

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger
Thema	<i>Picturesque America: The American Landscape in 19th Century Literature and Visual Culture</i> [AA-V4, ENG-13, AA-M5, AA-M7, AA-M15, AA-M16, AA-W]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-573
Zeit	Di 10-12
Raum	Phil 1269
Beginn	19.10.10

Course Description:

Picturesque America was a highly popular two-volume publication describing and illustrating the scenery of America, published by D. Appleton and Company of New York in 1872 and 1874 and edited by the romantic poet and journalist William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878). The preface described the book as "*A delineation by pen and pencil of the mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, water-falls, shores, canyons, valleys, cities, and other picturesque features of our country. With Illustrations on Steel and Wood, by Eminent American Artists. It is the design of this publication to present full descriptions and elaborate pictorial delineations of the scenery characteristic of all the different parts of our country. The wealth of material for this purpose is almost boundless.*" Spurred in part by the surge in patriotism generated by the Centennial Exhibition staged in Philadelphia in 1876 to celebrate one hundred years of American Independence, *Picturesque America* portrays the sublime majesty of the maturing country. As Sue Rainey writes in *Creating 'Picturesque America'*: "As the first publication to celebrate the entire continental nation, it enabled Americans, after the trauma of the Civil War, to construct a national self-image based on reconciliation between North and South and incorporation of the West" (xiii). Our task throughout this course will be to analyze this national project of reconstruction, by exploring one of its key publications. Furthermore, we will study a selection of 19th-century literary texts which provided artful equivalents to picturesque painting. In particular, short stories by Washington Irving, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Rebecca Harding Davis will be studied as major contributions to the 'picturesque art' at the heart of 19th-century American culture.

Course Requirements:

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

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit	Di 16-17
Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit	Genaue Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben