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| Veranstalter | Dr. Jan D. Kucharzewski |
| Thema | 19th Century American Gothic and Detective Fiction [AA-V4a/b, ENG-13, AA-M7, AA-M15, AA-W] |
| Art der Veranstaltung | Seminar II |
| Veranstaltungsnummer | 53-567 |
| Zeit | 2st, Mittwoch 12-14 Uhr |
| Raum | Phil 1219 |
| Beginn | 19.10.2011 |

Kursbeschreibung:

Although superficially gothic fiction and detective stories seem to be genres governed by opposing attitudes and narrative conventions – whereas the gothic thrives on the presence of the supernatural, detective stories demand a rational solution – they nevertheless rely on very similar tropes and address analogous issues regarding 19th century notions of reason, the human imagination, society, and aesthetics. As one of the preeminent 19th century writers, Edgar Allan Poe, for example, wrote both detective and gothic stories and a closer examination of these texts reveals astonishing parallels between them. In Poe’s stories the difference between a tale of terror and a tale of ratiocination (Poe’s term for detective fiction) often lies in the degree to which a protagonist can order an unordered universe. Whereas in gothic fiction, the world of the protagonists tends to descend into chaos, the detective manages to re-establish a degree of coherence in a world that has been disrupted by a crime. Both detective fiction and gothic stories are thus “hermeneutical” genres, i.e. they are intrinsically concerned with the processes of deciphering, interpreting, reading, and writing. Despite their popular appeal, gothic and detective fictions often contain poetological and metafictional dimensions that allow for complex theoretical implications. Beginning with Washington Irving’s “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” (1820) – which is both, an early example of a detective story and a classic of American gothic fiction – we will examine tales of terror and tales of ratiocination in 19th century American fiction. Authors to be discussed include: **Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Henry James, and Edith Wharton.** In a final step we will also consider more recent manifestations of these genres in the works of **Stephen King, Peter Straub,** and others. A reader with the required texts will be made available in the first session.

Teilnahmevoraussetzungen:

Neben den formalen Voraussetzungen die nachgewiesene Bereitschaft zur regelmäßigen aktiven Teilnahme am Seminar (anstelle von Referaten wird der Lesefortschritt der einzelnen Studierenden regelmäßig überprüft; der Nachweis von Textkenntnissen ist eine Grundvoraussetzung für eine erfolgreiche Seminarteilnahme). Die Anwesenheitsliste wird ab der ersten Sitzung geführt.

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| Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit: | Dienstags 15-16 Uhr (o.n.V.) |
| Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit: | Siehe Webseite des IAA |