

America, America: A History of American Literature, Film and Culture
Spring 2012, Th 12:15-13:45, KOL-H-312

Prof. E. Bronfen, Dr. B. Straumann
Dr. des. J. Binotto, Dr. A. Markin, H. Schoch

1. (23/2) Introduction: American Exceptionalism
2. (1/3) A New World
3. (8/3) American Puritanism
4. (15/3) Founding the Nation
5. (22/3) Transcendentalism – American Philosophy
6. (29/3) American Gothic – Transcendentalism’s Dark Side
7. (5/4) A House Divided – The Civil War
- Easter Break
8. (19/4) The Frontier – An American State of Mind
9. (26/4) (En)Gendering the American Dream
10. (3/5) Celebrity Culture
11. (10/5) Women’s Voices
12. (17/5) Ascension: no class
13. (24/5) Subversions – Subcultures
14. (31/5) Rogues

Course material: The hand-outs will be made available on OLAT shortly before the individual lectures.

Recommended texts: The following books are highly recommended and can be purchased at the Studentenladen Zentrum, Schönberggasse 2.

Baym, Nina et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*. New York, London: Norton 2007.

Madsen, Deborah L. *American Exceptionalism*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 1998.

Marcus, Greil and Werner Sollors, eds. *A New Literary History of America*. Cambridge MA, London: Belknap Press, 2009.

Final grade: All students must write a short essay of 3 pages on American Exceptionalism. Please analyze and interpret at least one example (i.e. text, film, or image) from the lecture in greater depth. The deadline is Friday 8 June at 5:00 p.m.