Seminar Ia: 53-540

Prof. Dr. Susanne Rohr   **Summer Term 2017**

Office hours: Wednesday, 12 pm - 1 pm, room 1256

Monday 2 pm to 4 pm; lecture room 1219 Start: 3 April, 2017

Introduction to American Literature and Culture
(AA-E2, ENG-2, AA3, LAA3, LAA16)

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 "American Literary History" 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, **Jan Loeding** and **Paul Kollmer**. Both tutorials will take place on **Thursday**, **8.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.,** either in **room Phil 1250 (Loeding)** or Phil **1263 (Kollmer)**. Thus, the entire module consists of three parts: this seminar, the tutorial, and the lecture course, taught by Prof. Kucharzewski, all of which are obligatory.

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

Midterm Paper: May 29th, ca. 4 pages
        30% of final grade
Final Exam: July 13, 8:00 a.m. s.t.-10:00 a.m. s.t., i.e. 120 minutes (location tba)
        50% of final grade
Oral Participation (seminar + tutorial):
        20% of final grade

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 or use of smartphones or other electronic devices during the seminar!