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| Veranstalter.....          | Jasmin Humburg        |
| Thema.....                 | American Food Writing |
| Art der Veranstaltung..... | Seminar 1b            |
| Veranstaltungsnummer.....  | 53-561                |
| Zeit.....                  | 2st., Mi 12-14 Uhr    |
| Raum.....                  | Phil 1219             |
| Beginn.....                | 2.4.2014              |

**Description:**

From early captivity narratives to the ingenious statement "I yam what I am" in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*; from Joel Barlow's mirthful poem *The Hasty-Pudding* to today's vast blogosphere - many American writers have used food as a rhetorical, metaphorical and cultural device in their texts. Evidently, food is not merely about physical sustenance and nutrition but plays an essential role in the process of identity construction.

This course will trace the various ways in which food culture has imbued American literature from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. We will scrutinize food tropes as tools for differentiation but also assimilation, for identity formation as well as meaning-making. We will discuss how food imagery can serve as an indicator of the social and national self (including issues of region, ethnicity, class and gender) in selected narratives of preparation, feasting, valuation or refusal of food.

While we will engage socio-cultural issues via food tropes in fictional texts, we will also explore the genre of "food writing" by addressing the character of cookbooks as well as recipes and discussing their position within the world of American literature. Additionally, we will consider concepts such as body image, taste, hunger and critical consumerism. This is a reading-intensive course, which includes a wide range of texts representing a variety of genres.

**Requirements:**

- Regular attendance and active participation as well as thorough preparation of reading assignments (quizzes on reading material need to be passed with no more than one failed)
- In-class presentation
- Final term paper of 8 to 12 pages

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| Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:  |  |
| Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien: |  |