuBois famously observed that "the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of color line" (xxx). A few of years before the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement, Michelle Alexander observed that "more African American adults

are under correctional control today – in prison or jail, on probation or parole – than were enslaved in 1850, a decade before the Civil War began” (*The New Jim Crow*, 2010, 224).

Taking its cues from W.E.B. DuBois’ and Alexander’s observations, this seminar will examine legal, political, and cultural concepts that have defined “race” in the U.S. in the past; it will explore how these concepts continue to impact American culture and African American identity in contemporary U.S. culture and politics.

In this seminar we will research famous court cases and their media reports (such as the Rhineland case, 1925, or *Loving v. Virginia*, 1967, *People v. OJ Simpson*, 1994, *State of Florida v. George Zimmerman*, 2012). We will look at famous historical incidents of black and white relationships (such as Thomas Jefferson’s relationship with his slave Sally Hemings), we will examine contemporary cultural (mis)representations of multiracial identity (e.g. *The Rachel Divide*, 2018). When put in an international perspective, legal principles for racial classifications like the “one drop rule” and social phenomena like passing (for white) draw attention to the fact that white America’s preoccupation with “miscegenation” and the fear of blurring racial boundaries are almost unique U.S. phenomena. We will thus also look at American notions of “race” from a transnational perspective by examining works from South Africa (e.g. Trevor Noah’s *Born a Crime*, 2016), Germany (e.g. Mo Asumang’s *Mo und die Arier*, 2016), and Great Britain (e.g. David Olusoga’s *Black and British*, 2016). All course materials will be available on GRIPS.

Course requirement: oral presentation

Credit requirement: LA/BA: presentation handout and/or PowerPoint presentation; advanced academic writings in English (ca. 15 pages).

Credit requirement master’s program: prior to WS 2018/19: presentation and final research paper (ca. 15 pages for 8 CP or ca. 20 pages for 10 CP, depending on credit type); master’s program as of WS 2018/19: presentation and proposal for a possible research paper (5 pp.).

Please also check the Modulbeschreibung.

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Kurse anderer Lehrstühle und Institute im Master-Programm MEAS (Courses Offered by Other Departments for our M.A. Program MEAS)

36011 CITAS Ringvorlesung: Special Relations Revisited: Europa und die USA seit dem 19. Jahrhundert. Ringvorlesung des CITAS und des Leibniz-WissenschaftsCampus "Europa und Amerika" **Vickers**

Module: EAS-M33.1 (8.0); EAS-M33.2 (8.0); EAS-M33.3 (8.0); EAS-M34.1 (8.0); EAS-M34.2 (8.0); EAS-M34.3 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Tag	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Beginn	Ende	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mo	wöch	18	20	c.t.					Vickers	

Course description: Please see online course catalog (LSF).

33304 Trump vs. Biden **Bierling**

Module: EAS-M31.2 (8.0), EAS-M31.4 (8.0), EAS-M34.1 (8.0), EAS-M34.2 (8.0), EAS-M34.3 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Tag	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Beginn	Ende	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	Wöch	16	18	c.t.					Bierling	

Course description: Please see online course catalog (LSF).