

RECOGNITION OF CREDITS (ECTS)

6 ECTS credits will be awarded to students for active participation, attendance and the successful completion of a seminar paper.

COSTS

Please visit our website:
<http://international.uni-graz.at/summerschool-guss>

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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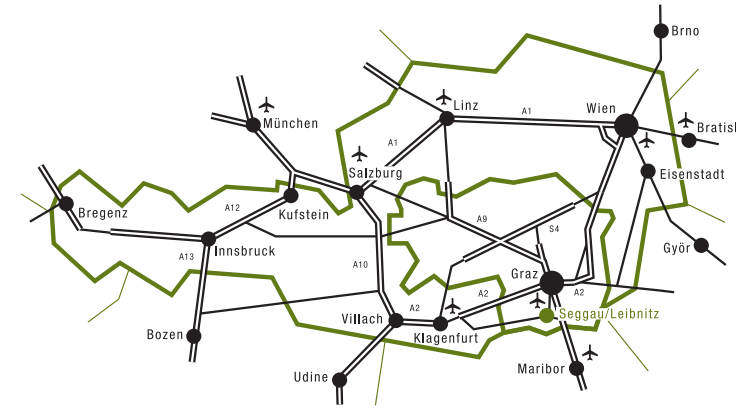
MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

<http://international.uni-graz.at/summerschool-guss>

VENUE / SEGGAU CASTLE

The venue of the summer school is "Seggau Castle" located 45km south of Graz (<http://seggau.com>).

!!! APPLICATION DEADLINE !!!
February 29th, 2012



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WHAT THE SUMMER SCHOOL OFFERS YOU

- » Two-week summer school at Seggau Castle with international students and lecturers
- » 6 ECTS credits for participation and a seminar paper
- » Parallel seminars, morning plenary and evening lectures
- » Full board
- » Excursion to Graz, various social activities

PROJECT ORGANIZATION

This summer school project is an Erasmus IP project, supported by the Utrecht Network and CEEPUS, carried out by the University of Graz, represented by the Center for Inter-American Studies (C.IAS) and the Center for Jewish Studies (CJS).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The summer school offers a platform for students and teachers from international universities to engage in the interdisciplinary analysis of new conceptual approaches to redefine the Americas in times of worldwide globalization. Thematic seminars in the respective fields allow students to strengthen their understanding of complex issues in their study areas. The discursive and symbolic constructions of the Americas are investigated from the vantage points of politics, history, law, literature, sustainability, film, gender, culture, migration and indigenous studies, thus contributing to the newly emerging field of "Inter-American Studies" in Europe.

TARGET GROUP

The target group are highly motivated students from all disciplines holding a bachelor's degree, or students working on their final theses. The summer school is designed to be integrated into the curricula of 4 Joint Master's Degree programs offered by a number of consortium partners (English & American Studies, Jewish Studies, Sustainable Development and Gender Studies).

INTER-AMERICAN STUDIES – ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Students are encouraged to apply for the following seminars depending on their academic background and interest:

FILM & SOCIETY

Film as a form of cultural expression occupies a pivotal role in terms of reflecting, as well as interpreting crucial social, cultural, and political realities and ideologies that currently shape societies in the Americas. In this seminar, a variety of U.S.-American, Latin American, and Canadian films that address the relationship between the Americas, as well as the U.S.'s representation of cultural and ethnic "Others" within their own geographical boundaries, will be discussed. It will focus in particular on exploring ideologically inflected representations of cultural differences, the role of ethnic and racial stereotypes in the service of national identity constructions, the link between political, cultural, economic, and social debates dominating national/U.S. discourses and the realities of Inter-American relations, as well as the precarious position of the medium film in between reinforcing dominant ideas and changing public opinion.

LITERATURE

This seminar will offer an insight into the historical development of a hemispheric approach to literature in the Americas, by analyzing literature from

Latin America, the U.S., and/or Canada. Although the sessions will cover sources from different genres, time periods, and places, both weeks of the course emphasize that literature per se transcends linguistic, political, and geographical borders and that an Inter-American approach to literature provides a better understanding of it.

IDENTITIES & GENDER

This course will focus on identity, sexuality and race, with an emphasis on literature and media from the Americas – U.S., Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender studies and post-colonial feminism, sociology and sociobiology will be used as theoretical frames to read essays, fiction, short stories, and poetry, from the 19th century to the present, as well as examples of other media and the visual arts. Topics to be discussed will be the deprivation of history and memory and the distortion in representation as well as the strategies of resistance and emancipation they arouse.

ECONOMICS

This seminar considers the economic development of the U.S. and the other countries of the Americas over the past century. The sessions will pay particular attention to the reasons why there has been sustained economic growth in some nations while others have faced repeated crisis, the changing character of economic relationships between countries through, for example, the signing of free trade agreements such as the North American

INTER-AMERICAN STUDIES – ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA, MERCOSUR, and CAFTDR), and the region's resilience to the global downturn. The seminar will draw upon selected economics concepts and, on the basis of these, explore broader economic, political and cultural processes.

SUSTAINABILITY

This seminar will explore the environmental impact of human presence in the Americas. Urbanization, mining, industry, agriculture, and tourism are the main contributors to the important changes in landscapes all over America. Still, there are significant differences between the environmental problems and the way they are handled in Anglo-Saxon America and in Latin America. A further aspect that will be discussed in the seminar is (sustainable) tourism in the Americas. Basic information on it and the stakeholders involved will be provided, best practice examples and possible trends are shown, and selected systems science tools for analyzing and assessing the impacts of tourism are introduced.

HISTORY & MIGRATION

Societies are not stable entities. While the reasons for people to migrate from one country to another may differ and change over time, the American continent has largely been defined by immigration from Europe, Africa, and Asia. The United States views itself, moreover, as a society of immigrants still. In this module, we will focus on the history of immigration to the Americas. The seminar will address theories of migration, literary texts, as well

as films and photographs to determine how patterns of immigration have forged the collective and individual identities in the Americas.

POLITICS

This seminar will focus on the politics of human rights in the Inter-American context. It will provide an overview of current and historical debates on human rights and their implications for politics. It will focus on case studies of human rights violations in the Americas and the attempts to bring the cases to justice on the national and international level, as well as it will emphasize on the creation of international institutions dealing with international criminal law – like the International Criminal Court (ICC) – and the position of American countries towards them.

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

This seminar will examine indigenous societies from an Inter-American vantage point, both from contemporary, as well as historical perspectives. Students will be asked to re-conceptualize similarities and differences throughout the Americas, transcending linguistic, political and geographical borders. One of the topics will be how governments and societies reacted to the challenge of ethnic mobilization in the 1990s. This hemispheric mobilization was part of, and reinforced by, a tendency towards the politicization of ethnic identities and ethnicization of political agendas.

