

Department of English and American Studies, University of Vienna

CLASSES ON race, racism, discrimination and related issues

CLASSES WITH AN * CAN BE ATTENDED AS GUEST. PLEASE CONTACT THE LECTURER IN CHARGE.

CULTURAL AND MEDIA STUDIES

"Culture, Society and the Media – Powerful Images: Representing Race, Class and Gender in the Media"*

The lecture uses material from English, American and Anglophone Media like television series and movies, advertisement, music videos, graphic novels, or news media to show how three central building blocks of identity - race, class and gender - are represented. We will discuss how the media can reinforce stereotypes, but equally how media products and their use and re-use can help to uncover harmful and discriminatory social practices and identities. In a nutshell, we will deal with the multiple connections between culture, media and society.

Lecturer: Heinz, Sarah, sarah.heinz@univie.ac.at

Thursday 8-9:30; record accessible

"Literary and Cultural Theories and Concepts"*

As part of our brand-new MA curriculum, this lecture will attempt to do justice to literary and cultural theory's complexities helping you distinguish theories from concepts and methods. We will do our best to show you how theory and cultural objects of analysis (literary or other), can be brought into a productive dialogue with each other.

Sessions on

Nov 20: "Queer critical-race/decolonial theory" (Wiedlack, Katharina)

Dec 4: "Disability critical-race/decolonial theory" (Wiedlack, Katharina)

"Introduction to Anglophone Cultures and Societies – Highlights of Britishness und British Popular Culture"

This lecture will introduce you to major theoretical approaches, selected (historical) facts and figures and key issues relevant to the study of British cultures and societies within a British Cultural Studies context. We will learn about the history of concepts such as culture and society and investigate key issues such as identities shaped by gender, race, class and their intersections or the interrelation between power and knowledge. This lecture has sections on Black Britain in the context of "history from below" and will, among other things, talk about recent political events such as the Colston toppling in Bristol and its connection to the slave trade history.

Lecturer: Seidl, Monika, monika.seidl@univie.ac.at

"#fame: The Cultural Politics of Contemporary American Celebrity Cultures"*

In this class, we will explore how contemporary American celebrity cultures are produced, distributed and consumed by looking at a plethora of cultural texts from different media contexts. In one session, we will discuss the role of celebrities in the recent surge of the #BlackLivesMatter

movement. Amongst other aspects, we will reflect on structural racism, white privilege and the manifold connections to celebrity cultures.

Lecturer: Schörghenhuber, Eva, eva.schoergenhuber@univie.ac.at

Sessions on

Jan 7: "Celebrity Activism & and the #BlackLivesMatter Movement"

CRITICAL READINGS IN LITERATURE

"Victorian Literature and the Workshop of Radical Politics"*

Although the course focuses on different authors' engagements with 19th century thought regarding labor politics, anarchism, and utopian socialism (which, indeed, intersect with issues of race), I am specifically spending the last 4 sessions of the semester on issues that bear directly on the BLM movement's demands. I'll be assigning *The History of Mary Prince*, a slave narrative from the West Indies, and combining this both with abolitionist perspectives as well as the broader Black Liberation movements which were gaining traction in this era. I'll also be assigning Oscar Wilde's "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" which, though (obviously) written by a white author, will enable me to gesture toward the traditions of prison abolition that are remain part of BLM's broader political goals.

Lecturer: Potter, Kevin, kevinp65@univie.ac.at

Sessions on

Dec 14: "The Victorians and Anti-Slavery" - *The History of Mary Prince*

Jan 11: "From Anti-Slavery to Black Liberation" - *The History of Mary Prince* (cont'd) + William Wilberforce, Peter Williams, John Browne Russwum

Jan 18: "The Victorians and the Invention of Criminality" - *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*

Jan 25: "Prison Abolition and the Future of Justice" - *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* + Emma Goldman

CRITICAL MEDIA ANALYSIS (CMA)

"Are superheroes democratizing masculinity practices?"

Superhero narratives and doing gender"*

This CMA class puts focus on masculinity practices the way they appear in superhero narratives. Its objects of study are both superhero comics and their adaptations to the movie screen. Through the lens of gender, masculinity and queer studies these texts are discussed and investigated, asking the question; do superhero narratives democratize masculinity practices? Do they uphold old patriarchal modes of masculinity or do they subvert ideas and images about 'doing' masculinity?

There will be sessions on Black super heroes in the Marvel comic universe such as *Falcon* and the *Black Panther*.

Lecturer: Salzer, Ranthild, ranthild.salzer@univie.ac.at

Sessions on

CMA 1 Nov 3: Focus on Black Masculinities, 1960s Black Power Movements and Black super heroes

CMA 2 Nov 16: Focus on Black Masculinities, 1960s Black Power Movements and Black super heroes

"Reclaiming the Frame: Introduction to Film Studies via Women's Films"

In part, this course will look at the work of Black women filmmakers, particularly *Belle* (UK, 2013) by Amma Asante and the Black independent cinema classic *Daughters of the Dust* (US, 1991) by Julie Dash.

Through the writings of Kehinde Andrews, Donald Bogle, and Richard Dyer, we will examine and challenge the visual supremacy of whiteness and representation of Blacks in cinema.

Lecturer: Theuer, Eugenie, eugenie.theuer@univie.ac.at

ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

“Language in Use 2”

In LIU students work with and analyze a wide range of text types, literary and non-literary. They develop an awareness of how texts are used (to inform, to explain, to persuade, to convince, to move to action, to delight or any combination of these) and learn how to identify characteristic features of different text types and explain their effects.

In this course we will analyze protest posters with a focus on BLM and climate change.

Lecturer: Smith-Dluha, Gabrielle, gabrielle.smith-dluha@univie.ac.at

“Language Competence”

We will look at the use of inclusive and exclusive 'we' in educational textbooks - which touches on when and how races are included or excluded in national educational texts (who is counted as 'we' and who is 'they' in national discourse).

Lecturer: Smith-Dluha, Gabrielle, gabrielle.smith-dluha@univie.ac.at

LINGUISTICS

“The native speaker in linguistics: fact or fiction?”

In this seminar we discuss how the concept of the native speaker has contributed to the discrimination against e.g. colonial English varieties and against ‘non-native’ teachers of English in the history of the English-speaking world.

Lecturers: Seidlhofer, Barbara, barbara.seidlhofer@univie.ac.at

Ritt, Nikolaus, nikolaus.ritt@univie.ac.at

Keizer, Eveline, evelien.keizer@univie.ac.at