

About the program

In 1892, Cuban poet and freedom fighter José Martí published his now famous “Nuestra América” [“Our America”] as a call for solidarity among the fledgling nations of Latin America in the face of Europe’s colonial past in the region and the United States’ imperial present and future. Over a century later, how have or haven’t American relations changed? What of the term America itself? When does it include Canada, Ecuador, Haiti, or Chile, and when does it signify the United States? The tendency to equate America with the United States and the current practices of Latin Americanists, Canadianists, Caribbeanists, and U.S.-Americanists to study their disciplines in national and regional vacuums can be just as parochial as the “proud villager” whom Martí chastises for believing that “his hometown contains the whole world.” We invite you to participate as we continue to shift the American dialogue from nation and region to hemisphere, from America to Americas.

Target Group

The target group for the summer school are 50 highly motivated students within any program allowing for the recognition of the summer school courses within their study program. There is no exclusion on study level, as undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students can be considered.

Our Contacts

**C.SAS - Center for the Study of the Americas
&
Office for International Relations at the University of Graz**

CONTACT FOR STUDENTS

Daniel Johnston

daniel.johnston@uni-graz.at

phone: +43 316 380 1242

fax: +43 316 380 9155

Application deadline: March 27th, 2009

For more detailed information and application form please check our website
www.uni-graz.at/csas

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UtrechtNetwork



**UNI
GRAZ**

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
“Nuestra América”: (Re)approaching the Americas



July 12th - 26th, 2009
Seggau Castle, Leibnitz - Austria

About the modules

Film and Society

Film as a form of cultural expression offers multiple representations of reality contributing to the construction of social stereotypes and identities, creating social and/or political statements. In this seminar a variety of films will be analyzed as to their ways of delivering a message related to identity issues in the Americas. Special attention will be given to the genre of documentary film and its capacity to heighten the audience's perception of given issues.

Literature

This seminar will offer an insight into the historical development of a hemispheric approach to literature in the Americas. Discussing works of Canadian, US-American as well as Latin American writers and spanning genres as diverse as short stories, essays and visual poetry, the courses will emphasize that literature per se transcends linguistic, political and geographical borders and that therefore a better understanding of it will be achieved by an inter-American literary studies approach.

Politics, law & security

This seminar envisions how politics of free-trade-agreements adopted by different states throughout the Americas have been challenging prevalent cultural divisions between the nations of the Americas over the last decades. Central themes will be the ongoing redefinition of identities from national to regional, the changing mutual relations between Canada, the US and Latin America, as well as the latest developments on the political landscape in the US regarding foreign policy and its possible consequences for the process of continental integration.

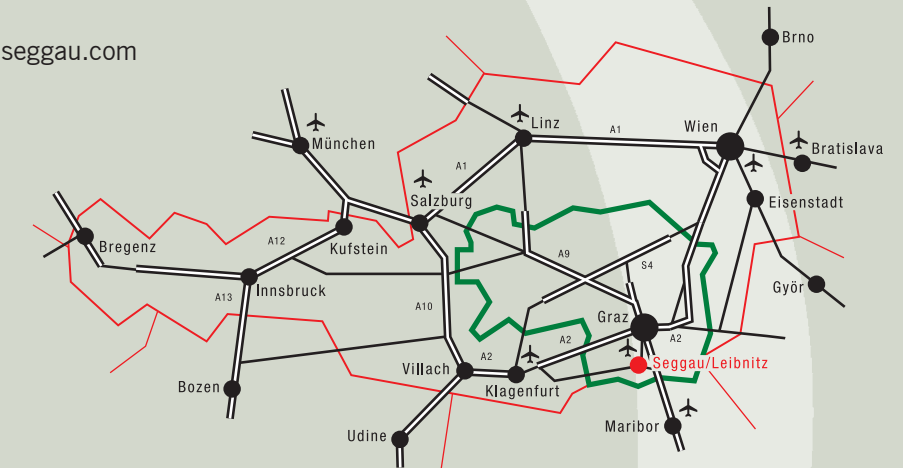
Environment, urban & regional development

Nuestra América – whose is it really? Continental integration in terms of sustainability of resource management versus territorial claims and their impact on identity politics will be the topics at the core of this seminar. Transcending the narrow confines of national perspectives, the courses set out to explore aspects that influence identity constructions, different spatial discourses and trans-border cooperation regarding environmental and developmental challenges.

Venue

Seggau Castle, located about 40km south of Graz in one of Austria's most famous wine-growing areas, offers a modern convention center within historic premises.

www.seggau.com



Costs

The Utrecht Network Summer School is co-funded by the network and the University of Graz as its host institution. The tuition fee of 700 € per student, covering course costs as well as room & board for the entire two-weeks period and payable by all students in advance, can be reduced by scholarships and grants given through the home universities. Travel arrangements have to be made individually.