

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger
Thema	‘Longing on a large scale is what makes history’: Don DeLillo’s shorter works since 2001 [AA-V4a/b, ENG-13, AA-M5, AA-M7, AA-M14, AA-M15, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-571
Zeit	Di 10-12
Raum	Phil 1219
Beginn	05.04.11

Course Description:

Following the critical and popular success of his postmodern magnum opus *Underworld* (1997), Don DeLillo began experimenting with rather different forms of prose writing, and the resulting novellas are not only much shorter but arguably also far less accessible than his more expansive, earlier novels. Thus, his novella *The Body Artist* (2001) explores the Freudian themes of mourning and melancholia and only loosely focuses on a young female artist beset by grief for her late husband, a film director much older than she. *Cosmopolis* (2003) continues the exploration of what prose writing is capable of, by following a young and rich asset manager’s odyssey across Manhattan on his way to getting a haircut but getting nowhere fast. DeLillo’s most recent short novel, *Point Omega* (2010), takes up some of the themes familiar from his earlier work including the interface of potentially global disaster and human consciousness. The reception of these recent works has been curiously divided: Considered brilliant by some critics, others don’t seem to see much at all in DeLillo’s “post-*Underworld* metaphysical anti-thrillers,” as Sam Anderson described this group of textual experiments in the *New York Magazine*. Our job throughout the course will be to explore the recurring themes in DeLillo’s recent works, which richly resonate with our post-9/11 world. These include death, war, and terrorism, but also the power of art (or lack thereof, as the case may be) to find adequate ways of representing these troubling realities and thereby making history cohere once again.

Course Requirements:

Regular attendance and participation as well as thorough preparation of reading assignments are essential. In order to receive course credit, each student will be expected to give an in-class presentation and write a final term paper of 15 to 20 pp.

Important Note: All students will be required to buy DeLillo’s *The Body Artist*, *Cosmopolis*, and *Point Omega*, which have been ordered at Reuter & Klöckner.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit	Di 13:30-14:30
Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit	Genaue Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben