

<b>Veranstalter:</b>	<b>Dr. Jan D. Kucharzewski</b>
<b>Thema:</b>	<b>Emily, Walt, Edgar, Herman and Co.: The American Renaissance</b> [AA-V4, ENG-13, AA-M7, AA-M15, AA-M16, AA-W]
<b>Art der Veranstaltung:</b>	<b>Seminar II</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer:</b>	<b>53-567</b>
<b>Zeit:</b>	<b>2st., Di 12–14</b>
<b>Raum:</b>	<b>Phil 1250</b>
<b>Beginn:</b>	<b>ab 19.10.10</b>

**Course Description:**

Between the years 1830 and 1860 American literature produced some of its most recognizable and cherished works: Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick*, the gothic and detective tales of Edgar Allan Poe, Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*, Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter*, Emily Dickinson’s enigmatic poetry as well as the philosophical writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Margaret Fuller.

Because of this flourishing of literary and philosophical ideas that finally allowed America to step out of the long shadow cast by European culture, critics refer to this period as the “American Renaissance,” after a study by F.O. Matthiessen published in 1941. While Matthiessen’s book is not without faults (he, for example, ignores the works of Dickinson and Poe in his considerations), the name “American Renaissance” has become synonymous for the different shadings of what is, in fact, America’s distinct brand of 19<sup>th</sup> century romanticism.

In this seminar we will read and discuss some of the most essential short stories, poems, and philosophical essays of the American Renaissance. Additionally, we will not only consider the significance of these texts in their cultural context but also their lasting presence in contemporary American literature.

The required texts for this course will be made available in a reader at the beginning of the semester.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Students will be expected to read an average of **sixty paperback pages per week** and to **actively, as well as regularly participate** in class. The **reading progress will be checked on a regular basis**. Attendance will be registered as of the first session.