

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Jan D. Kucharzewski
Thema	A Survey of American Poetry [AA-A3, ENG-7, ENG-7a, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II (Ib für Studienordnungen vor WS 14/15)
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-561
Zeit	2st, Mi. 14-16 Uhr
Raum	1269
Beginn	01.04.2015

“One reads poetry with one's nerves.”

- Wallace Stevens, “Adagia”

This seminar will explore American poetry from its beginnings in 16th century Puritan literature to its contemporary manifestations in some rap lyrics. The aim of the course is to engage with American poetry directly and intensely by devoting each session to a small selection of poems from a specific literary period and by developing in-depth analyses of these texts. Moving from the domestic and religious poetry of America's colonial period to the overtly nationalistic poetry of the enlightenment, from the nature poetry of the American Renaissance to Edgar Allan Poe's often necrophilic love poems, from Walt Whitman's sprawling free verse to Emily Dickinson's consternating poetic riddles, from the reduced forms of modernism to the sometimes shockingly personal works of the Harlem Renaissance and 1950s confessional poetry, from postmodernism's confusing experimentations with style to the punning lyrics of an Eminem song, this seminar will trace a condensed literary history of the United States as refracted through its poetic productions.

The course will not boil down to counting rhymes and meter in order to produce empty formal descriptions of poems, but it will help you to read poetry, as the modern American poet Wallace Stevens declared, with your nerves by enabling you to appreciate American poetry in its many historical articulations. While it is not required that you know a lot about poetry prior to attending this course, the seminar is only directed at students who have both a fundamental interest in poetry as well as a willingness to personally engage with a poem. Don't sign up for this class only because poems are short. Our discussions won't be.

Course Requirements

Students will have to purchase a copy *The Oxford Book of American Poetry* for this seminar. Regular attendance of the course is a basic requirement and will be checked. For each session students will have to produce two response paragraphs on the poems we are discussing as part of their “Studienleistung.” This class will not have any oral presentations but all students will be actively involved in the classroom discussions.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Montags 13-14 Uhr
Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	Einzeltermine; siehe Webseiten des Institutes