

Summer Term 2023
53-541 Introduction to American Literature and Culture
(AA3, LAA3, LAA16, IAA12, IAA14)
Thursday, 10.15 a.m.-11.45 a.m.
Ü35 - room 01047

Introduction to American Literature and Culture

Course Description

This course aims to introduce students to American literature and culture as well as the tools necessary for a scholarly reading of aesthetic literary, visual, and media objects. Following the chronological progress of American literary history, this seminar will explore the formal specifics and aesthetic effects of poetry, prose, drama, and new media. Using selected key texts of American literature as examples, we will apply the gained theoretical knowledge and train methodological skills in discussions and written exercises. Supplemented by an introduction to writing scholarly analyses of primary works, this course in sum wishes to empower students to engage with texts and media in a professional, attentive, and nuanced way.

This seminar (3 LP) is accompanied by a mandatory weekly tutorial (1 LP) and finishes with an exam (2 LP). While aiming for approximately the same distribution, students are free to choose a preferred tutorial slot. Options to choose from are Monday, 02.15 p.m.-03.45 p.m. (Ü35 - room 11041) and Tuesday 12.15 p.m.-01.45 p.m. (Ü35 - room 11041).

*Finally, please note that this seminar (with tutorial and exam) is part of the introductory module “Introduction to American Literature and Culture”. In order to finish this module, students must also attend the lecture “History of American Literature” (2 LP) at some point during their studies.