

Veranstalter.....	Julia Lange
Thema.....	Hashtag Holocaust: Representing Atrocity in a Global Age [AA-V4a/b, ENG-13, AA-MA3, AA-MA4, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-567
Zeit.....	2st. Do 14-16
Raum.....	Phil 1269
Beginn.....	02.04.2015

Course description

Hashtag Holocaust: Representing Atrocity in a Global Age

Seventy-five years after the onset of the Second World War, the Holocaust continues to loom large in American life. Notwithstanding the persistent references to WWII in American political and cultural discourses, the terms in which the Holocaust has been framed ever since the fall of the Berlin wall have decidedly changed. This seminar aims to explore and explain the shifts in the discursive construction of the Holocaust by drawing on literary texts, film, the visual arts as well as museum exhibits and architectural design.

Examining the various narrative strategies employed in these media, we will trace the evolution of the “afterlife” of the Holocaust from the end of the Cold War to the immediate present. Particular attention will be paid to the following four aspects: the advent of the perpetrator as victim trope, the function of comic devices and conventions, the concept of “postmemory”, and the emergence of a universal trauma idiom based on Holocaust commemoration.

We will also critically reflect on the advantages and limitations of cultural studies approaches within the wider context of Holocaust studies. In other words, how does an informed understanding of the semiotics of the “selfie”, for instance, impact our analysis of memory cultures in a digital age, i.e. at a time when recently introduced EU legislation on the “right to be forgotten” affects our Google search?

The seminar includes a day-trip to Berlin to visit the Holocaust Memorial, the Jewish Museum, and the recently opened exhibit “Widerstand gegen den Nationalsozialismus” at the *Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand*.

Credit Requirements: Regular attendance, short oral presentation, term paper (8-15 pages).

Sprechstunde in der Vorlesungszeit:	Nach Anmeldung via e-mail
Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	Nach Anmeldung via e-mail