A Multicolored Atlantic

Transcultural Encounters

and the Formation of the American Self

Dozent: Priv.-Doz. Dr. Stefan L. Brandt

Angaben:
Hauptseminar, 2 SWS, ECTS-Studium, ECTS-Credits: 7
Unterrichtssprache: Englisch; anmeldepflichtig über KOS
Zeit und Ort: Do 10:00 - 12:00, AR-K 122/23; ab 19.10. 2006

Studienfächer / Studienrichtungen:
ANG-M-AmL3 ab 4 / LCMS-BA-M3.1/3.2 ab 4 / ENG-SI-B4 ab 4 / ENG-SII-B4 ab 4 / ENG-GHR5.1 ab 4 / ENG-GYM7.3 ab 4 2.1/ ENG-BK6.2 ab 4

Inhalt:
The seminar will look at various instances of transcultural dialogues between Americans and people from countries across the Atlantic: Europe, Asia, and Africa. We will deal with adventure novels, travel narratives and journals as well as films about transcultural encounters. Our primary texts will be discussed as documents of (cross-)cultural exchange, illuminating conflicts, desires and hidden fears regarding the «other». In order to understand the dynamic behind the texts, we will look at approaches from postcolonial and ethnic studies as well as from psychological theory. Texts discussed in class include Herman Melville’s Typee (1846), Mark Twain’s The Innocents Abroad (1869), Ernest Hemingway’s Death in the Afternoon (1932), Vincente Minnelli’s An American in Paris (1951), Sofia Coppola’s Lost in Translation (2003), and Liev Schreiber’s Everything Is Illuminated (2005).

Credit requirements: Regular attendance and thoughtful participation in class (25%), an oral presentation, possibly as part of an expert group (20%), and a final paper (15-17 pages) (40%). There will be a few surprise quizzes on the readings to ensure that you keep up with the assignments (15%).

Deadline for Final Papers: February 28, 2007 There is no (!) extension of this deadline.
Syllabus:

19. October 2006  
Introduction: What Is the 'Multicolored Atlantic'?

26. October 2006  
First Encounters:
Read and prepare: Christopher Columbus, «The First Voyage» (1492), «The Second Voyage: the Cannibals» (1495), and «The Third Voyage: The Terrestrial Paradise» (149): 37-47.

02. November 2006  
Images of the «Melting Pot»

09. November 2006  
Transcendental Passengers: Traveling as a Philosophical Journey
Read and prepare: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Journals (passages on Malta and Italy) (1833): 3-61.

At Home and Abroad: Women Traveling at Mid-Century
Read and prepare: Margaret Fuller, from: At Home and Abroad, or, Things and Thoughts in America and Europe (passages on Italy and Americans in Europe) (1856): 220-239, 243-263.

23. November 2006  
Paradise Lost: Travels to the South Sea

30. November 2006  
Innocents Abroad: A Humorous Look at Europe
Read and prepare: Mark Twain, The Innocents Abroad, or The New Pilgrim’s Progress (1911 [1869]): 97-123.

07. December 2006  
The Lost Generation I: American Expatriates and the European Experience
Read and prepare: Ernest Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises (1926): 5-40.

14. December 2006  
The Lost Generation II: Traveling and Death
21 December 2006  Americans in Paris - The Image of France in Hollywood Musicals  
Watch and prepare:  AN AMERICAN IN PARIS (Vincente Minnelli, 1951)

04 January 2007  The Pan-African Experience, or, «What Africa Means to Me»  

11 January 2007  The Beat Generation: Flirting with the Far East  

18 January 2007  Hybrid Identities in American-Indian Writing  

25 January 2007  Traveling as Forgetting: The Holocaust and American Identity  
Watch and prepare:  EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED! (Liev Schreiber, 2005)  

01 February 2007  Cosmopolitanism and the Global City  
Watch and prepare:  LOST IN TRANSLATION (Sofia Coppola, 2003)  

08 February 2007  The Middle East after 09/11  
Watch and prepare:  SYRIANA (Stephen Gaghan, 2005)  
Secondary text:  Abbas Amanat, «Empowered through Violence: The Reinventing of Islamic Extremism»  

Final Paper due February 28, 2007  
Note: There is no extension of this deadline. Late essays will not be accepted!