



# *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:**

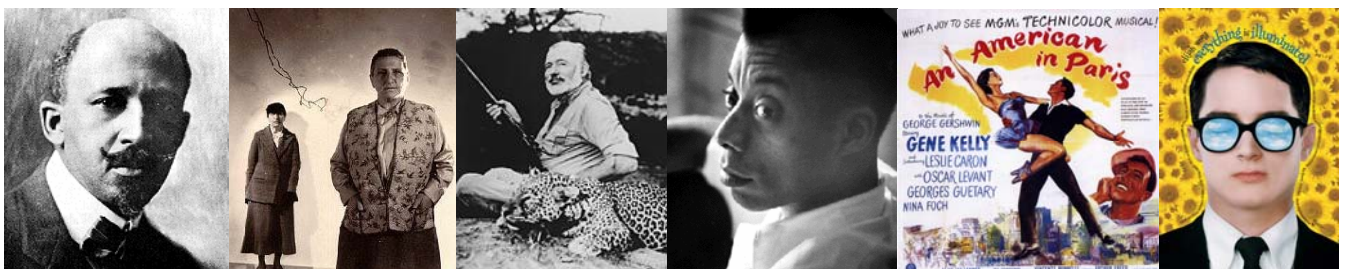
ANG-M-AmL3 ab 4 / LCMS-BA-M3.1/3.2 ab 4 / ENG-SI-B4 ab 4 / ENG-SII-B4 ab 4 / ENG-GHR5.1 ab 4 / ENG-GYM7.3 ab 4 2.1/ ENG-BK6.2 ab 4

**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 Melville's *Typee* (1846), Mark Twain's *The Innocents Abroad* (1869), 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

Introductory text:

### Introduction: What Is the Multicolored Atlantic?

Ottmar Ette, «Kartierung einer Welt in Bewegung» (2001): 21-63.

### 26. October 2006

Read and prepare:

### First Encounters:

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

Secondary text:

Wayne Franklin, «Speaking and Touching: The Problem of Inexpressibility in American Travel Books» (1979): 18-38

### 02. November 2006

Read and prepare:

### Images of the «Melting Pot»

Michel-Guillaume Jean de Crèvecoeur, «Letters from an American Farmer: What Is an American?» (1999 [1782]): 299-315.

Secondary text:

Randolph S. Bourne, «Trans-National America» (1916): 86-97.

### 09. November 2006

Read and prepare:

### Transcendental Passengers: Traveling as a Philosophical Journey

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Journals* (passages on Malta and Italy) (1833): 3-61.

Secondary text:

Michael H. Cowan, from: *City of the West: Emerson, America, and Urban Metaphor* (1967): 124-125; 1144-179.

### 16. November 2006

Read and prepare:

### At Home and Abroad: Women Traveling at Mid-Century

Margaret Fuller, from: *At Home and Abroad, or, Things and Thoughts in America and Europe* (passages on Italy and Americans in Europe) (1856): 220-235; 243-263.

Secondary text:

William W. Stowe, «Conventions and Voices in Margaret Fuller's Travel Writing» (1991): 242-262.

### 23. November 2006

Read and prepare:

### Paradise Lost: Travels to the South Sea

Herman Melville, *Typee* (1846): 1-33, 226-253.

Secondary text:

Neil Rennie, «Of the Cannibals» (1995): 181-197.

### 30. November 2006

Read and prepare:

### Innocents Abroad: A Humorous Look at Europe

Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad, or The New Pilgrim's Progress* (1911 [1869]): 97-123.

Secondary text:

Ahmed M. Metwalli, «Americans Abroad: The Popular Art of travel Writing in the Nineteenth Century» (1979): 68-82.

### 07. December 2006

Read and prepare:

### The Lost Generation I: American Expatriates and the European Experience

Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises* (1954 [1926]): 3-40.

Secondary text:

Marjorie Smelstor, «Expatriation and Exploration: The Exiled Artists of the 1920s» (1979): 136-152.

### 14. December 2006

Read and prepare:

### The Lost Generation II: Traveling and Death

Ernest Hemingway, *Death in the Afternoon* (1932): 35-63.

Additional text:

Ernest Hemingway, «Hills Like White Elephants» (1927): 273-278.

**21. December 2006**

Watch and prepare:

**Americans in Paris ~ The Image of France in Hollywood Musicals**

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS (Vincente Minnelli, 1951)

**04. January 2007**

Read and prepare:

Secondary text:

**The Pan-African Experience, or, «What Africa Means to Me»**

W. E. B. DuBois, «The Concept of Race» (1940): 97-133.

Timothy Brennan, «Claims to Global Culture: Americans Abroad» (1997): 12-65.

**11. January 2007**

Read and prepare:

Secondary text:

**The Beat Generation: Flirting with the Far East**

Allen Ginsberg, from: *Indian Journals* (1962-63): 6-39.

Michael Schumacher, from: *Dharma Lion* (1992): 368-396.

**18. January 2007**

Read and prepare:

Secondary text:

**Hybrid Identities in American-Indian Writing**

Bharati Mukherjee, from: *The Tiger's Daughter* (1971): 3-18; 226-248.

Sharmani Patricia Gabriel, « «Between Mosaic and Melting Pot»: Multiculturalism and Cultural Citizenship in Bharati Mukherjee's Narratives of Diaspora » (2005): 1-16.

**25. January 2007**

Watch and prepare:

Additional text:

**Traveling as Forgetting: The Holocaust and American Identity**

EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED! (Liev Schreiber, 2005)

Jonathan Safran Foer, *Everything Is Illuminated* (2002): 1-13; 267-276.

**01. February 2007**

Watch and prepare:

Secondary text:

**Cosmopolitanism and the Global City**

LOST IN TRANSLATION (Sofia Coppola, 2003)

Timothy Brennan, «Cosmopolitanism and the Explorer's Eye» (1997): 163-207.

**08. February 2007**

Watch and prepare:

Secondary text:

**The Middle East after 09/11**

SYRIANA (Stephen Gaghan, 2005)

Abbas Amanat, «Empowered through Violence: The Reinventing of Islamic Extremism» (from: *The Age of Terror: America and the World After Sept. 11* (2001): 25-52.

— *Final Paper due February 28, 2007* —

*!Note: There is no extension of this deadline. Late essays will not be accepted!*