

Veranstalter	Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger
Thema	The End is near: Apocalyptic Scenarios in U.S.- American Culture [AA-MA5]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar IV
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-574
Zeit	Mi 10-12
Raum	Phil 1269
Beginn	19.10.2016

Course Description:

The course takes as its starting point the notion that something we might think of as the apocalyptic imagination has been at the core of U.S.-American culture very much from its beginning or, more concretely, following the arrival of the Puritans in the early 17th century. Throughout the course, we will try out this idea by discussing a variety of different texts across history and in various media. Students will be given a chance to contribute their own choices to the reading list, which will include, in roughly chronological order, canonical and lesser-known depictions of the biblical Apocalypse or 'Revelation' according to John, Puritan jeremiads such as Jonathan Edward's classic "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (1741), Edgar Allan Poe's short story "The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion" (1839) as well as more contemporary, so-called post-apocalyptic works including Cormac McCarthy's novel *The Road* (2006) and the graphic novel *The Walking Dead* (2003-). In the final part of the course, it's high time that we take a close look at Hollywood movies (e.g. Roland Emmerich's *The Day after Tomorrow* from 2004), as these arguably present the most popular scenarios of the apocalypse today. To get ready for the course, start wondering why the apocalyptic imagination has held (not only) Americans in thrall for so long, and to what end.

Course Requirements:

Regular attendance and preparatory reading, active participation, response papers and/or an oral presentation, and a term paper of 15-20 pages at the end of the course.

!!! A list of all texts (including some you will need to buy!) will be distributed at the beginning of the course !!!

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit	Mo 16-17 Uhr und nach Vereinbarung
Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit	Genaue Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben