
41104 Introduction to the American Cultural and Literary Studies I

Krstic

Modules – See Module Overview: Intro Lit

Ü, 2 SWS, Tue 10-12, S 52 (RW II)

In our rapidly changing world, the United States continues to be a key player in world events. As an economic power whose historical and current cultural formation have contributed strongly to our increasingly globalized world, the various manifestations of U.S. literature and culture call for in-depth investigation. This introductory class has three major goals. (1) It provides a survey of American literary and cultural history from the 17th to the 21st century, giving particular emphasis to the diversity of (ethnic) voices and to the diversity of media and genres that have shaped it. (2) It introduces basic theoretical and methodological categories and concepts that have defined the field of American Studies since its emergence in the 1930s. (3) It introduces participants to the systematic analysis of literary texts and contemporary media.

Requirements: active participation, written exam

All reading material will be made available on the e-learning platform.

First meeting, Tuesday, Oct 25, 2022

**41108 Postmodernism and the Contemporary Canadian Novel:
Atwood and Ondaatje**

Krstic

Modules – See Module Overview: AS LIT, AM

PS, 2 SWS, Thur 10-12, S 46 (RW II)

Linda Hutcheon defines postmodern literature as “literature that is openly aware of the fact that it is written and read as part of a particular culture, having to do with the literary past as much as with the social present.” In this seminar, we will read Margaret Atwood’s novel *Surfacing* (1972) and Michael Ondaatje’s Booker Prize-winning novel *The English Patient* (1992) that follow this postmodernist impulse. They question tensions and dualities between male/female, body/mind, instinct/reason and play with narrative unity, linear narration, and reliable point of view. We will focus on textual analysis and develop an in-depth understanding of the novels by situating them within their historical, cultural, and literary contexts.

Texts to be purchased:

Margaret Atwood, *Surfacing*. London: Hachette Digital, 1997 [ISBN-13: 978-0860680642] – the e-book is available in the UBT Library

Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient*. New York: Vintage International, 1993 [ISBN-13: 978-0679745204]

Secondary reading material will be made available on the UBT e-Learning platform.

First meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2022

00113 American Postwar Literature: Writers of the Beat Generation**Krstic****Modules – See Module Overview: AS LIT, AM****PS, 2 SWS, Thur 14-16, S 124 (GW I)**

The Beat Generation is a literary movement that emerged in post-1945 America and reached its artistic maturity during the height of the Cold War. This period in American history was marked by rapid economic, political, and cultural changes that profoundly influenced the aesthetics of the Beat Generation rebelling against the conformity and materialism of mainstream culture. In this seminar, we will read a representative selection of texts that brought the Beat Generation to the literary mainstream, among them Allen Ginsberg's free-verse poems "Howl" (1954), "America" (1956) and "A Supermarket in California" (1956), and Jack Kerouac's "spontaneous prose book" *On the Road* (1957). We will focus on textual analysis and explore the themes and literary techniques that best characterize the Beats' literary production and their experimentation with form and narrative composition.

Texts to be purchased:

Allen Ginsberg, "Howl," "A Supermarket in California," and "America" – any editions of the poems can be used.

Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*. London: Penguin Books, 2000 [ISBN-13: 978-0-141-18267-4]

Secondary reading material will be made available on the UBT e-Learning platform.

First meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2022

41101	Introduction to American Literary and Cultural Studies II	Horn
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Modules – See Module Overview: Intro Lit

Ü, 2 SWS, Wed 8:30-10, S 91 (GW I)

In our rapidly changing world, the United States continues to be a key player in world events. As an economic power whose historical and current cultural formations have contributed strongly to our increasingly globalized world, the various manifestations of U.S. literature and culture call for in-depth investigation. This introductory class has three major goals. (1) It provides a survey of American literary and cultural history from the 17th to the 21st century, giving particular emphasis to the diversity of (ethnic) voices and to the diversity of media and genres that have shaped it. (2) It introduces basic theoretical and methodological categories and concepts that have defined the field of American Studies since its emergence in the 1930s. (3) It introduces participants to the systematic analysis of literary texts and contemporary media.

Requirements: active participation, written assignments, written exam

All reading material will be made available on the e-learning platform

First Meeting: [Wednesday, Oct 19, 2022](#)

41106	Proseminar Literary Studies	Horn
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US American Cultural Narratives

Modules – See Module Overview: PS Lit

PS, 2 SWS, Tue 10-12, S 138 (NW III)

This class offers a survey of the United States' major cultural narratives—those “agreed principles, values and myths that give the country a coherent sense of identity” (Kean/Campbell 2), such as American Exceptionalism, American Dream, Frontier, or Manifest Destiny. Familiarity with these key narratives is indispensable for the study of American literature and culture and will allow us to address fundamental questions such as: What is the role of narrative in processes of shaping a culture? What is a myth? How are ideologies formed? How are discourse and culture connected?

We will focus on literary texts and historical documents from the 19th century, the period when most of these cultural narratives emerged or were consolidated—as the United States was imagining its independent nationhood. Overall, the class will enable students to critically engage with such texts and to recognize and analyze the ways in which cultural narratives are invoked in a broad variety of contexts and media.

All material will be made available on the e-learning platform.

First Meeting: [Tuesday, Oct 25, 2022](#)

41107 Proseminar Literary Studies**Horn****The Gilded Age: Then and Now****Modules: see module overview – PS Lit****PS, 2 SWS, Tue 10-12, S 124 (GW I)**

In this seminar, we will start from and at the same time question the notion that our contemporary moment aligns particularly well with the late nineteenth century, which is referred to as the Gilded Age after an 1873-novel by Charles Dudley Warner and Mark Twain. “The Gilded Age” describes the US in the last 30 years of the 19th century as an era in which unprecedented technological innovation and industrial growth gave a golden façade to a society otherwise defined by poverty, racist violence, and social insecurity. In the past 30 years, the US has been described as having entered a second Gilded Age. While such claims have not gone uncontested by historians and economists alike, the parallels have nonetheless inspired numerous journalistic, scholarly, and cultural reflections on historical (dis)continuities. Accordingly, we will approach the literature and culture of the 1870s to 1890s primarily through the prism of these socio-economic parallels (such as inequality) rather than the aesthetic concepts of realism and naturalism. Drawing mainly on short stories, we will explore the cultural embeddedness of literature and its role as a historical source.

Students will be introduced to key authors of the late nineteenth century (e.g. Edith Wharton, William Dean Howells, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Zitkala Sa) as well as key themes and concepts, which will enable them to engage critically with contemporaneous literary representations of the Gilded Age. Finally, we will use our newly gained knowledge of the era to analyze the adaptation and translation of these key themes and concepts in recent presentations of the Gilded Age. e. g. the HBO series of the same name.

All material will be made available on the e-learning platform.

First Meeting: Monday, Oct 24, 2022

41102 Lecture**Mayer****The Literary and Cultural History of Nature:
An Introduction to the Environmental Imagination in North America****Modules: BA Ang/Am: GM Wahl, VM LIT HIST, SM WP 1;****Lehramt: VM LIT HIST; MAIAS: A 5; This class can also be used
as "Survey LIT, AM" (see Module Overview)****VL, 2 SWS, Wed 10-12, H 16 (NW II)**

The Covid-19 pandemic and global anthropogenic climate change are only the most current examples of environmental crisis on a planetary scale that have made us recognize the inextricable connectedness of human life and history with nonhuman nature. These crises show that if we are to understand and cope with them fully, we have to rely on scientific knowledge, but must also locate them within larger historical, societal, and cultural settings. Environmental crises are always cultural crises, caused not only by specific (economic) practices, but also by the concepts, ideas, and values that legitimize and shape them. These concepts, ideas, and values become manifest in stories and images, in different media and genres, in verbal and visual texts, both factual and fictional, which together constitute the environmental imagination of countries and cultures as they develop over time.

This series of lectures introduces the environmental imagination in North America, of the United States and Canada, from the colonial period up to the present. The lectures will first introduce the field of ecocriticism – environmental literary and cultural studies –, which has drawn attention to the importance of the cultural work of literature and the arts for understanding environmental histories and environmentalist movements around the globe. In the weeks following, we will proceed with the discussion of texts that have shaped the cultures of the two countries since the 17th century: literary texts, painting, photography, and film. We will address the oral literatures of the indigenous populations of North America, the printed literature of European colonization, the novelistic production of a variety of ethnic voices (e.g. genres like environmental utopias and dystopias as well as the climate change novel), landscape paintings, "green" Hollywood movies, nature documentaries, and Anthropocene photography. Central to all discussions will be the specific aesthetics and ethics of the texts, their potential rhetorical power, and their contribution to the ongoing history of defining such fundamental concepts as "nature," "culture," and "the human."

Materials will be made available on E-learning.**First meeting: Wednesday, Oct 19, 2022**

41110 Advanced Seminar Literary Studies **Mayer**

American Drama After World War II: Arthur Miller

Modules – See Module Overview: AS LIT, AM

HS, 2 SWS, Mon 10-12, S 91 (GW I)

The Covid-19 pandemic and global anthropogenic climate change are only the most current examples of environmental crisis on a planetary scale that have made us recognize the inextricable connectedness of human life and history with nonhuman nature. These crises show that if we are to understand and cope with them fully, we have to rely on scientific knowledge, but must also locate them within larger historical, societal, and cultural settings. Environmental crises are always cultural crises, caused not only by specific (economic) practices, but also by the concepts, ideas, and values that legitimize and shape them. These concepts, ideas, and values become manifest in stories and images, in different media and genres, in verbal and visual texts, both factual and fictional, which together constitute the environmental imagination of countries and cultures as they develop over time.

This series of lectures introduces the environmental imagination in North America, of the United States and Canada, from the colonial period up to the present. The lectures will first introduce the field of ecocriticism – environmental literary and cultural studies –, which has drawn attention to the importance of the cultural work of literature and the arts for understanding environmental histories and environmentalist movements around the globe. In the weeks following, we will proceed with the discussion of texts that have shaped the cultures of the two countries since the 17th century: literary texts, painting, photography, and film. We will address the oral literatures of the indigenous populations of North America, the printed literature of European colonization, the novelistic production of a variety of ethnic voices (e.g. genres like environmental utopias and dystopias as well as the climate change novel), landscape paintings, “green” Hollywood movies, nature documentaries, and Anthropocene photography. Central to all discussions will be the specific aesthetics and ethics of the texts, their potential rhetorical power, and their contribution to the ongoing history of defining such fundamental concepts as “nature,” “culture,” and “the human.”

Materials will be made available on E-learning.

First meeting: [Wednesday, Oct 24, 2022](#)

4112G Advanced Seminar Literary Studies **Mayer**

Coping with Adversity:

The American Novel as Narrative of Resilience

Modules – See Module Overview: AS LIT, AM

HS, 2 SWS, Mon 14-16, S 125 (GW I)

Literary criticism has for quite some time focused on how fiction has engaged with the haunting, negative consequences of large-scale traumatic experiences such as war, genocide, or ecological catastrophe. Only very recently, however, has it turned to how fiction has also engaged with what has been called trauma’s “shadow condition”: resilience. Resilience can be defined as the capability to adapt to adversity in a positive way, to resist, to recover, and to transform in sustainable ways. In this seminar,

we will discuss three American novels as resilience narratives: Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*, and Barbara Kingsolver's *Flight Behavior*. We will address how these novels engage with traumatic experiences linked to the history of race, immigration, and global environmental disaster in the U.S., insisting on resilience as one significant response to experiences of adversity. The seminar will start with the discussion of seminal conceptual texts that have set out to define resilience narratives as a genre. Then we will study in detail the thematic and formal techniques employed by the novels as well as the cultural work they may have performed.

Texts to be purchased (Any edition of the novels can be used):

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)

Bharati Mukherjee. *Jasmine* (1989)

Barbara Kingsolver. *Flight Behavior* (2012)

Materials will be made available on E-learning.

First meeting: Monday, Oct 24, 2022

00138 Advanced Seminar Literary Studies

Mayer

“Arboreal Encounters”: Richard Powers, *The Overstory*

Modules – See Module Overview: AS LIT, AM

HS, 2 SWS, Tue 14-16 (October – December) + 2 block meetings (Friday, Jan 13, 9:00 – 15:00 + Friday Jan 20, 9:00 – 15:00), S 121 (GW I)

In this seminar, we will discuss Richard Powers' *The Overstory*, a novel of epic scale that explores the complex relationships between humans and trees, and by doing so poses urgent questions – scientific, political, social as well as ethical and aesthetic – that mark our current cultural moment of human-made, global ecological crisis. With its plot centering on (radical) environmentalism, *The Overstory* gradually merges the stories of its nine human protagonists whose lives are all intricately entangled with a variety of trees and other plants. Seminar discussion will start with conceptual issues, most importantly with work from the fields of forest ecology that has studied plant agency, plant intelligence, and plant communication, and with their impact on narratology. In the remainder of the meetings we will explore how the specific human-plant entanglements of the novel are linked to a variety of other issues such as immigration, mobility, art, digital culture, and forms of knowledge production that range from empirical science to knowledge gained from spiritual experience. It is strongly recommended that participants have finished reading *The Overstory* (in the edition specified below) by the time the semester starts.

Texts to be purchased:

Richard Powers. *The Overstory*. 2018. Norton, 2019. [ISBN-13: 978-0393356687]

All other material will be made available on E-learning.

First meeting: Tuesday, Oct 25, 2022

41112 Übung **Mayer**
**“Vorbereitung für die Erste Lehramtsprüfung: Englische/
Amerikanische Literaturwissenschaft (Amerikanische Literatur)”**

Modules – See Module Overview: Lehramt EM FW

Ü, 2 SWS, Tue 10-12, S 121 (GW I)

Die Übung bereitet Lehramtsstudierende auf die literaturwissenschaftliche Klausur im Staatsexamen vor. Zur Vorbereitung der Klausur werden anhand der vorgegebenen Themenbereiche (d.h. Epochen- und Gattungsschwerpunkte) die Kompetenzen im Bereich der Analyse narrativer, dramatischer und lyrischer Texte sowie Kenntnisse der US-amerikanischen Literatur- und Kulturgeschichte weiter vertieft. Gegenstand der Übung sind im Wintersemester 2022/23 ausschließlich Texte der amerikanischen Literatur bzw. die amerikanische Literatur- und Kulturgeschichte.

First meeting: Tuesday, Oct 25, 2022

MODULE OVERVIEW

All courses may be open to further BA and MA programmes, please contact the instructor.

This applies, among others, to older versions of the teachers' programme, *BA Theater und Medien*, *BA/MA African Verbal and Visual Arts*, *MA Kultur und Gesellschaft Afrikas*, *MA Literatur und Medien*, and *MA Literatur im kulturellen Kontext*.

Module key	BA Ang/Am old	BA Ang/Am new	BA ICS old	BA ICS new	LA Gym 'old' (before 2016)	LA Gym 2016-18/ <u>from 2018/19</u>	LA RS old/ <u>2018/2019</u>	MAIAS
S & P	D2	WK	-	WK				-
INTRO LIT	A1 (Ang/Am)	GM LIT 1 (Ang/Am)	A1.1 (Ang/Am)	GM LIT 1 (Ang/Am)	A1	GM Lit <u>GM LIT 1</u>	A1 GM Lit <u>GM LIT 1</u>	-
SURVEY LIT	A3 (Ang/Am), A7, B1.1 B2.1, B3 (2)	GM LIT 2 (Ang/Am), GM Wahl, SM WP1, VM LIT HIST	A1.2 (Ang/Am)	GM LIT 2 (Ang/Am)	A3	GM Lit <u>GM LIT 2,</u> <u>VM LIT HIST</u>	-	A5
INTRO LING 1	A2	GM LING 1	A1.1	GM LING 1	A2	GM Ling <u>GM LING 1</u>	A2 GM Ling <u>GM LING 1</u>	A4
INTRO LING 2	A5, A7 (Kombi)	GM LING 2	A2.1	GM LING 2	A5	GM Ling <u>GM LING 2</u>	-	-
VL LING HIST	A7, B1.1, B2.1, B3 (2)	SM WP 1, VM LING HIST	A1.2	-	A5a	VM Ling <u>VM LING HIST</u>	-	A5
PS LIT	A4, A7, B1.1, B2.1, B3 (2)	VM LIT, VM LIT HIST*, GM Wahl, SM WP1	A1.3 (Ang/Am)	VM LIT	A4, A4a, B2d	VM Lit, WM FW, WM FW/FD <u>VM LIT, ggf. VM LIT HIST</u>	A4, B2d, VM Lit <u>VM LIT</u>	A4, C3
PS LING	A6, A7, B1.1, B2.1, B3 (2)	VM LING, VM LING HIST*, GM	A1.3	VM LING	A6, B2d	VM Ling, WM FW, WM FW/FD <u>VM LING,</u>	A6, B2d, VM Ling <u>VM LING</u>	A4, C3

Module key	BA Ang/Am old	BA Ang/Am new	BA ICS old	BA ICS new	LA Gym 'old' (before 2016)	LA Gym 2016-18/ <u>from 2018/19</u>	LA RS old/ <u>2018/2019</u>	MAIAS
		Wahl, SM WP1				<u>ggf. VM LING HIST</u>		
AS LIT	B1, B1.1, B2, B2.1, B3 (1), B3 (2)	SM WP1, SM HA LIT (Ang/ Am), SM SP LIT (Ang/Am)	A2.1, A2.2, A2.5	SM HA LIT	B2a, B2d	SM Lit, WM FW, WM FW/FD <u>SM HA LIT</u>	B2d, B2e, <u>SM FW</u>	A2, A4, A5, C1, C2, C3, D1
AS LING	B1, B1.1, B2, B2.1, B3 (1), B3 (2)	SM WP1, SM HA LING1, SM SP LING	A2.1, A2.4, A2.5	SM HA LING	B2b, B2d	SM Ling, WM FW, WM FW/FD <u>SM HA LING</u>	B2d, B2e, <u>SM FW</u> <u>SM FW</u>	A2, A4, A5, C1, C2, C3, D1
SM KULT	-	-	B1	GM KULT	B2c	SM Kult <u>SM KULT</u>	-	-
Einführung FD	-	-	-	-	DI1	GM FD 1, GM FD 2 ab WS 19/20: GM FD	DI1, <u>GM FD</u> <u>GM FD</u>	-
Seminar FD	-	-	-	-	DI2, B2d	GM FD 1, WM FW/FD, VM FD ab WS 19/20: VM FD 1 VM FD 2	DI2a, DI2b, <u>GM FD</u> , <u>VM FD</u> ab WS 19/20: VM FD 1 VM FD 2	-

* applies to courses with a focus on the history of the English language / literature only.