



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT:  
A SURVEY OF US-AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY**  
General Introduction (Winter Term 2021/22)

# WELCOME!

Greetings from [Prof. Dr. Christine Gerhardt](#), the head of the organizing department at Bamberg University, and a very warm welcome from [Dr. Nicole K. Konopka](#), the lecturer administrating this seminar.

This presentation provides [brief answers to general questions about the seminar](#). Beginning with the next slide, short cuts to each topic are provided via the headers on the right side of the slide.

For more information please [consult the syllabus](#) or contact the instructor at [nicole.konopka@uni-bamberg.de](mailto:nicole.konopka@uni-bamberg.de).

# COURSES OF STUDY

This seminar...

- is open for students enrolled for the following degrees:
  - BA Anglistik/Amerikanistik
  - Lehramt Englisch
- can be taken for the advanced module of US-American literary studies (*Aufbaumodul Literaturwissenschaft*, 6 ECTS).
- is a recurring addition to the regular program offered by the American Studies sections at Bamberg University and the University Erlangen-Nürnberg.
- will complement other classes within the advanced module by offering participants an overview of US American literary history.

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# GOALS

This seminar...

- provides participants with **detailed information** about the complexities that underlie each literary work and each literary and cultural period.
- raises the participants' **awareness** for the multiple connections between texts and contexts, and between different texts.
- will train students' abilities **to describe and analyze literary texts**.
- guides students in **developing an understanding of the links** between literary periods, political trends, cultural movements, and social developments in the USA.
- aims to expand students' knowledge about the **history of the US** and their diverse **literary production**.
- assists students in expanding their **methodological proficiency**.

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# GENERAL STRUCTURE

- VC-course duration: [October 11, 2021 – February 25, 2022](#)
- 14 sessions in three sections:
  - [ten thematic units](#) (literary periods and representative works)
  - [four review units](#) (basics of text analysis, central topics across the periods, final summary, term paper instructions)
- sections will be made available consecutively:
  - Section 1: [October 18, 2021](#) (units 1-4)
  - Section 2: [November 15, 2021](#) (units 5-9)
  - Section 3: [December 20, 2021](#) (units 10-14)
- term paper submission deadline: **April 08, 2022**

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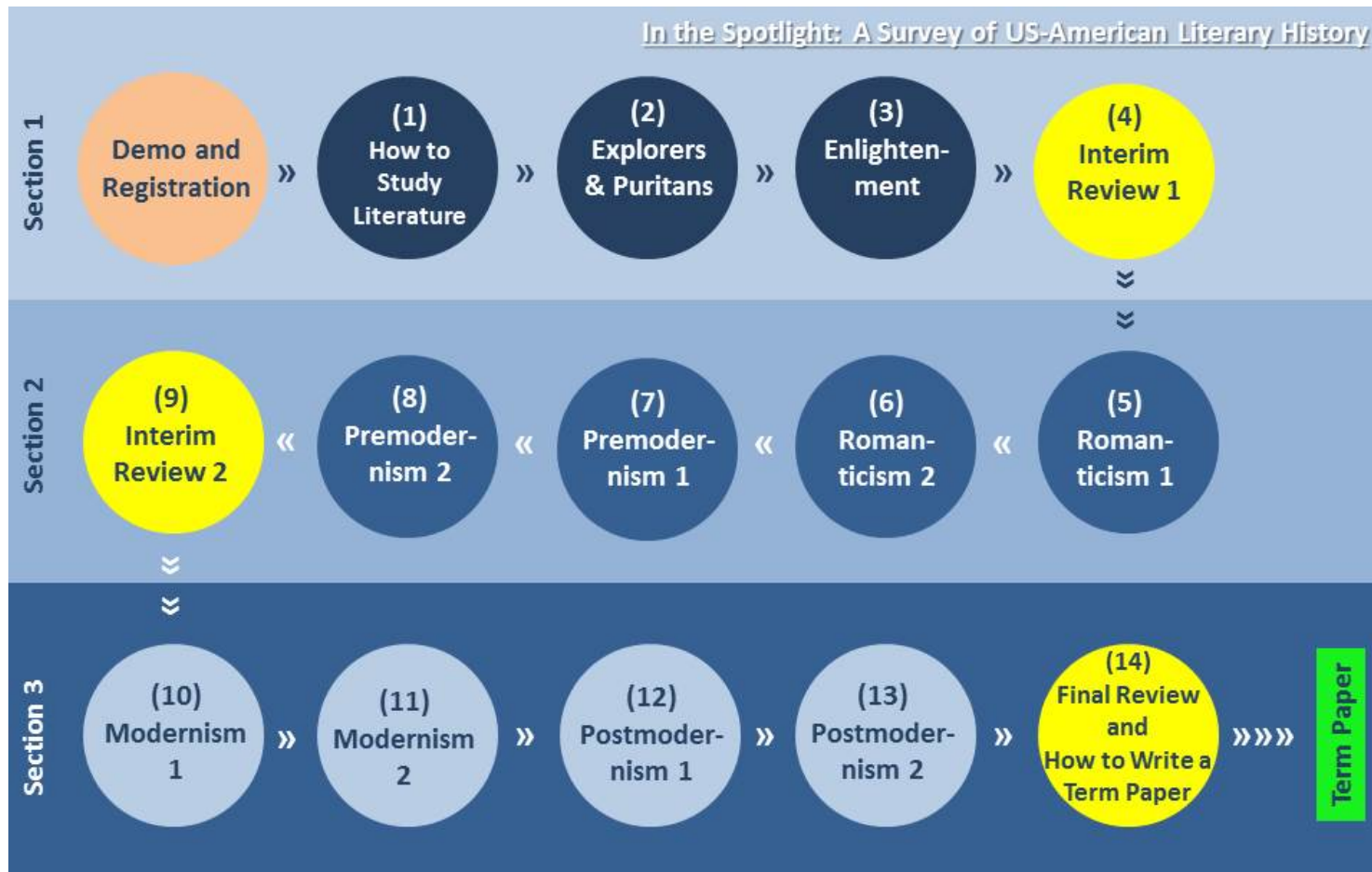
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# READING

Participants must be able to read and review quite a lot of material between the weekly sessions. [Short stories, poems, plays, essays, and novels from 1678 – 2001](#) form our core curriculum.

The [obligatory texts](#) need to be read **BEFORE** each unit is started! Please check the [syllabus](#) to learn when each reading is due.

Most texts will be made available via the Virtual Campus. Two texts, however, need to be [acquired by each participant individually](#):

- Kate Chopin, *The Awakening* (1899)
- Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse-Five, or The Children's Crusade: A Duty-Dance with Death* (1969)

The [complete reading list](#) is available on the Virtual Campus together with a [list of reference books](#) that are highly recommended for further research (e.g. your term paper).

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# ACTIVITIES

- designed to **activate your learning process**
- **types of assignments:** self-assessment quizzes (multiple choice, drop-and-drag, mix-and-match), timeline, discussion forum, short responses to reading questions, worksheets, gap texts, peer review, mind map
- **online discussions:** at least two quality responses per participant and forum required
- **group work:** is possible and strongly encouraged
- **evaluations:** conclude each session and help evaluate your own progress as well as the content of the respective session

Make sure to read the instructions of each assignment carefully and **hand in your result in the required format!**

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# SUPERVISION

All activities will be monitored by the instructor, who also will be actively involved in online discussions and provide feedback on your writing until the next section starts.

Additional to her commentary on your weekly assignments, the instructor is also available for [weekly consultation](#) (→ [Contact](#)).

All students enrolled in this class are expected to complete course requirements with [fairness and honesty](#). Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage or by plagiarizing (misrepresenting someone else's work as your own) can result in [disciplinary action](#).

The instructor reserves the right to put submitted content through an [online plagiarism check](#).

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# FINAL GRADE

The final assessment of each student will be conducted via a [term paper](#) that focuses on a specific [research thesis](#).

**The term paper is due on April 08, 2022 (Friday).**

Topical suggestions, formal rules, and guidelines on how to structure your paper are provided by the instructor via the Virtual Campus course (final session).

Students from [Bamberg University](#) and the [University Erlangen-Nürnberg](#) will receive their grades via their respective grade management system (FlexNow/mein campus).

Students from [other universities](#) will receive a [paper certificate](#) by post. Make sure to consult your local examination office to ensure that the certificate will be accepted by your university!

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# GUIDELINES

Guidelines are available for download on the Virtual Campus. The [syllabus](#) provides you with all necessary information: from office hours, reading list, and important dates to technical requirements, learning objectives, and course policies.

In order to ensure a productive working environment we have assembled a list of [netiquette guidelines](#). A short version is included in the syllabus.

Other guidelines include [peer reviewing](#) and [poster design](#).

[Master copies](#) will be provided for all other assignments.

A [Question Forum](#) will be available at all times. It is an open forum, and you are encouraged to give answers and help each other. The instructor will also be there to answer your questions.

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# REGISTRATION

**To participate in this course** you need to:

- (1) **officially enroll** in the course → on the website of the [Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern](#) (vhb). Registration is free of charge for students from universities in Bavaria.
- (2) **access the course material** → on the [Virtual Campus](#) of Bamberg University. This will be possible simply by completing Step 1 (registering for the course via the vhb). Afterwards, you will receive a welcome email with more information from the instructor.

**To receive a grade** you will have to register once again **between January 11 – February 11, 2022**. Specific instructions will be forwarded via email in the beginning of the semester.

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# CONTACT

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**Virtual Office Hour:** once a week by MODDLE CHAT. Additional virtual office hours can be arranged individually; please contact the instructor via email at least two work days in advance.

If you are in Bamberg (**and Covid19-restrictions have been lifted!**), you can also attend my **on-site office hour** on **Wednesday, 12–1 p.m. (U9/00.01)**.

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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We are also thankful for the constant support and advice that we received from *Christina Suchi* at the vhb.

Finally, we want to thank our *students*, who inspire our work and hopefully will enjoy this course as much as we do.

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