



American Studies Course Program

Winter Term 2024/2025

Please also check updates on [SPUR](#)

Office hours winter term 2024/2025

Name	Office hours	Room PT	Phone: 943-
SCHLARB, Prof. Dr. Damien Lehrstuhlvertretung	Tuesday, 15:00-16:00 Wednesday, 15:00-16:00	3.2.73	3478
DEPKAT, Prof. Dr. Volker	Tuesday, 14:00-15:00 Thursday, 13:00-14:00	3.2.71	3476
HEBEL-BAURIDL, Dr. Birgit	Thursday, 14:00-15:00	3.2.85	3509
DEXL, Dr. Carmen	Thursday, 09:00-10:00	3.2.70	3475
GOTTESWINTER, Lena	Tuesday, 15:30-16:30	3.2.83	3507
HEGER, Tamara	Tuesday, 10:00-11:00 and by appointment	3.2.86	3510
WEYMANN-TESCHKE, Dr. Stefanie	Wednesday, 12:30-13:30 and by appointment	3.2.83	3507
FRIEBEL, Antonia	Wednesday, 15:00-16:00	3.3.88	3429
GEBAUER, Dr. Amy	Monday, 10:00-12:00	3.3.88	3429
STETLER, Dr. Julia	Tuesday, 8.30-9.30 via Zoom Thursday 10-11 in PT 3.2.88	3.2.888	1809

Registration for office hours is obligatory!
Please send an email to
firstname.lastname@ur.de to register
beforehand and make arrangements!

Amerikanistik (American Studies)

Lectures

35800 Introduction to American Studies **Schlarb**

Module: AMST-M14.2 (1.0), BRST-M14.2 (1.0), ENGYM-M14.2 (1.0), ENHS-M16.1b (1.0), ENLI-M14.2 (1.0), ENRS-M14.2 (1.0)

Vorlesung, SWS: 1, ECTS: 1

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch.	13:00	14:00	c.t.				H 2	Schlarb	

Please note that the exam will be an **on-campus (!) electronic exam**. Exam date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025; 12:00am–3:30pm (three groups; writing time 45mins.). Please note that in order to be able to take the final exam, students need to be registered and admitted to the lecture course via SPUR and registered for the exam via FlexNow.

This lecture course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of American Studies and provides an overview of its methods, theories, materials, resources, and areas of study. Individual sessions will give introductory accounts of North American geography, demographic developments and U.S. immigration history, major issues and coordinates of North American and U.S. history, the political system of the U.S., American ideologies and identity constructions, the religious landscape of the U.S., multilingualism and language politics in North America.

Credit requirement: final exam: Tuesday, February 04, 12:00am–3:30pm (45 mins), see above.

Course texts: Hebel, Udo. **Einführung in die Amerikanistik/American Studies**. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2008. Print. Bronner, Simon J., ed. **Encyclopedia of American Studies**. Johns Hopkins UP, 2014. Web.

35801 American Literary History **Hebel-Bauridl**

Module: AMST-M13.3 (4.0), AMST-M16.2 (4.0), BRST-M13.3 (4.0), ENGS-M13.2b (4.0), ENGS-M22.2b (4.0), ENGYM-M13.3 (4.0), ENHS-M13.2b (4.0), ENHS-M22.2b (4.0), ENLI-M13.3 (4.0), ENRS-M13.3 (4.0)

Vorlesung, SWS: 2, ECTS: 4

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch.	10:00	12:00	c.t.					Hebel-Bauridl	

Please note that the exam will be an **on-campus (!) electronic exam**. Exam date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025; 08:00am–02:00pm (four groups; writing time 60mins.). Please note that in order to be able to take the final exam, students need to be registered and admitted to the lecture course via Spur and registered for the exam via FlexNow.

Please also note that in the winter term of 2024/2025 “American Literary History” will take place in an online and asynchronous format.

Starting on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, you will find weekly video lectures and handouts on GRIPS. The lecture uploads will be asynchronous (i.e. not live)—you can listen to them / repeat them at your own pace. You will receive an email with the respective GRIPS log-in information shortly before the beginning of the lecture course.

The lecture course surveys the history of American literature: from indigenous traditions to a critical perspective on European explorations, settler colonialism, and slavery; to the American Revolution, the Early Republic and cultural nationalism; to reformatory movements, women’s movements, and abolitionism; to Realism and Naturalism; to Modernism, the Lost Generation, and the Harlem Renaissance; to the postmodern era, cultural pluralism, the Beat Generation, and the Civil Rights movement; to the present. Embedding literary history in larger dynamics of cultural and

political developments, the lecture course discusses verbal texts alongside further forms of cultural expression such as images, performances, or spaces. It challenges eurocentric dynamics in literary and cultural history; offers a historicized perspective on the non/canonization of marginalized artists such as women and BIPOC identities; considers past and present politically, socially, culturally, literary reformatory impulses; and takes into account recent developments in literary and cultural theory in general and in American Studies in particular.

Credit requirement: Final exam: Wednesday, February 5, 2025; see above.

Recommended reading: Baym, Nina, et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 8th ed. 5 vols. New York: Norton, 2012. Print.

This lecture course is also recommended as a review for *Staatsexamen* candidates.

35804 "Nineteenth-Century African-American History, 1815–1914" Depkat

Module: ENGYM-M32A.1 (4.0), AMST-M32.1 (4.0), AMST-M23.3 (4.0), ENG-UF-WB (4.0), WB-IAA, 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
Do	wöch	08:30	10:00	s.t.			Gr 1	H3	Depkat	

The lecture will discuss the major topics, problems, contexts and transformations of African-American history in the period from the end of the War of 1812 to the eve of World War I. This period saw the expansion, differentiation, and collapse of slavery as a “system of many systems” in an emerging cotton-industrial-complex. The rise of an increasingly vociferous and militant abolitionist movement is as much part of nineteenth-century African-American history as are the Civil War that abolished slavery and the period of Reconstruction that held open a window of change in race relations, if only for a short period of time. The final third of the century discussed in this lecture saw the advent of Jim Crow in the South and the beginnings of black resistance against this system of racial segregation. At the same time, African Americans became a growing presence also in the rapidly growing urban centers of the North. In discussing all these major problems of nineteenth-century African American history, the lecture transcends conventional periodizations and opens up new perspectives on the (dis)continuities of the American past.

Readings: Lois E. Horton and James Oliver Horton, *Hard Road to Freedom: The Story of Black America* (2 vols., New York: Oxford UP, 2022); Thomas C. Holt and Elsa Barkley Brown, eds., *Major Problems in African-American History: Volume 1: From Slavery to Freedom, 1619–1877: Documents and Essays* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000); the same, eds., *Major Problems in African American History: Volume 2: From Freedom to ‘Freedom Now,’ 1865–1990s* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).
Credit requirement: final exam (for BA, LA); final exam on Thursday, February 6, 2025, 8:30am-10; room tba, and book review (for MA)

American Cultural History

35810 American Cultural History Depkat, Heger, Stetler

Module: AMST-M14.4 (4.0), BRST-M14.4 (4.0), ENGS-M14.2 (4.0), ENGYM-M14.4 (4.0), ENHS-M14.2 (4.0), ENHS-M16.2b (4.0), ENLI-M14.4 (4.0), ENRS-M14.4 (4.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, ECTS: 4, Max. Teilnehmer: 20/Gruppe

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch.			c.t.			Alle Gruppen	asynchronous	Depkat	
Di	wöch	10:00	11:00	c.t.			Gruppe 1	H5	Depkat	
Di	wöch	11:00	12:00	c.t.			Gruppe 2	H5	Depkat	
Di	wöch.	13:00	14:00	c.t.			Gruppe 3	ZH 5	Heger	
Di	wöch.	14:00	15:00	c.t.			Gruppe 4	ZH 5	Heger	
Mi	wöch.	9:00	10:00	s.t.			Gruppe 5	ZH 4	Stetler	

Mi	wöch.	10:00	11:00	s.t.			Gruppe 6	ZH 4	Stetler	
Mi	wöch.	11:00	12:00	s.t.			Gruppe 7	ZH 4	Stetler	
Mi	wöch.	12:00	13:00	c.t.			Gruppe 8	ZH 4	Stetler	
Mi	wöch	13:00	14:00	c.t.			Gruppe 9	ZH 4	Stetler	

Please note: The lecture (two hours) will take place in an asynchronous format. All one-hour seminars take place in person.

Drawing on a broad range of textual, visual, and audiovisual materials, the course will give an in-depth overview over the cultural, social, and political history of the U.S. from the earliest European encounters with the 'New World' to contemporary interpretations of what 'America' might mean for different groups inside and outside of the U.S. We will cover a broad range of cultural and historical issues, including ideological interpretations of American landscapes and spaces, attitudes toward demographic developments and immigration, controversies about the U.S.-American political-economic system and foreign policy, the plurality of the American religious landscape, and multilingualism and the diversity of cultural traditions in North America to familiarize students with materials, areas of study, and theoretical approaches in the interdisciplinary field of American Studies and their significance for the study of American cultural history. The course is organized into a two-hour lecture outlining the major problems, contexts and trajectories of the individual session topics, and a one-hour seminar that will deepen the knowledge gained in the lecture and do in-depth work with selected textual, visual and audiovisual materials.

Credit requirement: final exam for participants of all sections of this class on Tuesday, February, 11, 2025, 10am-noon, H3 and H4.

Course materials: weekly readings; Hebel, Udo. *Einführung in die Amerikanistik/American Studies*. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2008. Print.

Recommended history textbooks: Depkat, Volker. *Geschichte Nordamerikas: Eine Einführung*. Köln: Böhlau, 2008. Print. ---. *Geschichte der USA*. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2016. Print. Boyer, Paul S., et al. *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People*. 8th ed. Boston: Wadsworth, 2014. Print.

Introduction to English and American Literary Studies

35815 Introduction to English and American Literary Studies Schlarb, Gotteswinter, Weymann-Teschke

Module: AMST-M13.1 (4.0), AMST-M16.1 (4.0), ENGS-M13.1 (4.0), ENGYM-M13.1 (4.0), ENHS-M13.1 (4.0), ENLI-M13.1 (4.0), ENRS-M13.1 (4.0)

Seminar, SWS: 3, ECTS: 4, Max. Teilnehmer: 20/Gruppe

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch.	10:00	12:00	c.t.			Alle Gruppe	H4	Schlarb	
Di	wöch.	10:00	11:00	c.t.			Gruppe 1	PT 1.0.2	Gotteswinter	
Di	wöch.	11:00	12:00	c.t.			Gruppe 2	PT 1.0.2	Gotteswinter	
Di	wöch.	14:00	15:00	c.t.			Gruppe 3	PT 1.0.2	Gotteswinter	
Mi	wöch.	10:00	11:00	c.t.			Gruppe 4	ZH 5	Weymann-Teschke	
Mi	wöch.	11:00	12:00	c.t.			Gruppe 5	ZH 5	Weymann-Teschke	
Mi	wöch	14:00	15:00				Gruppe 6	ZH 6	Weymann-Teschke	

Please note that the exam will be an on-campus (!) electronic exam. Exam date: Thursday, February 6, 2025; 10:00am-noon (90 mins). Please note that in order to be able to take the final exam, students need to be registered and admitted to the lecture course via SPUR and registered for the exam via FlexNow.

This course consists of two parts: a lecture and a seminar. The lecture is taught by Prof. Damien Schlarb. The seminar sessions are taught by instructors from the American Studies division of the English Department (groups 1-3 Lena Gotteswinter, groups 4-6 Dr. Stefanie Weymann-Teschke). Students should attend both the lecture and the seminar in tandem and regularly. Together, the

two courses impart the fundamental knowledge and the practical analytical skills necessary for the study of anglophone literature. The lecture introduces students to foundational disciplinary concepts, such as 'literature,' 'culture,' and 'text.' It covers major theoretical approaches and surveys critically issues of literary history, canonization, and periodization. Finally, the course covers a variety of literary texts, including representative examples of all major literary forms, and guides students in applying technical terms and concepts to the analysis and interpretation of literary texts. On a minor note, the lecture also addresses strategies of research and writing. Students in the *Lehramt* programs can earn the skills and knowledge base necessary for seminars in both British and American literature.

Credit requirement: final exam: Thursday, February 6, 2025, 10am–noon (90 mins), see above.

Required readings: Peter Barry, *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory* (Manchester UP); Michael Meyer, *English and American Literature* (Francke). Further readings and materials will be available on GRIPS.

Undergraduate Seminars in American Studies (formerly Proseminare)

35820 American Literature I: From the Beginnings through the 19th Century Dexl

Module: AMST-M16.3 (4.0), AMST-M22.1 (4.0), ENG-UF-WB (4.0), ENGYM-M23.2 (4.0)

Proseminar, SWS: 2, ECTS: 4, Max. Teilnehmer: 20

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch.	12:00	14:00	c.t.			Gruppe 1	PT 1.0.2	Dexl	

The course examines selected examples of American literature from the pre-Columbian Native American oral tradition through nineteenth-century literary writing. Taught in seminar format and based on reading, discussion, and active participation, the course places literary texts in their historical and cultural contexts. Readings include early exploration narratives and selected texts from colonial America, samples of nineteenth-century short fiction, Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, and selected poems by prominent authors, such as Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. Students are expected to read and actively prepare the assigned texts.

Course requirement: oral presentation, incl. presentation handout and/or PowerPoint presentation.

Credit requirement: an 8- to 10-page (3,500 to 4,500-word) research paper in English.

Required text: Baym, Nina et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 8th ed. Vols. A, B, and C. New York: Norton, 2012. Print. Additional required texts will be announced in the first session.

35825 American Literature II: The 20th and 21st Centuries Schlarb

Module: AMST-M16.3 (4.0), AMST-M22.2 (4.0), ENG-UF-WB (4-0), ENGYM-M23.2 (4.0)

Proseminar, SWS: 2, ECTS: 4, Max. Teilnehmer: 20

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.			Gruppe 1	PT 1.0.2	Schlarb	
Mi	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.			Gruppe 2	PT 1.0.2	Schlarb	

The course explores representative 20th- and 21st-century American fiction, poems, and plays. Taught in seminar format and based on reading, discussion, and active participation, it studies literary texts in their respective historical and cultural contexts as well as from the perspective of current scholarly debates in the field. Exploring movements and concepts such as realism, modernism, postmodernism, and cultural pluralism and reformatory impulses, the course deepens students' knowledge and research skills with regard to American literary history, cultural and literary concepts. Students are expected to read and actively prepare the assigned texts.

Course requirement: oral presentation, incl. presentation handout and/or PowerPoint presentation.

Credit requirement: an 8- to 10-page (3,500 to 4,500-word) research paper in English.

Required texts: Baym, Nina, et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 8th ed. Vols. C, D, and E. New York: Norton, 2012. Print. Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. Penguin, 2000. (Penguin Modern Classics, ISBN-13: 978-0141182636). Print. Additional required texts will be announced in the first course session.

35832 Political Institutions: Current Trends in America's Democracy Stetler

Module: AMST-M23.1 (4.0), ENG-UF-WB (4.0)

Proseminar, SWS: 2, ECTS: 4, Max. Teilnehmer: 20

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch.	12:00	14:00	c.t.				ZH 6	Stetler	

Who will be the next President of the US, and what will the outcome mean for the US and the world? This is a once-in-every-eight-semesters opportunity to deep-dive into the American presidential and congressional elections, the transition of power, and the first month of a new presidential term. We will examine the process, people, and issues involved and analyze the political institutions and constitutional requirements that govern this election and this system of government as a whole. The races and results of the Congressional elections, selected state races, and ballot initiatives will also be discussed. Central questions deal with how the American political system works, what the role and powers of the President and Congress are, and why this election seems so decisive not just for the US, but also beyond its borders. Students are expected to immerse themselves in the American media coverage and stay up to date on the developments. Most of the class will consist of guided discussions, which heavily rely on participation and preparation.

Course requirement: lead a class discussion.

Credit requirement: write an 8- to 10-page research paper (MLA 8; 3,500–4,500 words) in English
Readings: Materials will be available on GRIPS-

Graduate Seminars in American Studies (Cultural Studies Advanced)

35837 Cultural Studies Advanced: Wyoming, the West, and the World Stetler

Module: ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch.	14:00	16:00	c.t.				ZH 5	Stetler	

This class will take a “boots-on-the-ground” approach to American studies by closely examining the state of Wyoming as a stand-in for the American West. We’ll trace major changes and developments in US history and culture through the lens of this state that somehow always finds itself at the nation’s crossroads. But what could possibly ever happen in Wyoming, you ask? The answer is as clear as the morning air on the Great Plains: in the first part of the course, we’ll place Wyoming at the center of American expansion in the 19th century and examine Wyoming’s Native American tribes, the overland trails, homesteading and ranching efforts, the emergence of the cowboy and frontier myths, the construction of the transcontinental railroad, as well as women suffrage and statehood. How have these issues influenced the US as a whole, and even projected out into the world? In the second part of the course, we’ll look at the 20th century, with a special focus on the land: drought and depression, new deals, conservation and tourism, but also natural resource extraction and the fight for sustainable energies will be discussed. In addition, we’ll also look at major changes during and after World War Two, including Japanese relocation camps, immigration, civil rights, and political polarization. An examination of Wyoming’s identity and its national and international connections in the 21st century will conclude the course, all in the spirit of Wyoming’s motto: let ‘er buck!

Participants should expect a substantial reading volume and class discussions that depend on regular and enthusiastic participation.

Course requirement: short reports and presentations

Credit requirement: An 10pp research paper (MLA 8) in English

Readings: Materials will be available on GRIPS.

**35840 “Digital Games and American Culture: Approaches to New Media, Technology, and Culture” Schlarb
(Topics in Mobilities and Cultural Transfers, EAS-M4)**

Module: EAS-M4.1 (8.0), EAS-M4.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0), EGW-M09.3

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch	10:00	12:00	c.t.				H7	Schlarb	

This graduate seminar explores digital games (“video games” or “computer games”) as a characteristic form of 21st-century American digital media and technology cultures. The course doubles as a survey of major topics in technology culture and as an introduction to the field of Digital Game Studies. Video games present a major culture industry, one whose revenue and profits starkly outrank other industries like film, literature, and music (approx. 280-347 billion \$ revenue worldwide in 2022). Given this economic footprint, we may ask whether and how games matter culturally. Are games a characteristic form for our cultural moment? Do they produce culture? That is, do they allow us to engage with our own attitudes, thinking, and histories? Do they enable us to confront our actual (vs. our stated) values? And if so, how do they generate meanings? The class tries to answer these questions within the methodological framework of American Studies. We proceed in three steps: (1) We begin by exploring the categories relevant for formally analyzing video games, for example algorithmically enforced rules, embodiment in virtual worlds, designed agencies, and procedurality. Video games differ from other texts (literature, film, TV) in that they embody us in simulations of reality and make us act in specific ways within their virtual worlds. Hence, we must critically analyze the designs of these agencies and worlds to determine what they mean. (2) We then create a contextual frame of reference for our interpretations by surveying the political and technical underpinnings of contemporary American technology culture, for instance the logics of algorithms, software formalism, solutionism, neoliberal surveillance and platform capitalism. This survey allows us to think critically about the contexts video games exist in and to parse out how (by what formal means) they make us co-generate meanings and participate in ideologies. We will read texts from diverse academic disciplines and fields, such as Game Studies, Media Studies, Philosophy, Computer Science, and Sociology. (3) We will discuss select games and craft our own sample interpretations.

Note: you do not have to be an avid “gamer” or especially technology savvy to participate.

Methodology / Final Papers: We will employ a critical-analytical and historicist methodology. We will treat games as a kind of text that exists in specific contexts. The goal of our work (class discussion and final papers) will be to establish critical readings that make a case for what games mean and how we should think about them. Meanings are not obvious or self-explanatory, we must argue for them by presenting evidence, conducting analysis and research, and, finally, by offering an interpretation. Our discussions and your final papers will draw on both the methods and theories we cover in class and on the approaches and critical theories you already know from other classes. Considerations like the materiality of games, the production processes behind them, and the (online) communities and affects that form around them may inform those interpretations, but ultimately, your readings must take a stand on a complex problem (e.g., the colonial politics of *Civilization*, the gender performances in *Horizon Zero Dawn*, the rendering of immigration and totalitarianism in *Papers, Please*) and present compelling evidence for your position.

Topics: American Studies, technology, video games, culture, software, play, rules, procedures

Credit requirement CSAAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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*: [Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de)

All course materials will be made available on GRIPS.

35842 “De/Mobilizing Race: Black Identities and Contemporary Visual Culture” (Topics in Mobilities and Cultural Transfers, EAS-M4) Hebel-Bauridl

Module: EAS-M4.1 (8.0), EAS-M4.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	12:00	14:00	s.t.				ZH 4	Hebel-Bauridl	

This course investigates the construction of Black identities in and the socio-political role of contemporary visual culture. Examples will range from visual arts and photography to graffiti and muralism, from film to protest performance, and ultimately to virtual realities, algorithms, and Artificial Intelligence. Taking a critical perspective, the course will center on key questions of social in/justice such as empowerment, participation and equality/equity versus oppression, systemic racism, and white privilege. Thus, we will, for example, analyze political art and protest symbolism of the Black Lives Matter movement, the official portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama, film and streaming series such as *The Photograph* (2020), *Seven Seconds* (2018), or the flight & migration movie *The Swimmers* (2022), graffiti practices in Philadelphia, the storytelling fabrics and quilts by Bisa Butler, and we will probe and reveal the bias of algorithms, search engines, or AI facial recognition. Last but not least, we will view visual culture as a practice which is both spatially and temporally mobile; i.e. we will discuss our course examples in the context of visual traditions and transnational networks.

Credit requirement CSAAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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*: [Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de)

All course materials will be made available on GRIPS.

35843 “The Black Lives Matter Movement: Performing Embodied Protest, Staging Spatial Choreographies” (Topics in Politics and Responsibilities, EAS-M5) Dexl

Module: EAS-M5.1 (8.0), EAS-M5.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	10:00	12:00	c.t.				ZH 6	Dexl	

Starting as a form of hashtag activism in response to the shooting of 17-year-old African American teenager Trayvon Martin in 2012 and the acquittal of his murderer, the slogan “Black Lives Matter” has come to designate the guiding principles of a global social and political movement

committed to the fight against police brutality, racial and ethnic disparities in the US criminal justice system, the prison industrial complex, and systemic racism.

Drawing on theoretical concepts, methodology, and critical lenses of performance studies (e.g., McKenzie, Schechner, Taylor), we will use this seminar to explore the repertoire of protest tactics employed by BLM activists with a special focus on 1) their use and conception of the body, 2), their performance of spatial choreographies and appropriation of public space, 3) the role of collectivity, and 4) their embodiment of collective memory and enactment of ritual. We will discuss the significance of new tactics of resistance identified with the BLM movement on the one hand and established action practices derived from other activist movements (e.g., AIDS, anti-war, or environmental activism) and longer traditions of protest (e.g., the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements) on the other hand. Acknowledging the transnational character of the movement, we will attend to the cultural specificity of expressions of resistance and solidarity and, by implication, their adaptation in different cultural contexts. The central aim of the seminar is to highlight the social, cultural, political and epistemological impact of embodied protest).

Credit requirement CSAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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 module catalogs: ([Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de))

Announcements on course materials will be made in the first session. For requirements in other programs, pls. consult the instructor.

35844 "Object Worlds in American Literature" (Topics in Spaces, Regions, Spheres, EAS-M3) Weymann-Teschke

Module: EAS-M3.1 (8.09; EAS-M3.2 (7.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch	14:00	16:00					ZH 6	Weymann-Teschke	

In this seminar we will explore the significance and role of objects/things in American literature to assess their narrative potential. After establishing a theoretical framework with which to approach objects and things in their spatiality and temporality (via Arjun Appadurai, Bill Brown and Bruno Latour, for example), we will read works from different periods in American literary history and consider their engagement with material culture, the interaction of the animate and inanimate and specifically the encounters between characters, things and places that they dramatize. Here, objects may present themselves as ornaments or symbols, tell stories, connect characters and places, become extensions of self or remain obstinately other, but they invariably open complex worlds which we will investigate and analyze closely. Among the 'materials' to study are works by Sarah Orne Jewett, Edith Wharton, Ralph Ellison, William Carlos Williams or Ruth Ozeki.

All course materials will be announced/made available on GRIPS.

Credit requirement CSAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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 module catalogs:

(https://www.uni-regensburg.de/assets/language-literature-culture/american-studies/master/eas_master_ws1819.pdf)

For requirements in other programs, pls. consult the instructor.

Graduate Seminars in American Studies (Hauptseminare, LA)

35840 **“Digital Games and American Culture: Approaches to New Media, Technology, and Culture”** **Schlarb**
(Topics in Mobilities and Cultural Transfers, EAS-M4)

Module: EAS-M4.1 (8.0), EAS-M4.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0), EGW-M09.3

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch	10:00	12:00	c.t.				H7	Schlarb.	

This graduate seminar explores digital games (“video games” or “computer games”) as a characteristic form of 21st-century American digital media and technology cultures. The course doubles as a survey of major topics in technology culture and as an introduction to the field of Digital Game Studies. Video games present a major culture industry, one whose revenue and profits starkly outrank other industries like film, literature, and music (approx. 280-347 billion \$ revenue worldwide in 2022). Given this economic footprint, we may ask whether and how games matter culturally. Are games a characteristic form for our cultural moment? Do they produce culture? That is, do they allow us to engage with our own attitudes, thinking, and histories? Do they enable us to confront our actual (vs. our stated) values? And if so, how do they generate meanings? The class tries to answer these questions within the methodological framework of American Studies. We proceed in **three steps**: (1) We begin by exploring the categories relevant for formally analyzing video games, for example algorithmically enforced rules, embodiment in virtual worlds, designed agencies, and procedurality. Video games differ from other texts (literature, film, TV) in that they embody us in simulations of reality and make us act in specific ways within their virtual worlds. Hence, we must critically analyze the designs of these agencies and worlds to determine what they mean. (2) We then create a contextual frame of reference for our interpretations by surveying the political and technical underpinnings of contemporary American technology culture, for instance the logics of algorithms, software formalism, solutionism, neoliberal surveillance and platform capitalism. This survey allows us to think critically about the contexts video games exist in and to parse out how (by what formal means) they make us co-generate meanings and participate in ideologies. We will read texts from diverse academic disciplines and fields, such as Game Studies, Media Studies, Philosophy, Computer Science, and Sociology. (3) We will discuss select games and craft our own sample interpretations.

Note: you do **not** have to be an avid “gamer” or especially technology savvy to participate.

Methodology / Final Papers: We will employ a critical-analytical and historicist methodology. We will treat games as a kind of text that exists in specific contexts. The goal of our work (class discussion and final papers) will be to establish critical readings that make a case for what games mean and how we should think about them. Meanings are not obvious or self-explanatory, we must argue for them by presenting evidence, conducting analysis and research, and, finally, by offering an interpretation. Our discussions and your final papers will draw on both the methods and theories we cover in class **and** on the approaches and critical theories you already know from other classes. Considerations like the materiality of games, the production processes behind them, and the (online) communities and affects that form around them may inform those interpretations, but ultimately, your readings must take a stand on a complex problem (e.g., the colonial politics of *Civilization*, the gender performances in *Horizon Zero Dawn*, the rendering of immigration and totalitarianism in *Papers, Please*) and present compelling evidence for your position.

Topics: American Studies, technology, video games, culture, software, play, rules, procedures

Credit requirement CSAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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*: [Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de)

All course materials will be made available on GRIPS.

35842 “De/Mobilizing Race: Black Identities and Contemporary Visual Culture” (Topics in Mobilities and Cultural Transfers, EAS-M4) Hebel-Bauridl

Module: EAS-M4.1 (8.0), EAS-M4.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	12:00	14:00	s.t.				ZH 4	Hebel-Bauridl	

This course investigates the construction of Black identities in and the socio-political role of contemporary visual culture. Examples will range from visual arts and photography to graffiti and muralism, from film to protest performance, and ultimately to virtual realities, algorithms, and Artificial Intelligence. Taking a critical perspective, the course will center on key questions of social in/justice such as empowerment, participation and equality/equity versus oppression, systemic racism, and white privilege. Thus, we will, for example, analyze political art and protest symbolism of the Black Lives Matter movement, the official portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama, film and streaming series such as *The Photograph* (2020), *Seven Seconds* (2018), or the flight & migration movie *The Swimmers* (2022), graffiti practices in Philadelphia, the storytelling fabrics and quilts by Bisa Butler, and we will probe and reveal the bias of algorithms, search engines, or AI facial recognition. Last but not least, we will view visual culture as a practice which is both spatially and temporally mobile; i.e. we will discuss our course examples in the context of visual traditions and transnational networks.

Credit requirement CSAAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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*: [Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de)

All course materials will be made available on GRIPS.

35843 “The Black Lives Matter Movement: Performing Embodied Protest, Staging Spatial Choreographies” (Topics in Politics and Responsibilities, EAS-M5) Dexl

Module: EAS-M5.1 (8.0), EAS-M5.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	10:00	12:00	c.t.				ZH 6	Dexl	

Starting as a form of hashtag activism in response to the shooting of 17-year-old African American teenager Trayvon Martin in 2012 and the acquittal of his murderer, the slogan “Black Lives Matter” has come to designate the guiding principles of a global social and political movement committed to the fight against police brutality, racial and ethnic disparities in the US criminal justice system, the prison industrial complex, and systemic racism.

Drawing on theoretical concepts, methodology, and critical lenses of performance studies (e.g., McKenzie, Schechner, Taylor), we will use this seminar to explore the repertoire of protest tactics employed by BLM activists with a special focus on 1) their use and conception of the body, 2),

their performance of spatial choreographies and appropriation of public space, 3) the role of collectivity, and 4) their embodiment of collective memory and enactment of ritual. We will discuss the significance of new tactics of resistance identified with the BLM movement on the one hand and established action practices derived from other activist movements (e.g., AIDS, anti-war, or environmental activism) and longer traditions of protest (e.g., the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements) on the other hand. Acknowledging the transnational character of the movement, we will attend to the cultural specificity of expressions of resistance and solidarity and, by implication, their adaptation in different cultural contexts. The central aim of the seminar is to highlight the social, cultural, political and epistemological impact of embodied protest).

Credit requirement CSAAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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 module catalogs: ([Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de))

Announcements on course materials will be made in the first session. For requirements in other programs, pls. consult the instructor.

35844 "Object Worlds in American Literature" (Topics in Spaces, Regions, Spheres, EAS-M3) Weymann-Teschke

Module: EAS-M3.1 (8.09; EAS-M3.2 (7.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch	14:00	16:00					ZH 6	Weymann-Teschke	

In this seminar we will explore the significance and role of objects/things in American literature to assess their narrative potential. After establishing a theoretical framework with which to approach objects and things in their spatiality and temporality (via Arjun Appadurai, Bill Brown and Bruno Latour, for example), we will read works from different periods in American literary history and consider their engagement with material culture, the interaction of the animate and inanimate and specifically the encounters between characters, things and places that they dramatize. Here, objects may present themselves as ornaments or symbols, tell stories, connect characters and places, become extensions of self or remain obstinately other, but they invariably open complex worlds which we will investigate and analyze closely. Among the 'materials' to study are works by Sarah Orne Jewett, Edith Wharton, Ralph Ellison, William Carlos Williams or Ruth Ozeki.

All course materials will be announced/made available on GRIPS.

Credit requirement CSAAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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 module catalogs:

(https://www.uni-regensburg.de/assets/language-literature-culture/american-studies/master/eas_master_ws1819.pdf)

For requirements in other programs, pls. consult the instructor.

Reviews

35845 Review American Literature Dexl

Module: ENG-UF-WB (1.0), ENRS-M22.3 (1.0)

Seminar, SWS: 1, ECTS: 1, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch.	15:00	16:00	c.t.				ZH 6	Dexl	

Discussing selected exemplary texts, the course reviews American literary and cultural history from colonial times through the immediate present. Participants are expected to have acquired a solid and broad knowledge of American literary and cultural history and theory in the course of their studies by attending both mandatory and additional courses. The review course builds in particular on the two *Proseminare* in American literature and the lecture course American Literary History.

Course requirement: oral presentation.

Credit requirement: presentation handout.

Course text: All course materials will be available via GRIPS. Baym, Nina, et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 8th ed. New York: Norton, 2012. Print.

35850 Seminar für Examenskandidaten Depkat

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 20

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	14-tägig	18:00	20:00	c.t.				PT 1.0.2	Depkat	

Writing an “akademische Abschlussarbeit” is a challenging task that is prone to make you lonely. Presenting one’s project to others, and having it discussed by fellow students helps a lot to clarify things and overcome loneliness. With this seminar, I want to offer students who are either in the process of writing their *Abschlussarbeit* or about to begin with it the opportunity to present their projects to an interested audience.

35958 Presentation B.A. (American Studies) Hebel-Bauridl

Module: AMST-M31.1 (3.0), ENLI-M31.1 (3.0), ENG-UF-WB

Seminar, SWS: 2, ECTS: 3, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	16:00	18:00	c.t.				ZH 4	Hebel-Bauridl	

This research course focuses on American Studies; it is open to students in the BA programs American Studies and English Linguistics. Students writing their *Zulassungsarbeit* in American Studies may be admitted to the course after prior consultation with Dr. Hebel-Bauridl. The course centers on methodological, structural, and strategic issues of academic research. In this context, it provides students in the BA programs with the opportunity to present the current, work-in-progress state of their BA theses, to debate their own questions, and to receive constructive feedback in a scholarly, safe environment among peers. Course Phase 1 discusses major elements of academic research such as ‘agenda,’ ‘corpus,’ ‘method,’ ‘theory’ etc. as well as the writing process itself. It introduces students to the formats of scholarly research presentations and research proposals as well as to strategies to use these formats to improve their B.A. research. Course Phase 2 is dedicated to discussing students’ individual current stage in their research and writing process and individual strategies of using the upcoming presentation in this course to improve their research and writing. In Course Phase 3, students actually present the current stage of their projects in thematically organized workshops.

Course requirements: course presentations (informal and formal).

Credit requirement: research proposal—handout (app. 5pp.).

First Semester MA Courses in European American Studies

35846 Fundamentals and Frames of Transnational American Studies Hebel-Bauridl

Module: EAS-M1.1 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch.	14:00	16:00	c.t.				ZH 5	Hebel-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: February 9, 2024, 9am–noon (120mins), tba. All course materials will be available on GRIPS. Credit for: MEAS.

35847 Theories and Concepts in European-American Studies Hebel-Bauridl

Module: EAS-M1.2 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.				ZH 5	Hebel-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, or region. 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 interpictureoriality, 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: February 9, 2024, 9am–noon (120mins.), tba. All course materials will be available on GRIPS. Credit for: MEAS.

35848 Readings and Sources in European-American Cultural Relations I: From the Beginning through the End of the 19th Century Depkat

Module: EAS-M2.1 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.	15.10.2024	26.11.2024		ZH 6	Depkat	
Do	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.	17.10.2024	28.11.2024		ZH 5	Depkat	

On the basis of key texts and visual documents, we will discuss mutual perceptions, political interaction, social ties, and cultural exchange between Europe and the United States from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Among the topics covered in this course are Europe's colonial expansion into the New World, eighteenth-century debates about progress and decline, European-American relations in the "Age of Atlantic Revolutions," migration history, and American

capitalism and notions of modernity.

Course requirement: presentation.

Credit requirements: *Modulprüfung* (module exam: Readings I and Readings II; tba).

Reading: All course materials will be available on GRIPS. Credit for: MEAS

35849 Readings and Sources in European-American Cultural Relations II: The 20th and 21st Centuries Depkat

Module: EAS-M2.2 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.	3.12.2024	4.2.2025		ZH 6	Depkat	
Do	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.	5.12.2024	06.2.2025		ZH 5	Depkat	

On the basis of key texts and visual documents, we will discuss mutual perceptions, political interaction, social ties, and cultural exchange between Europe and the United States in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Among the topics covered in this course are the World Wars, the Cold War and the “War on Terror”, the Americanization of Europe, the formation of consumer societies, twentieth-century Euro-American pop culture, and the current state of European-American relations.

Course requirement: presentation.

Credit requirements: *Modulprüfung* (module exam: Readings I and Readings II; tba).

Reading: All course materials will be available on GRIPS. Credit for: MEAS

Seminars in European American Studies

35840 “Digital Games and American Culture: Approaches to New Media, Technology, and Culture” (Topics in Mobilities and Cultural Transfers, EAS-M4) Schlarb

Module: EAS-M4.1 (8.0), EAS-M4.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0), EGW-M09.3

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch	10:00	12:00	c.t.				H7	Schlarb	

This graduate seminar explores digital games (“video games” or “computer games”) as a characteristic form of 21st-century American digital media and technology cultures. The course doubles as a survey of major topics in technology culture and as an introduction to the field of Digital Game Studies. Video games present a major culture industry, one whose revenue and profits starkly outrank other industries like film, literature, and music (approx. 280-347 billion \$ revenue worldwide in 2022). Given this economic footprint, we may ask whether and how games matter culturally. Are games a characteristic form for our cultural moment? Do they produce culture? That is, do they allow us to engage with our own attitudes, thinking, and histories? Do they enable us to confront our actual (vs. our stated) values? And if so, how do they generate meanings? The class tries to answer these questions within the methodological framework of American Studies. We proceed in **three steps**: (1) We begin by exploring the categories relevant for formally analyzing video games, for example algorithmically enforced rules, embodiment in virtual worlds, designed agencies, and procedurality. Video games differ from other texts (literature, film, TV) in that they embody us in simulations of reality and make us act in specific ways within their virtual worlds. Hence, we must critically analyze the designs of these agencies and worlds to determine what they mean. (2) We then create a contextual frame of reference for our interpretations by surveying the political and technical underpinnings of contemporary American technology culture, for instance the logics of algorithms, software formalism, solutionism, neoliberal surveillance and platform capitalism. This survey allows us to think critically about the contexts video games exist in and to parse out how (by what formal means) they make us co-generate

meanings and participate in ideologies. We will read texts from diverse academic disciplines and fields, such as Game Studies, Media Studies, Philosophy, Computer Science, and Sociology. (3) We will discuss select games and craft our own sample interpretations.

Note: you do **not** have to be an avid “gamer” or especially technology savvy to participate.

Methodology / Final Papers: We will employ a critical-analytical and historicist methodology. We will treat games as a kind of text that exists in specific contexts. The goal of our work (class discussion and final papers) will be to establish critical readings that make a case for what games mean and how we should think about them. Meanings are not obvious or self-explanatory, we must argue for them by presenting evidence, conducting analysis and research, and, finally, by offering an interpretation. Our discussions and your final papers will draw on both the methods and theories we cover in class **and** on the approaches and critical theories you already know from other classes. Considerations like the materiality of games, the production processes behind them, and the (online) communities and affects that form around them may inform those interpretations, but ultimately, your readings must take a stand on a complex problem (e.g., the colonial politics of *Civilization*, the gender performances in *Horizon Zero Dawn*, the rendering of immigration and totalitarianism in *Papers, Please*) and present compelling evidence for your position.

Topics: American Studies, technology, video games, culture, software, play, rules, procedures

Credit requirement CSAAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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*: [Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de)

All course materials will be made available on GRIPS.

35842 “De/Mobilizing Race: Black Identities and Contemporary Visual Culture” (Topics in Mobilities and Cultural Transfers, EAS-M4) **Hebel-Bauridl**

Module: EAS-M4.1 (8.0), EAS-M4.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	12:00	14:00	s.t.				ZH 4	Hebel-Bauridl	

This course investigates the construction of Black identities in and the socio-political role of contemporary visual culture. Examples will range from visual arts and photography to graffiti and muralism, from film to protest performance, and ultimately to virtual realities, algorithms, and Artificial Intelligence. Taking a critical perspective, the course will center on key questions of social in/justice such as empowerment, participation and equality/equity versus oppression, systemic racism, and white privilege. Thus, we will, for example, analyze political art and protest symbolism of the Black Lives Matter movement, the official portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama, film and streaming series such as *The Photograph* (2020), *Seven Seconds* (2018), or the flight & migration movie *The Swimmers* (2022), graffiti practices in Philadelphia, the storytelling fabrics and quilts by Bisa Butler, and we will probe and reveal the bias of algorithms, search engines, or AI facial recognition. Last but not least, we will view visual culture as a practice which is both spatially and temporally mobile; i.e. we will discuss our course examples in the context of visual traditions and transnational networks.

Credit requirement CSAAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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: [Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de)

All course materials will be made available on GRIPS.

35843 **“The Black Lives Matter Movement: Performing Embodied Protest, Staging Spatial Choreographies”** **Dexl**
(Topics in Politics and Responsibilities, EAS-M5)

Module: EAS-M5.1 (8.0), EAS-M5.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	10:00	12:00	c.t.				ZH 6	Dexl	

Starting as a form of hashtag activism in response to the shooting of 17-year-old African American teenager Trayvon Martin in 2012 and the acquittal of his murderer, the slogan “Black Lives Matter” has come to designate the guiding principles of a global social and political movement committed to the fight against police brutality, racial and ethnic disparities in the US criminal justice system, the prison industrial complex, and systemic racism.

Drawing on theoretical concepts, methodology, and critical lenses of performance studies (e.g., McKenzie, Schechner, Taylor), we will use this seminar to explore the repertoire of protest tactics employed by BLM activists with a special focus on 1) their use and conception of the body, 2), their performance of spatial choreographies and appropriation of public space, 3) the role of collectivity, and 4) their embodiment of collective memory and enactment of ritual. We will discuss the significance of new tactics of resistance identified with the BLM movement on the one hand and established action practices derived from other activist movements (e.g., AIDS, anti-war, or environmental activism) and longer traditions of protest (e.g., the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements) on the other hand. Acknowledging the transnational character of the movement, we will attend to the cultural specificity of expressions of resistance and solidarity and, by implication, their adaptation in different cultural contexts. The central aim of the seminar is to highlight the social, cultural, political and epistemological impact of embodied protest).

Credit requirement CSAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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 module catalogs: ([Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de))

Announcements on course materials will be made in the first session. For requirements in other programs, pls. consult the instructor.

35844 **“Object Worlds in American Literature” (Topics in Spaces, Regions, Spheres, EAS-M3)** **Weymann-Teschke**

Module: EAS-M3.1 (8.09; EAS-M3.2 (7.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch	14:00	16:00					ZH 6	Weymann-Teschke	

In this seminar we will explore the significance and role of objects/things in American literature to assess their narrative potential. After establishing a theoretical framework with which to approach objects and things in their spatiality and temporality (via Arjun Appadurai, Bill Brown and Bruno Latour, for example), we will read works from different periods in American literary history and

consider their engagement with material culture, the interaction of the animate and inanimate and specifically the encounters between characters, things and places that they dramatize. Here, objects may present themselves as ornaments or symbols, tell stories, connect characters and places, become extensions of self or remain obstinately other, but they invariably open complex worlds which we will investigate and analyze closely. Among the 'materials' to study are works by Sarah Orne Jewett, Edith Wharton, Ralph Ellison, William Carlos Williams or Ruth Ozeki.

All course materials will be announced/made available on GRIPS.

Credit requirement CSAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: 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 module catalogs:

([Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de))

For requirements in other programs, pls. consult the instructor.

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

80230 "Antisemitismuskritik und Rassismuskritik zusammen denken // Countering both: Antisemitism and Racism" **Brüske, Beyer**

Module: EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS 2

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch	8:30	10:00	s.t.				S 214	Brüske, Beyer	

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

80900 "Intersektionalität von den Americas aus gedacht" **Brüske**

Module: EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Ringvorlesung, SWS 2

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Fr.	einzel	09:00	17:00	s.t.	8.11.2024	8.11.2024		tba	Brüske	
Do	wöch	16	18	s.t.				H25	Brüske	

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

33304 "Biden vs. Trump: Die US-Präsidentenwahlen 2024" **Bierling**

Module: EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Vorlesung, SWS 2

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch	16:00	18:00					H22	Bierling	

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

35700 "Language planning and policy" **Leimgruber**

Module: EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Vorlesung, SWS 2

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch	10:00	12:00					H22	Leimgruber	

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