

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger
Thema	Spectacular Texts in U.S. American Culture [AA-MA03]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar III
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-568
Zeit	Di 10-12
Raum	Ü35-01016
Beginn	07.04.2020

Course Description:

In this seminar, we will take a critical look at media formations in U.S. American culture that can be considered spectacular for a number of reasons: First, because they represent spectacular events in history, such as the Europeans' arrival in the New World and the ensuing contact with the indigenous populations, or the anniversary of Columbus' landfall in that New World 400 years later, known as the World's Columbian Exposition, which was staged in Chicago in 1893. Next, spectacular texts have a way of pushing the limits of what *can* be represented in a given medium, as can be seen in Edgar Allan Poe's self-reflexive rendition of madness and decay in *The Fall of the House of Usher* (1839) or in landscape photography of the Western frontier from the late 19th century, to give but two examples in different media. Film, in particular, has often been trusted with producing authentic or in any case persuasive representations of reality, a notion we will put to the test by studying Tod Browning's 1932 film *Freaks*, which deals with the spectacle of non-normative bodies. As well as studying a cross-range of spectacular texts from different periods of American culture, we will make use of an extensive body of secondary materials along the way. A reader will be provided at the beginning of the seminar (via AGORA).

Requirements for receiving full course credit: regular attendance and active participation, excellent knowledge of the texts (via careful reading/preparation), completion of short assignments and/or in-class presentations, and up to three assessed papers to be completed during the semester.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Mo 16-17 Uhr u. nach Vereinbarung per E-Mail
Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	Genaue Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben