

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Jan D. Kucharzewski
Thema	Southern Discomfort: Gothic Fiction of the American South [AA-V4a, AA-V4b, ENG-13, AA-MA3, AA-MA4, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-564
Zeit	2st, Di. 12-14 Uhr
Raum	Phil 1250
Beginn	07.04.2015

#### Kursbeschreibung:

From Ann Rice's *Interview with a Vampire* to Charlaine Harris' Sookie Stackhouse novels (aka *True Blood*), from William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* to Cormac McCarthy's *No Country for Old Men*, from *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* to *Winter's Bone*: The narratives of the American South often revolve around gothic imagery, grotesque characters, surreal landscapes, the unveiling of violent secrets, and the disintegration of dysfunctional families. Unlike traditional gothic fiction, which tends to deploy these tropes and motifs as means of creating suspense, Southern gothic fiction is closer to the narrative mode of magical realism, in which the ghosts and spectres haunting the world are understood as allegorical manifestations of repressed sins, a longing for the "good ol' South," and the unwillingness to accept a present in which a former southern gentility has declined into poverty. Whereas gothic fiction per se typically avoids social issues, the Southern gothic is deeply invested in the exploration of social and economic realities. In many ways the southern literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is a continuing negotiation and re-examination of the two formative experiences of this region: slavery and the defeat in the Civil War. In this seminar we will read texts by authors like William Faulkner, Toni Morrison, Flannery O'Connor, Cormac McCarthy, Joe R. Lansdale, and William Gay as gothic explorations of collective and individual guilt, alienation and estrangement, class conflicts, racism, and nostalgia. The text selection includes but is not limited to:

- Short stories by William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty, and Carson McCullers
- Cormac McCarthy, *Blood Meridian* (1986)
- Joe R. Lansdale, *The Bottoms* (2002)
- Alden Bell, *The Reapers are the Angels* (2011)

#### Teilnahmevoraussetzungen:

This "Hauptseminar" will be a very work intensive class with reading assignments often **exceeding an average of 80 paperback pages per week!** The reading progress will be **checked on a regular basis** and students will have to produce a short response paragraph for each session. Please note that due to their stylistic idiosyncrasies (i.e. the use of regional dialects), experimental narrative modes (often relying on stream-of-consciousness narration), and the explicit treatment of violence and sexuality, these **texts cannot be classified as 'easy reads.'** Please only enroll in this class if you are willing to deal with the extensive reading requirements and to **actively participate** in the class room discussions. There won't be any oral presentations in this class; instead you will be asked to **regularly contribute** to the discussions.

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

	<b>Institutes</b>
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