

PhD Class American Studies – An Interdisciplinary Endeavour

Thursday 16:15-17.45

Date	Topic	Readings
April 18	Introduction: American Studies – an institutional history/ On the History of American Studies	Philipp Löffler: „Of Apes and Children Communication, Interdisciplinarity, and Michael Tomasello’s Why We Cooperate“ (2009) Consequences of Academic Reading? Professionalism, Critique, and the Public Humanities Boris Vormann: „Greater than the Sum of its Parts: American Studies as Interdisciplinary Area Studies“ in: Frank Kelleter/Alexander Starre (eds.): <i>Projecting American Studies, Essays on Theory, Method, and Practice</i>, Heidelberg: Winter Verlag 2018:183-196.
April 25	Thesis Presentation	
-May 2	PhD Retreat Annweiler-Trifels	No Session
May 9	Holiday, Ascension	No Session
May 16	Myth and Symbol School	Henry Nash Smith, <i>Virgin Land: The American West as Symbol and Myth</i> (excerpts) Leo Marx, “Pastoralism,” in: <i>Ideology and Classic American Literature</i> (1986), ed. by Sacvan Bercovitch and Myra Jehlen, 36-69. Heike Paul, “Introduction,” <i>The Myths That Made America: An Introduction to American Studies</i> (2014), 11-35. Discussant 1:
May 23	The Democratization of Christianity	Nathan O. Hatch, The Democratization of American Christianity (excerpts) Frank Lambert, Religion in American Politics: A Short History (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton UP, 2008), 1-13. Jan Stievernann, "Religion and the American Difference," in Approaches to American Cultural Studies, ed. Antje Dallmann, Eva Boesenberg and Martin Klepper (London and New York: Routledge, 2016), 91-101. Andrew L. Whitehead and Samuel L. Perry, Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020), 89-119.

		<i>Discussant 2:</i>
June 6	Intellectual History/American Political Traditions I: Liberal Tradition; Pragmatism	J. Hector St. John Crèvecoeur, Letters from an American Farmer, reprinted from the original edition (New York: Fox, Duffield & Company, 1904), 48-57, 76-80. Louis Hartz: The Concept of a Liberal Society (1955), in American Political Thought, ed. Isaac Kramnick and Theodore J. Lowi (New York: W. W. Norton, 2009), 1247-1256. James T. Kloppenberg, "In Retrospect: Louis Hartz's The Liberal Tradition in America," Reviews in American History 29 (September 2001): 460-476. Philip Abbott, "Still Louis Hartz after All These Years: A Defense of the Liberal Society Thesis," Perspectives on Politics 3 (March 2005): 93-109. William James, "Pragmatism's Conception of Truth," Journal of Philosophy, Psychology, and Scientific Methods, vol. 4, no. 6, March 14, 1907, pp. 141-155. <i>Discussant 3:</i>
June 13	Intellectual History/American Political Traditions II: American Conservatism, Radicalism	Rogers M. Smith, "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America" The American Political Science Review, 87, 3 (1993), 549-566. Gladden Pappin: "From Conservatism to Postliberalism: The Right after 2020." <i>American Affairs Volume IV</i>, Number 3 (Fall 2020): 174-90. Sarah Song: "What Does It Mean to be an American" <i>Daedalus</i>, Spring (2009) Richard Rorty: Is 'Cultural Recognition' a Useful Concept for Leftist Politics? (2000), From: The Rorty Reader, 464-472 Roderick A. Ferguson: To Catch a Light-Filled Vision: American Studies and the Activation of Radical Traditions, in: <i>American Quarterly</i>, Volume 71, Number 2, June 2019, pp. 317-335 <i>Discussant 4:</i>
June 20	Guest Lecture, History	David Walsh (Historian PostDoctoral fellow, Yale) Author of: Taking America Back: The Conservative Movement and the Far Right <i>Discussant 5:</i>

June 27	Geography and Archipelagic American studies	Mahshid Mayar (Bonn) Laura Doyle), „Toward a Philosophy of Transnationalism“, in: <i>Journal of Transnational American Studies</i>, 1(1) 2009, https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9vr1k8hk Mahshid Mayar, “What on Earth! Slated Globes, School Geography and Imperial Pedagogy”, <i>European journal of American studies</i> [Online], 15-2 2020, Online since 17 November 2020, connection on 08 July 2021. URL: http://journals.openedition.org/ejas/15703 ; DOI: https://doi.org/10.4000/ejas.15703 Discussant 6:
July 4	The American Renaissance and the Canon Debate	David S. Reynolds, “The American Renaissance,” <i>Oxford Research Encyclopedias: Literature</i>, Oxford University Press, USA (2016). http://literature.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.001.0001/acrefore-9780190201098-e-216; Nina Baym, “Melodramas of Beset Manhood: How Theories of American Fiction Exclude Women Authors,” <i>American Quarterly</i> 33 (1981). Gates, Henry Louis Jr., "The Master's Pieces: Canon Formation and the African-American Tradition". In: <i>Loose Canons: Notes on the Culture Wars</i>. Oxford and New York: Oxford UP, 1992. 17-42. Toni Morrison, <i>Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination</i> (1992) (excerpts) Discussant 7:
July 11	Gender in American Studies	Wave I/II Feminism/Women's Liberation: Phyllis Schlafly debates Betty Friedan on ERA (Equal Rights Amendment), You Tube Video 1976 (appr. 24 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WncN6PWEMGo Wave III: bell hooks: <i>Feminist Theory from the Margin to the Center</i> (1984) Anna Carastathis: The Concept of Intersectionality in Feminist Theory, May 2014 <i>Philosophy Compass</i> 9(5) Discussant 8:

July 18	Transnationalism in American Studies	Donald E. Pease, "New Americanists: Revisionist Interventions into the Canon," <i>boundary 2</i>, vol. 17, no. 1 (Spring 1990): 1-37. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, "Crossroads of Cultures: The Transnational Turn in American Studies", <i>American Quarterly</i> 57 (2005): 17-57. [Paul Giles, <i>The Global Remapping of American Literature</i> (2011) (excerpt)] Winfried Fluck, "Theories of American Culture (and the Transnational Turn in American Studies)," in: <i>Romance with America? Essays on Culture, Literature, and American Studies</i>. Ed. by Laura Bieger and Johannes Voelz. Heidelberg: Winter Verlag, 2009. <i>Discussant 9:</i>
July 25	Race, Diversity and its Discontents	Robert P. Baird, "The Invention of Whiteness: The Long History of a Dangerous Idea, <i>The Guardian</i>, April 20, 2021. https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/apr/20/the-invention-of-whiteness-long-history-dangerous-idea Nikole Hannah-Jones, "The Idea of America," <i>The New York Times Magazine</i>, August 18, 2019, 14-26. Michaels, Walter Benn. <i>The Trouble with Diversity: How We Learned to Love Identity and Ignore Inequality</i>. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2006. pp. 1-49. Appiah, K. Anthony. "Racial Identity and Racial Identification." In: Back, Les and John Solomos, eds. <i>Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader</i>. London: Routledge, 2000. pp. 607-616. Coleman Hughes v. Ta-Nehisi Coates on reparations. Congressional hearing 2019 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5AQyWAWHU4 <i>Discussant 10:</i>