



Universität Hamburg

Fakultät für Geisteswissenschaften
Department II – Sprache, Literatur und Medien
Fachbereich Fremdsprachliche Philologien
Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik
Prof. Dr. Susanne Rohr



Seminar Ia: 53-540

Prof. Dr. Susanne Rohr

Summer Term 2018

Office hours: Monday, 5 – 6 pm, room Ü35-07064

Thursday 12 – 2 pm; lecture room Ü35-01047

Start: 5 April, 2018

Introduction to American Literature and Culture [AA2, LAA2, LAA15]

In this seminar we will discuss the question of how to deal with literature from a scholarly perspective. Our guiding question will be: What are the tools necessary for a professional analysis of literature? The seminar will thus provide an introduction to the methodological and theoretical fundamentals of textual analysis. In dialogue with the accompanying lecture course on “History of American Literature,” also taught by Prof. Dr. Susanne Rohr, that is part of the module, the specific interpretation of texts from different eras of American literary history will be practiced. In our discussion of the three traditional genres, prose, poetry and drama, we will focus on basic textual structures, such as the narrative perspective, character development, spacio-temporal setting etc. The basic premises of literary research and documentation (“wissenschaftliches Arbeiten”) will also be introduced.

The seminar is accompanied by two mandatory **tutorials**, taught by advanced students, Naomi Boye and Paul Kollmer. Both tutorials will take place on **Friday, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm**, either in room **Ü35-02019 (Boye)** or **Ü35-02090 (Kollmer)**. Thus, the entire module consists of three parts: this seminar, the tutorial, and the lecture course, all of which are obligatory.



Course Requirements

- **Regular participation (no more than two absences)**
- **Writing Exercises (*Studienleistung*)**
- **Midterm paper and final exam (*Prüfungsleistung*)**

Studienleistung

- You have to write a single paragraph (no more than 250 words) on one of the literary texts that you have to prepare for a session
- You will be given specific writing tasks and exercises for each session
- The task descriptions will be uploaded to AGORA in due time
- For each discussion two to three students are asked to read out their paragraphs. An additional three students have to hand in their paragraphs (write legibly (but preferably type it)!)
- If you fail to produce a paragraph, that is your one freebee
- The second time you fail to produce a paragraph, you no longer fulfill the course requirements
- Writing exercises are not supposed to be summaries of the reading material
- Plagiarism results in an automatic fail

Midterm Paper

- The papers have to follow MLA citation style and must include a bibliography (style sheet will be handed out in the tutorials)
- Format: 1,5 spacing, Times New Roman 12
- Ca. 8.000 characters (without spaces) or 1.500 words
- The papers can be based on one or more of your writing exercises

Prüfungsleistung

Midterm Paper: May 17, 2018; ca. 4 pages

30% of final grade

Final Exam: July 12, 2018, 12:00 p.m. s.t.-2:00 p.m. s.t., i.e. 120 minutes (location tba)

50% of final grade

Oral Participation (seminar + tutorial):

20% of final grade

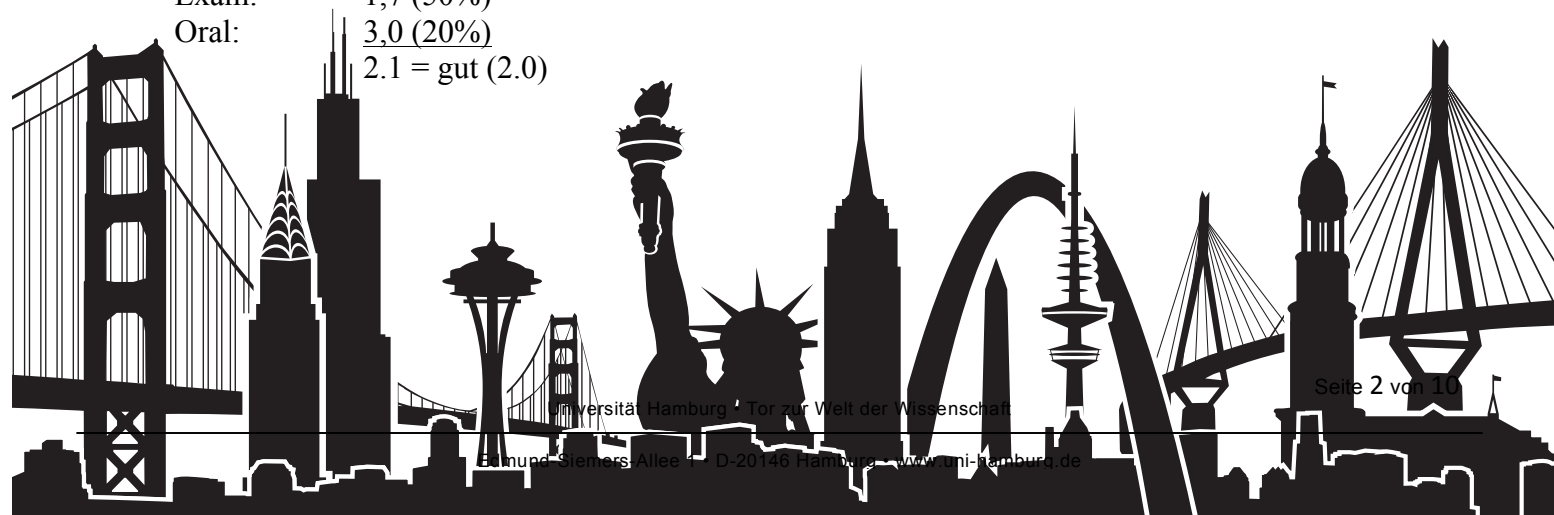
Calculation example:

Midterm: 2,3 (30%)

Exam: 1,7 (50%)

Oral: 3,0 (20%)

2.1 = gut (2.0)



How to Fail the Class

- Missing more than two sessions of the seminar and/or the tutorial (PO §9 Abs. 2)
- Not being able to provide a writing exercise more than once (PO §13 Abs. 1+2)
- Failing both the midterm paper and the final exam
- Meaning: You can still pass the class if you only fail either the midterm or the final exam. This will affect your grade, but not the general completion of the class

Calculation example:

Midterm: 3,0 (30%)
Exam: 5,0 (50%)
Oral: 4,0 (20%)
4.2 = ausreichend (4.0)

Buddy System

If you've already completed the "Intro to British Literature" seminar, you will serve as a senior advisor to one or two freshman students and share your knowledge with them. The buddy system will be implemented in the tutorials.

Where to get the material:

All necessary texts for the course can be accessed as pdf-files in the course's Agora-room, once participation in the course has been verified. You may also buy a printed copy at Cobra-Copy, Von-Melle-Park 5 (located in WiWi-Bunker's passageway to Grindelallee).

Please note:

**Only hardcopies and print outs will be used in class.
No open laptops, tablets or use of smartphones or
other electronic devices during the seminar!**



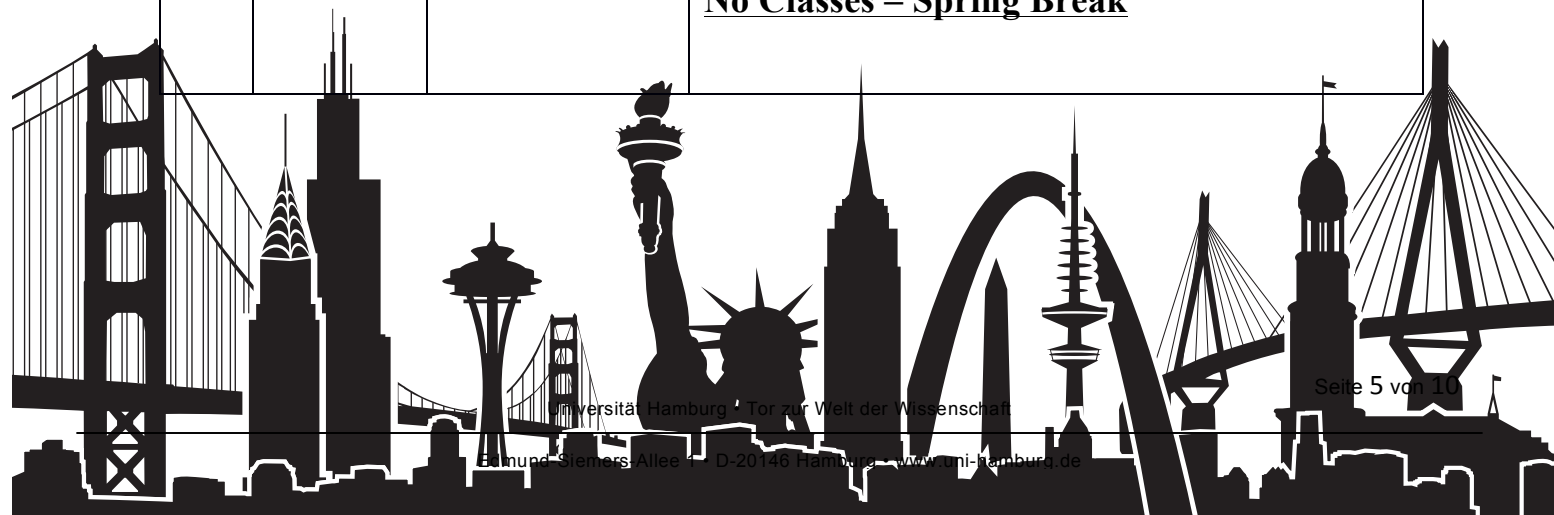
Syllabus

***LECTURE** refers to the lecture “History of American Literature” that is also taught by Prof. Dr. Susanne Rohr and takes place on Tuesdays, 2-4 pm in Ü35-00129-02. The lecture is mandatory and part of the module.

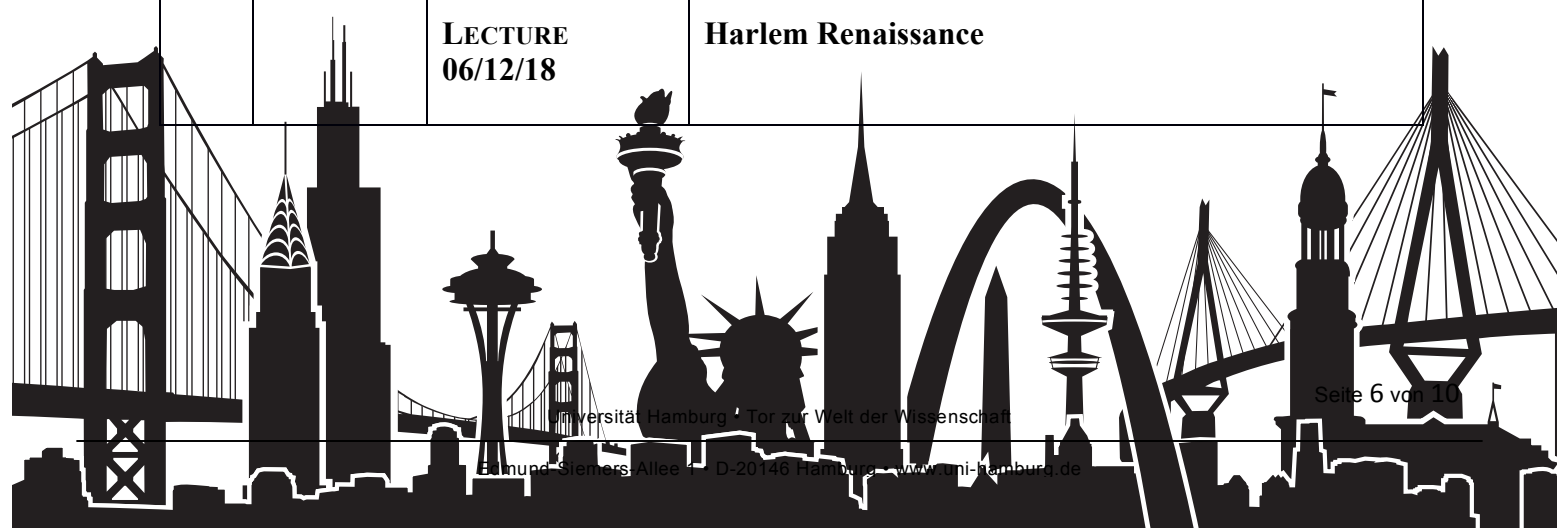
I	04/05/18	INTRODUCTION	Course Outline and Concepts
		LECTURE* 04/03/18	Outline and Concepts
II	04/12/18 p. p.	POETRY I:	Anne Bradstreet, “The Author to Her Book” (ca. 1650) Edward Taylor, “Huswifery” (1682-83)
		TUTORIAL	Edward Taylor, from “God’s Determinations Touching His Elect” (ca. 1680)
		LECTURE 04/10/18	Puritanism and the Invention of America
III	04/19/18 p. p.	POETRY II:	Joel Barlow, from “The Hasty Pudding” (1793) Philip Freneau, “To an Author” (1788) William Cullen Bryant, “To an American Painter, Departing for Europe” (1829)
		TUTORIAL	Philip Freneau, “The Indian Burying Ground” (1787) Philip Freneau, “On Observing a Large Red-streak Apple” (1822)
		LECTURE 04/17/18	Enlightenment, Independence and Early Republic
IV	04/26/18 p. p.	POETRY III:	Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nature” (1836) Walt Whitman, “To a Locomotive in Winter” (1876) Emily Dickinson, “I Like to See It Lap the Miles” (ca. 1862)
		TUTORIAL	Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The Snow Storm” (1846) Walt Whitman, “I Hear America Singing” (1867)
		LECTURE 04/24/18	The American Renaissance I: Transcendentalism / Light Romanticism



V	05/03/18	PROSE I: NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE / UNRELIABLE NARRATION	William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily” (1931) Edgar Allan Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart” (1850)
	p.	TUTORIAL	Herman Melville. “Bartleby, the Scrivener. A Story of Wall-Street” (1853)
		LECTURE 05/01/18	<u>No Lecture – National Holiday</u>
VI	05/10/18		<u>No Class – National Holiday</u>
		TUTORIAL	Preparation for Midterm
		LECTURE 05/08/18	The American Renaissance II: Dark Romanticism
VII	05/17/18	PROSE II: NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE / FOCALIZATION	Ernest Hemingway, “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” (1926) Katherine Mansfield, “Miss Brill” (1922)
			<u>✍ Midterm paper due!</u>
	p.	TUTORIAL	Harriet Beecher Stowe, from <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> (1852)
		LECTURE 05/15/18	Slavery, Civil War and Abolitionism
VIII	05/24/18		<u>No Classes – Spring Break</u>



IX	05/31/18	PROSE III: NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE / REPRESENTING CONSCIOUSNESS	Katherine Anne Porter, "The Jilting of Granny Weatherall" (1930) Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892)
	p.	TUTORIAL	Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman, "A New England Nun" (1891)
	p.	LECTURE 05/29/18	Realism, Naturalism and Local Color
X	06/07/18	POETRY IV: LITERARY EXPERIMENT	Gertrude Stein, "A Carafe, That Is a Blind Glass" (1914) Ezra Pound, "In a Station of the Metro" (1912) William Carlos Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow" (1923)
	p.	TUTORIAL	Ezra Pound, "L'art" (1916) e.e. cummings, "Picasso" (1925) Mina Loy, "Gertrude Stein" (1924)
	p.	LECTURE 06/05/18	Modernism
XI	06/14/18	MODERNIST POETRY AND PROSE	Ernest Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (1927) Claude McKay, "Harlem Dancer" (1917) Langston Hughes, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (1921) Countee Cullen, "Heritage" (1925)
	p.	TUTORIAL	Zora N. Hurston, "How It Feels to Be Colored Me" (1928)
	p.	LECTURE 06/12/18	Harlem Renaissance



XII	06/21/18	DRAMA	Clifford Odets, <i>Awake and Sing!</i> (1935)
	p.		
	p.	TUTORIAL	Tennessee Williams, "Portrait of a Madonna" (1945)
		LECTURE 06/19/18	Postmodernism I: The "Red Decade" of the 1930s and the Postwar Situation
XIII	06/28/18	POSTMODERN LITERATURE I	Robert Coover, "The Elevator" (1969) Sylvia Plath, "Daddy" (1965)
	p.		
	p.	TUTORIAL	John Barth, "Lost in the Fun House" (1968)
		LECTURE 06/26/18	Postmodernism II –The Classical Period of the 1970s
XIV	07/05/18	POSTMODERN LITERATURE II	Tim O'Brien, "How to Tell a True War Story" (1990) Jhumpa Lahiri, "Interpreter of Maladies" (2000)
	p.		
	p.	TUTORIAL	Exam preparation
		LECTURE 07/03/18	Postmodernism III – The 1980s and 1990s: Neorealism and Multiculturalism
XV	07/12/18	FINAL EXAM	12:00 p.m. s.t. – 2:00 p.m. s.t., i.e. 120 minutes, location tba
		LECTURE 07/10/18	The New Millennium, Most Recent Development Please note: the material covered in this week's lecture will not be part of the final exam.



The Texts in Your Reader Are from the Following Sources:

- Barlow, Joel. "The Hasty Pudding." 1793. *Amerikanische Dichtung: Von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart*. Ed. Eva Hesse and Heinz Ickstadt. München: Beck, 2000. 18-20. Print.
- Barth, John. "Lost in the Funhouse." 1968. *Lost in the Funhouse. Fiction for print, tape, live voice*. New York: Anchor Books, 1988. 72-97. Print.
- Baym, Nina, et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. 5th ed. 2 vols. New York: Norton, 1998. Print. [find here: Bradstreet, Melville, Hurston, Pound]
- Bryant, William Cullen. "To an American Painter Departing for Europe." 1829. <<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/webtexts/Bryant/sonnettocole.html>> Web.
- Coover, Robert. "The Elevator." *Pricksongs and Descants*. New York: Dutton, 1969. 207-39. Print.
- Cullen, Countee. "Heritage." 1925. *My Soul's High Song: The Collected Writings of Countee Cullen, Voice of the Harlem Renaissance*. Ed. Gerald L. Early. New York: Doubleday, 1991. 104-108. Print.
- Cummings, E.E. "Picasso." 1925. *Selected Poems*. Ed. Richard S. Kennedy. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2007. 35. Print.
- Dickinson, Emily. "XLIII." ca. 1862. *Poems by Emily Dickinson*. Ed. Martha Dickinson Bianchi and Alfred Leete Hampson. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1948. 22. Print.
- Emerson, Ralph Waldo. "Nature." 1836. <<http://www.emersoncentral.com/nature.htm>> Web.
- Freeman, Mary E. W. "A New England Nun." 1891. *A New England Nun and Other Stories*. Leipzig: Heinemann & Balestier, 1892. 1-17. Print.
- Hemingway, Ernest. "Hills Like White Elephants." 1927. *Men Without Women*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1997. 35-38. Internet resource.
- Hughes, Langston. "The Negro Speaks of Rivers." 1921. *Collected Poems*. <<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44428/the-negro-speaks-of-rivers>> Web.
- Kennedy, X. J., and Dana Gioia. *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. 7th ed. New York: Longman, 1999. Print. [find here: Whitman, Hawthorne, Poe, Faulkner, Hemingway, Mansfield, Porter, Albee]
- Lahiri, Jhumpa. "The Interpreter of Maladies." *The Interpreter of Maladies*. London: Flamingo, 2000. 43-69. Print.
- Lauter, Paul, et al., eds. *The Heath Anthology of American Literature*. 2nd ed. 2 vols. Lexington: Heath, 1994. Print. [find here: Taylor, Freneau, Beecher Stowe, Williams, Plath]
- Loy, Mina. "Gertrude Stein." 1924. *The Lost Lunar Baedeker: Poems of Mina Loy*. Ed. Roger L. Conover. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1999. 94. Print.
- McKay, Claude. "Harlem Dancer." 1917. *The Book of American Negro Poetry*. Ed. James W. Johnson. Garfield Heights: Duke Classics, 2012. 179. Internet resource.
- O'Brien, Tim. "How to Tell a True War Story." 1990. *The Things They Carried*. London: HarperCollins, 1991. 66-80. Print.
- Perkins Gilman, Charlotte. "The Yellow Wallpaper." 1892. *The Yellow Wallpaper*. Ed. Thomas L. Erskine and Connie L. Richards. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 1993. 29-50. Print.
- Pound, Ezra. "L'art." 1916. *Personae: The Shorter Poems of Ezra Pound*. Ed. Lea Baechler. New York: New Directions, 1990. 118. Print.
- Richardson, Willis. "The Chipwoman's Fortune." 1923. *The Roots of Afro-American Drama: An Anthology of Early Plays, 1858-1938*. Ed. Leo Hamalian and James V. Hatch. Detroit: Wayne State UP, 1991. 164-185.

- Stein, Gertrude. "A Carafe." 1914. *Tender Buttons*. <<http://www.bartleby.com/140/1.html>> Web.
- Whitman, Walt. "I Hear America Singing." 1867. <<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/46480>> Web.
- Williams, William Carlos "The Red Wheelbarrow." 1923. *The Collected Poems of William Carlos Williams, Volume I, 1909-1939*. <<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45502/the-red-wheelbarrow>> Web.

Literature for further reading

- Bal, Mieke. *Narratology: Introduction to the Theory of Narrative*. 2nd ed. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1997. Print.
- Barthes, Roland. *Introduction to the Structural Analysis of Narrative*. Birmingham: Birmingham UP, 1996. Print.
- Booth, Wayne C. *The Rhetoric of Fiction*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1991. Print.
- Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1997. Print.
- Eagleton, Terry. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1983. Print.
- Eicher, Thomas, and Volker Wiemann, eds. *Arbeitsbuch: Literaturwissenschaft*. Paderborn: Schöningh, 1996. Print.
- Fielitz, Sonja. *Roman: Text & Kontext*. Berlin: Cornelsen, 2001. Print.
- Klarer, Mario. *An Introduction to Literary Studies*. 2nd. rev. and expanded ed. London: Routledge, 2013. Print.
- Landy, Alice S. *The Heath Introduction to Literature*. 4th ed. Lexington: Heath, 1992. Print.
- Leitch, Vincent B., gen. ed. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. New York: Norton, 2001. Print.
- Martinez, Matias, and Michael Scheffel. *Einführung in die Erzähltheorie*. 2nd rev. ed. München: Beck, 2000. Print.
- Nünning, Ansgar, ed. *Literaturwissenschaftliche Theorien, Modelle und Methoden: Eine Einführung*. 3rd rev. ed. Trier WVT, 1998. Print.
- Nünning, Vera, and Ansgar Nünning. *Grundkurs anglistisch-amerikanistische Literaturwissenschaft*. Stuttgart: Klett, 2001. Print.
- Stanzel, Franz K. *Theorie des Erzählens*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1995. Print.
- Vogt, Jochen. *Aspekte erzählender Prosa: Eine Einführung in Erzähltechnik und Romantheorie*. Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag, 1990. Print.
- Zapf, Hubert. *Kurze Geschichte der anglo-amerikanischen Literaturtheorie*. Tübingen: Francke, 1991. Print.

Reference Works

- Engler, Bernd, and Kurt Müller, eds. *Metzler Lexikon amerikanischer Autoren*. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2000. Print.
- Nünning, Ansgar, ed. *Metzler Lexikon Literatur- und Kulturtheorie: Ansätze + Personen - Grundbegriffe*. 2nd rev. ed. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2001. Print.
- Zapf, Hubert, ed. *Amerikanische Literaturgeschichte*. 3rd. ed. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2010. Print.



Internet Addresses You May Want to Consult

A Guide to the Theory of Literary Genres: <http://www.uni-koeln.de/~ame02/ppp.htm>

Literary Resources on the Net: <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/>

American History Timeline: <http://www.animatedatlas.com/timeline.html>

A Handbook of Rhetorical Devices: <http://www.virtualsalt.com/rhetoric.htm>

American Poets and Poetry: <http://www.poets.org/>

Poetry Foundation: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

American Literature: <http://www.americanliterature.com/>

The Purdue University Online Writing Lab <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Online-Wörterbuch: <http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/>

Journals on Literary Studies

American Literature

American Studies Journal

Amerikastudien

AAA. Arbeiten aus Anglistik und Amerikanistik

Contemporary Literature

Journal of American Studies

MFS. Modern Fiction Studies

Narrative

NLH. New Literary History

Nineteenth Century Studies

PMLA. Publications of the Modern Language Association of America

Poetics Today

