

USA Update 2012

Teacher Seminar

12 October 2012 or 19 October 2012

Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU

Organizer: Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, B.A.Z. Amerika-Haus
Registration fee: € 10

In the final year of president Obama's first term in office, where does the United States stand? This seminar will offer an assessment of Obama's presidency so far. We will examine current issues in domestic and international politics as well as American society in general. Since this is an election year, a closer look at the candidates for office is in order, especially the Republican candidate for the presidency. We will look at the key issues for the upcoming presidential election and the respective chances of Obama and his Republican rival. As usual, political satire and humor will help provide perspective on the serious business of politics.

09.00: assessing Obama's first term in office: domestic policy

10.00: assessing Obama's first term in office: international relations

10.45: coffee break

11.15: the Republican Party: issues and candidates

12.00: the presidential election of 2012

13.00: end

Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, Karolinenplatz 3, 80333 München,

Di.-Fr.: 13-17 Uhr, Mi.: 13-20 Uhr

Mo. ab 13 Uhr: Recherche-Workshops für W-Seminare nach Vereinbarung

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Aufnahme läuft – Los geht's! Das Medium Radio im Unterricht nutzen

Lehrerfortbildung, 20. November 2012
Referentin: Tina Gentner, M.A. Bayerischer Rundfunk

Veranstalter: Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, B.A.Z. Amerika-Haus, Stiftung Zuhören

Zum Thema:

Ganz sind sich die Wissenschaftler noch nicht einig, aber um die 15.000 Worte gibt jeder Mensch wohl täglich von sich. 15.000 Worte, die einer losschickt und die hoffentlich bei den anderen ankommen.

Zuhören und Sprechen sind Schlüsselkompetenzen, ohne die im Unterricht wie aber auch im Radio gar nichts geht: Die richtigen Fragen beim Interview stellen, eine anschauliche und lebendige Reportage machen oder kleine Hörspiele produzieren - Wie diese Elemente der Radioarbeit im Englisch-Unterricht eingesetzt werden können, soll in diesem Seminar am Beispiel aktueller US-amerikanischer Themen diskutiert und ausprobiert werden.

Programm:

9.00 – 10.30

Journalistische Darstellungsformen und deren möglicher Einsatz im Klassenzimmer an Hand von Hörbeispielen

10.30 – 11.00

Kaffeepause

11.00 – 12.30

Technik und Handwerk des „Radio-Machens“

Selbstversuch: Reportage, Interview und Umfrage im Klassenzimmer.

12.30 – 13.00

Abschluss-Diskussion

Der Vortrag findet in Deutsch statt.

“It Seemed Like Nothing Happened: The United States in the 1970s”

Teacher Seminar, 23 November 2012
Speaker: Prof. Dr. Anke Ortlepp
Professur für Amerikanische Kulturgeschichte, LMU

Organizer: Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, B.A.Z. Amerika-Haus

Registration fee: € 10

The 1970s have only recently attracted the attention of historians. The decade that preceded the end of the Cold War had seemed like a time when nothing happened. Fed up with the turmoil of the late 1960s, the assumption was, Americans withdrew from public life to focus more on their private lives and let politics run their course. Not so, recent reappraisals show. The 1970s merit study as the decade when the accomplishments of earlier protest movements like the civil, women's and gay rights movements played out and became institutionalized. During the 1970s, the US political system was shaken up by the Watergate scandal that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon and the imperial presidency. Americans thought hard about what had caused this political crises and what its implications were for the future of American politics. As the political scandal unfolded, so did a major economic crisis (unemployment, inflation) that brought the postwar economic boom to an end. The oil crisis called into question the American way of life, President Jimmy Carter called it a “crisis of confidence.” The 1970s brought the end of the Vietnam War and the rapprochement with China and the Soviet Union. As if to forget some of the unpleasantness of everyday life, Americans engaged in escapism: They went roller skating and Disco-dancing sporting some of the outrageous fashions of the 1970s. The seminar will look at select issues to make sense of the politics and cultures of this decade. Recommended reading: Edward D. Berkowitz, *Something Happened: A Political and Cultural Overview of the Seventies* (New York: Columbia, 2006).

9.00 Part I

- Nixon and Watergate
- Carter and the Crisis of Confidence (oil crises, economic crises)
- Foreign Policy: Vietnam, China, USSR

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Part II

- The Rights Revolution
- American Culture in the “Me” Decade

13.00 End

American Suburbia

Teacher Seminar, 30 November 2012

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Udo Hebel

**Lehrstuhl Amerikanistik/American Studies
Universität Regensburg**

Organizer: Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, B.A.Z. Amerika-Haus

Registration fee: € 10

The course will be a repeat and variation of the 2010 session on American suburbia, giving special emphasis to gender roles, women, and adolescents in suburbia. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, suburban areas are home to more than half of all Americans. The ever-increasing suburbanization since World War II has evoked descriptions of the United States as a “suburban nation” and as the “United States of Suburbia.” Cultural geographers have viewed American suburbia as a distinctively American contribution to urban and metropolitan forms. Cultural historians have discussed the ideological implications of the desire to live in a suburban middle-class family home, surrounded by a garden and lawn and securely distanced from the city. Critics of suburbia have emphasized, among other things, the maintenance of traditional gender roles (especially in regard to women), the conformity and group pressure reigning supreme in the suburbs, the increase of dysfunctional families in suburban areas, and the ecological consequences of the suburban sprawl. Long regarded as a white middle-class residential space, American suburbs have become culturally and economically more diverse in recent years. In view of these developments, it is hardly surprising that political and demographic analysts point to the far-reaching consequences of the ongoing move of large portions of the U.S. American population to the suburbs. Some social observers claim that suburbanization was the most significant demographic development of the twentieth-century; others argue that since the early 1990s, by the latest, presidential elections have been won in the suburbs. The recent financial crisis, however, has taken many suburban Americans to the end of their dreams of unlimited opportunities and upward mobility. Despite the evident changes which American suburbs have undergone in the past decades, the ideal construction of suburbia still holds a powerful grip on the collective American imagination and figures prominently, though vehemently contested, in contemporary representations of different kinds and media.

- 9 – 10:30 Presentation and discussion of ‘American Suburbia’ as a historical, social, and cultural phenomenon
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 13:00 Discussion of materials for teaching from the fields of contemporary American photography/fine arts, fiction/drama, film/TV series, popular music.

Immigration and the United States: Of Melting Pots and Border Fences

Teacher Seminar, 7 December 2012
Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU

Organizer: Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, B.A.Z. Amerika-Haus
Registration fee: € 10

This seminar will examine immigration to the United States as a historical, social, cultural, and political phenomenon. We will identify major immigration waves in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as today and examine American society's reaction to the influx of newcomers. The course will also examine the many metaphors that have been offered for the process of integrating immigrants: the "melting pot", the "salad bowl", the "stew" and even the "pizza". Immigration has been the source of sharp political and social conflict. Examples include the 19th century nativist movement and today's debate about keeping out illegal immigrants by building a fence along the border with Mexico. The lecture will analyze these conflicts and put them in perspective. Finally, immigration has also been the topic of political satire, which will help us cast a more humorous light on this serious topic.

09:00 Introduction: The United States, a Nation of Immigrants

09:15 Immigration in the 18th and 19th centuries

10:00 The Melting Pot and Alternative Models

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Immigration Restriction and Reform in the 20th century


11:30 Immigration Today

12:15 Illegal Immigration and its controversies

13:00 End

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