

M.A. Seminar / Liz Seminar

Death in America

Prof. Elisabeth Bronfen / Prof. Philip Ursprung

Thursday 16-18 Uhr,

Englisches Seminar, Plattenstrasse 47, 1. Stock, Zimmer 102

(1.) 23.9.10 Introduction

(2.) 30.9.10 American Gothic

--- E.A. Poe: "Ligeia" and "The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar" (OLAT)

--- Elisabeth Bronfen: "Risky Resemblances" in *Over Her Dead Body* (OLAT)

--- Maurice Blanchot: "Zwei Fassungen des Bildlichen" / "Two Versions of the Imaginary" (OLAT)

(3.) 07.10.10

--- Guest lecture by Prof. Peggy Phelan (Stanford University)

(4.) 14.10.10 The Civil War

--- Walt Whitman: *Drum Taps* (OLAT)

--- Alexander Gardner: Gardner's Photographic *Sketchbook of the Civil War*

--- Alan Trachtenberg: "Albums of War" in *Reading American Photographs. Images of History Mathew Brady to Walker Evans*. (OLAT)

(5.) 21.10.10 The Fallout of the Civil War

--- *Without Sanctuary. Lynching photography in America*.

--- Susan Sontag: *Regarding the Pain of Others* (OLAT)

(6.) 28.10.10 Crime Culture

--- *James Ellroy: *The Black Dahlia*

--- *Exquisite Corpse: Surrealism and the Black Dahlia Murder*

--- Luc Sante: *Evidence*

(7.) 04.11.10 WWII

--- *Terence Malick: *The Thin Red Line* (DVD)

--- Sigmund Freud: "Zeitgemäßes über Krieg und Tod" and "Vergänglichkeit".

(8.) 11.11.10 WWII

--- *Terence Malick: *The Thin Red Line*

(9.) 18.11.10 Cold War

--- Andy Warhol

(10.) 25.11.10 Postmodern Death

--- *Bret Easton Ellis: *American Psycho*

(11.) 02.12.10 Postmodern Death

--- Mappelthorpe

--- Felix Gonzales-Torres

----David Wojnarowicz

--- Susan Sontag: *AIDS and Its Metaphors*

(12.) 09.12.10 Post 9/11

--- *This is New York*

--- Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle

--- Retort (Iain Boal, T.J. Clark, Joseph Mathews, Michael Watts): *Afflicted Powers, Capital and Spectacle in a New Age of War*. (OLAT)

(13.) 16.12.10 Death in Hollywood

--- Guest Lecture by Prof. Ed Dimmenberg (University of California at Irvine)

23.12.10 Yuletide under the Sign of Mortality

Requirement:

--- Books/ Films marked with * must be purchased by each student individually

--- Texts marked with OLAT will be placed on the internet platform for this seminar

-- Written thesis for four sessions. These must be handed in to one of the tutors by Sunday the week before; they will also be placed on OLAT.

--- Participation in one of the two Arbeitsgruppen: a. *The Thin Red Line* and b. *American Psycho*

Secondary Texts:

James Allen et. al. *Without Sanctuary. Lynching Photography in America*. Santa Fe 2010.

Elisabeth Bronfen. *Over Her Dead Body. Death, Femininity and the Aesthetic*. Manchester/ New York 1992.

Leslie Fiedler. *Love and Death in the American Novel*. New York 1966.

Alexander Gardner. *Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War*. New York 1959.

Thomas Macho und Kristin Marek (Hrsg.). *Die Neue Sichtbarkeit des Todes*. München 2007.

Mark Nelson and Sarah Hudson Bayliss. *Exquisite Corpse. Surrealism and the Black Dahlia Murder*. New York 2006.

Barbara P. Norfleet. *Looking at Death*. Boston 1993.

Jay Ruby. *Secure the Shadow. Death and Photography in America*. Cambridge, M.A. 1995.

Luc Sante. *Low Life. Lures and Snares of Old New York*. New York 1991.

--- *Evidence*. New York 1992.