

Veranstalter.....	Dr. Julius Greve
Thema.....	Southern Media Ecologies: From the Civil War to Katrina [ENG-7, ENG-7a, AA-V4a, AA-V4b, ENG-13, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA5, AA7, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-569
Zeit.....	2st., Mo 14–16
Raum.....	Ü35-01054
Beginn.....	16.10.17

How do images, musics, and texts express the prejudices, racial tensions, and deeply ingrained disappointments of a community? How does a social and ecological milieu shape those cultural products; that is, how does it determine their time- and site-specific character? In what way do particular media practices evoke and represent social and political issues and how do historical events and periods make themselves felt in contemporary cultures? These and related questions will form the conceptual backbone of this seminar on Southern visual, auditory, and textual culture in the United States.

Considering photographic, literary, musical, and cinematic forms of expression from and about the Civil War period (Brady, Whitman, Timrod), via Reconstruction (Ryan, Chopin, Griffith), to the “Southern Renaissance” (Faulkner, Hurston; Johnson), Post-Southern literature and culture (O’Connor, Percy, Jewison, Charles), all the way to the disastrous event of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath (Eggers, Simon and Overmyer, Zeitlin, Down, Algiers), we will trace a multiplicity of cultural trajectories. We will both analyze the regional character that inheres in Southern cultural production, and study the relation and non-relation to new forms of literature, music, and film outside of its geographical and cultural borders. Furthermore, we will account for the historical roots that have rendered possible the current increase in racism and violence in the U.S. in general, and in the Southern States in particular. Yet, other than a purely cultural and historical analysis, we will connect “Southern Studies” with “Media Studies” in order to generate a counterpoint to the frequent delimitation of scholarly work on the South in terms of the latter’s (ostensible) cultural backwardness and isolation. Thus, one of the primary goals of this seminar will be to facilitate a contact zone between a research field that characteristically deals with the interaction and specificity of different media, and one that typically examines the violent discord that separates individual lives in the Deep South. Aside from the short fiction, poems, and theoretical texts, which will be made available at the start of the semester, the following novels need to be purchased by the participants:

- William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!*
- Walker Percy, *The Moviegoer*
- Dave Eggers, *Zeitoun*