

<b>Veranstalter</b>	<b>Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger</b>
<b>Thema</b>	<b>Visions of the American West [AA-MA3]</b>
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b>	<b>Seminar III</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b>	<b>53-570</b>
<b>Zeit</b>	<b>Mo 14-16</b>
<b>Raum</b>	<b>Phil 1269</b>
<b>Beginn</b>	<b>07.04.14</b>

**Course Description:**

This seminar aims to understand the American West on several levels: as a geographical region, a historical phase of settlement, and finally as an expression of the U.S.-American mentality. In many ways, Frederick Jackson Turner's 'Frontier Thesis' first proposed in 1893 will serve as a starting point. From there, we will consider some classic texts of American Literature including, among others, James Fenimore Cooper's *The Prairie* (1826), Washington Irving's *A Tour on the Prairies* (1835), and Margaret Fuller's *Summer on the Lakes, in 1843* (1844). Throughout, this seminar will use an intermedial approach, by studying literary texts next to paintings (e.g. by Albert Bierstadt and George Catlin as well as Frederic Remington) and photography (e.g. by Edward S. Curtis). Roughly the second half of the course will take a close look at the American Western film as a particularly popular as well as ideologically productive representation (and continual revision) of the American West. The final selection depends on students' input as well, but likely candidates include Edwin S. Porter's *The Great Train Robbery* (1903), John Ford's *Stagecoach* (1939), Sergio Leone's *Once Upon a Time in the West* (1968), Sam Raimi's *The Quick and the Dead* (1995), *Deadwood* (HBO, 2004-2008), and Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain* (2005).

**Course Requirements:**

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

<b>Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit</b>	Di 16-17 und nach Vereinbarung
<b>Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit</b>	Genaue Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben