

<b>Veranstalter</b>	<b>Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger</b>
<b>Thema</b>	<b>Mapping America: Early Travel Narratives, ca. 1750-1920</b> [AA-A3, ENG-7, ENG-7a, AA-W, SLM-WB]
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b>	<b>Seminar Ib</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b>	<b>53-559</b>
<b>Zeit</b>	<b>Mi 10-12</b>
<b>Raum</b>	<b>Phil 1269</b>
<b>Beginn</b>	<b>15.10.14</b>

### **Course Description:**

America, being a (still) comparatively young nation, has attracted many domestic and foreign travellers over the decades and centuries to explore the country and, in surprisingly many cases, write about what they found. Interestingly, the resulting narratives are frequently infused with opinions about the American people and places and a general desire to map the vast American landscape in terms of its respective natural, social, political and cultural realities. In this seminar, we will focus on the time span beginning with the colonial period of around 1750 and make our way through the early Republic and the ‘long nineteenth century’ up until roughly 1920. We will consider well-known authors including Matthew Arnold, Alexis de Tocqueville, William Cullen Bryant, James Fenimore Cooper, J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, Charles Dickens, Washington Irving, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Robert Louis Stevenson. But we will also ‘discover’ lesser-known authors to complete the picture, so to speak, in particular by including female authors, as well. The aim throughout will be to explore how the genre of the travel narrative has served to form a picture of America and its people, and how this picture has changed over time. Be prepared for some astounding continuities with how the United States is perceived today!

### **Course Requirements:**

Regular attendance and participation as well as thorough preparation of reading materials are essential. In order to receive full course credit, each student will be expected to give an in-class presentation and write a final term paper of 8 to 12 pp. Materials will be made available via AGORA (in particular, we will make use of the Library of Congress’ American Memory collection *American Notes: Travels in America, 1750-1920* – feel free to explore at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/lhtnhtml/lhtnhome.html>).

<b>Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit</b>	Mo 16-17 und nach Vereinbarung
<b>Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit</b>	Genauere Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben (s. Webseite des Instituts)