

<b>Veranstalter</b>	<b>Dr. Jan D. Kucharzewski</b>
<b>Thema</b>	<b>In the Ruins of the Future: 9/11 in the American Novel</b> AA-M14, AA-M15, AA-W
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b>	<b>Seminar II</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b>	<b>53-575</b>
<b>Zeit</b>	<b>2st, Mo. 12-14</b>
<b>Raum</b>	<b>Phil 1250</b>
<b>Beginn</b>	<b>18.10.2009</b>

**Kursbeschreibung:**

In Don DeLillo's novel *Mao II* (1991) one of the characters argues that "stories have no point if they don't absorb our terror." Sixteen years later DeLillo himself was among the first American writers to produce a fictional examination of the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in his acclaimed novel *Falling Man* (2007). Since then an entire subgenre of texts has emerged that directly or indirectly deal with the traumatic experience of 9/11 and its consequences. Some of these texts acknowledge, as DeLillo puts it in an essay written in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, that there is "no logic in apocalypse" and thus reflect the disruptive and ineffable nature of the attack in fragmented narrative structures, incoherent voices, and a postmodern skepticism regarding our desire for meaning. Other texts take a more affirmative stand by attempting to frame the events into the meaningful narrative that reality itself could not provide in order to produce tentative moments of catharsis for their readers.

In this seminar we will read and discuss three American and one British novel that can be regarded as responses to 9/11: DeLillo's *Falling Man* (2007), Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (2005), Ian McEwan's *Saturday* (2006), and Jess Walter's *The Zero* (2007). Whereas the first two novels directly deal with the events of 9/11 and how they affect their respective protagonists, *Saturday* and *The Zero* rework the trauma in a more allegorical manner, attempting to portray life in the ruins of the future that the terror attacks created.

**Important Note:** This seminar is taught in cooperation with the *Thalia Theater Hamburg* that will stage a variety of productions relating to the subject matter (among them a stage adaptation of *Falling Man*). Students should therefore allow for additional sessions and conjoint extracurricular activities in the course of the winter term.

**Note to Master Students:** This course is part of a module on cultural representations of 9/11. Master Students are therefore encouraged to simultaneously enroll in the course "**Visual Representations of 9/11**" taught by Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Students will be expected to read an average of **one hundred paperback pages per week** and to **actively, as well as regularly participate** in class. The **reading progress will be checked on a regular basis**. Attendance will be registered as of the first session.

Masterseminar/Magisterseminar (BA nur im Wahlbereich)

