

<b>Veranstalter</b>	<b>Prof. Dr. Jan D. Kucharzewski</b>
<b>Thema</b>	<b>The Chase is Better Than the Catch: Hunters and Hunting in American Culture from <i>Moby Dick</i> to <i>Duck Dynasty</i></b> [ENG-7, ENG-7a, AA-V4ab, ENG-13, AA-MA3, AA-MA4, AA7, AA11, LAA10, AA13, AA-W, AA-WB]
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b>	<b>Seminar</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b>	<b>53-566</b>
<b>Zeit</b>	<b>2st, Do. 10-12 Uhr</b>
<b>Raum</b>	<b>1219</b>
<b>Beginn</b>	<b>06.04.2017</b>
<b>Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:</b>	<b>Montags 15-16 Uhr</b>

The cultural anthropologist Matt Cartmill argues that “hunting in the modern world is not to be understood as practical means of latching onto some cheap protein,” but is “intelligible only as symbolic behavior, like a game or a religious ceremony, and the emotions that the hunt arouses can be understood only in symbolic terms” (*A View to a Death in the Morning*, 1993: 28–29). Using this definition of the hunt, in which specific ideas of culture, power, war, gender, and agency are ritualistically enacted, our seminar will examine the metaphorical potential of hunters and hunting in the cultural history of the US since the mid-nineteenth century. From whale hunters in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* (1851) to shark hunters in Steven Spielberg's *Jaws* (1975), from James Fenimore Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales* (1823-41) to post-Vietnam action movies such as *Deliverance* (1972), *Rambo* (1982), and *Predator* (1986), from the ‘noble savages’ idealized in romantic poetry to Ernest Hemingway's explorations of the correlation between hunting and war, from the social function of big game hunting in rural American communities to the conservative fantasies of American identity performed in the television show *Duck Dynasty* (2012-2017): this course will consider a broad variety of texts, genres, and media in order to understand the symbolic function of hunting in American culture. Since hunting is usually conceptualized as an explicitly gendered activity, the visions of the hunter presented in American literature and culture are very much indicative of culturally contingent ideals of masculinity that link American manhood to notions of violence, agency, and a struggle with elemental forces. We will further consider the ethical and ecological implications of hunting and examine the role of “animal studies” in the context of discourses and debates revolving around the hunt. Combining approaches from literary studies, cultural studies, cultural anthropology, and sociology, “The Chase is Better Than the Catch” will look at canonical American literature as well as popular cultural productions of the US in order to develop a complex narrative of hunters and hunting in American history. Because of the variety of texts and methodologies implemented in this class, you must prepare for a reading-intensive course which will require a major commitment as well as intellectual curiosity. You will have to purchase three novels as well as a seminar reader at the beginning of the semester. Reading progress will be checked on a regular basis. Students are required to write short reading responses (ca. 400 words) for each session as the “Studienleistung” in this class.