

<b>Veranstalter</b>	<b>Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger</b>
<b>Thema</b>	<b>Varieties of Literary Evidence: From Realism to Neo-Realism</b> [ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-13, AA7, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-MA3, AA-MA4]
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b>	<b>Seminar II</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b>	<b>53-564</b>
<b>Zeit</b>	<b>Di 12-14</b>
<b>Raum</b>	Ü35 - 01047
<b>Beginn</b>	<b>02.04.19</b>

### **Course Description:**

In the wake of the American Civil War, American literature turned away from sentimentalism and romanticism and approached the increasingly complex postbellum realities more directly than before. Indeed, the very challenge to represent reality adequately became a guiding concern giving rise to the emergence of realism and naturalism as related efforts to create verisimilitude in textual form. In this course, we will first develop a firm grasp of both by studying texts by familiar representatives including Henry James, Sarah Orne Jewett, and Stephen Crane along with less canonical contributions by Paul Laurence Dunbar and John M. Oskison, among others. In the middle part of the course, we will discuss documentary efforts to represent precarious realities even more directly than narrative prose could, by studying Jacob Riis' iconic *How the Other Half Lives* from 1890 as well as more contemporary media formations including film and graphic literature. The third and final part of the course will examine recent developments within American literature suggesting a return to realism, albeit reconceived as neo-realism or a mode of representing realities richly resonant with today's aesthetic, moral, and political agendas.

### **Course Requirements:**

#### All students need to acquire (and bring with them) the following books:

Josh Neufeld, *A.D.: New Orleans after the Deluge* (2009)

Jesmyn Ward, *Salvage the Bones* (2011)

J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy. A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* (2016)

#### Requirements for receiving full course credit:

Regular attendance and active participation, excellent knowledge of the texts (via careful reading), completion of short written assignments, and a term paper (15-20 pp.) papers to be completed during the semester.

<b>Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit</b>	Di 16-17 Uhr und nach Vereinbarung per E-Mail
<b>Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit</b>	Genaue Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben (s. Aushang und Instituts-Webseite)