

Veranstalter.....	Dennis Büscher-Ulbrich
Thema.....	The Prison as Prism: Race, Class, and Social Death in the United States [AA-V4a/b, ENG-13, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-MA1, AA-MA2, AA-MA5, AA7 , AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung.....	Sem. II
Veranstaltungsnummer.....	53-565
Zeit.....	Do 10-12
Raum.....	Phil 1269
Beginn.....	15. Oktober 2015

Course description

Starting from the premise that the issue of anti-black racism in the United States—and of black mass incarceration, in particular—is not (primarily) a problem of prejudice but a symptom of structural and institutionalized domination and oppression, the course takes a critical-theoretical look at the US-American prison system. Radically historicizing and contextualizing mass incarceration, we will conceive of the prison as an epistemic prism through which to better comprehend—by way of critique (metaphorically akin to spectral analysis)—the intersectionality of race and class, i.e. racism and class-domination, in society as a whole. In trying to account for the persistence of black mass incarceration, anti-black police violence, environmental racism, spatial apartheid, and "social death" (Patterson) in the "Age of Obama" (burdened as it is by the enduring legacy of slavery and Jim Crow), we will carefully acquaint ourselves with the work of such radical social theorists and public intellectuals as Karl Marx, W.E.B. DuBois, Frantz Fanon, Michel Foucault, Angela Davis, Orlando Patterson, Loïc Wacquant, Cornel West, and Michelle Alexander to more accurately understand what activists have come to call "the prison-industrial complex" with its "school-to-prison pipeline" that continues to devastate the lives of Black Americans. Thus prepared, we will study popular cultural representations of racism, mass incarceration, and white supremacy (e.g. *American History X*, *The Wire*, *Prison Break*, *Orange is the New Black*, *Django Unchained*, *White Man's Burden*, *Roots*, *Shaft*, *Menace II Society*, *New Jack City*) and discuss new social movements such as #BlackLivesMatter.

All required readings will be made accessible via OLAT.

Course requirements

In-class presentation and term paper

Sprechstunde in der Vorlesungszeit:	appointments via email
Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	appointments via email