

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Jan D. Kucharzewski
Thema	Zombies in the City Upon a Hill: Key Concepts in American Culture/American Studies [ENG-6a, ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-13, AA11, LAA10, LAA11, LAA12, LAA13, SLM-WB, Master-WB, SG]
Art der Veranstaltung	Vorlesung
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-532
Zeit	2st, Mo. 16-18 Uhr
Raum	Ü35 - 00129-02
Beginn	15.10.2018
Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Nach Vereinbarung

This lecture will tackle central issues, themes, and tropes of American Studies and provide students of an intermediate or advanced level with theoretical frameworks and in depth analyses of current academic debates regarding American literature and culture, literary theory, and cultural studies. The following topics are covered in the lecture:

1. The Beginning of the End: The American Jeremiad from John Winthrop to *The Walking Dead*
2. Errands into the Wilderness: The Frontier in Painting, Literature, and Film
3. "The Milk and Sperm of Kindness": Reading American Romanticism Through *Moby-Dick*
4. "Once Upon a Midnight Dreary": American Gothic Texts from "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" to *Get Out*
5. "The Coming Only Is Sacred": Transcendentalism and Pragmatism
6. "A Blessed Rage for Order": Modernist Poetry
7. "In the Good Mystery There is Nothing Wasted": American Detective Fiction from Poe to Pynchon
8. Il n'ya pas de hors what?! Postmodern Theory 101
9. I Shop Therefore I Am: Consumerism, Hyperreality, and Entropy
10. Mansplaining Masculinity: Gender and Hegemony
11. "Definitions Belong to the Definers": Diversity Studies
12. Literary Studies in the Age of Climate Change (Guest Lecture by Jolene Mathieson)
13. "The Irreducible Complexity of the Analog World": Post-Postmodern Literature, Neo-Realism, and Beyond
14. The Last Lecture

Credit Point Requirements

A reader with the most important texts and excerpts covered in the lecture will be made available at the beginning of the term. Students are expected to have read the required texts for each session since the lecture will not consist of plot summaries. In order to receive credits for this lecture, students will have to **pass three multiple**

choice quizzes that cover the contents of the lecture.