

The Simpsons and Politics: Ex Pluribus Springfield

Teacher Seminar, 30 March 2012
Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU

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

You think The Simpsons is not a political show? Think again. The Simpsons is a kaleidoscope of American politics in all its aspects: presidential elections, town hall democracy, political parties, Congress, and international relations. From the loftiest idealism to the most blatant corruption, The Simpsons has dealt with nearly every significant topic and nearly every extreme that the US political system has to offer. The Simpsons deals with these issues in a satirical, humorous fashion; given the sheer craziness of American politics even outside of animated television comedy, the results are predictably hilarious. This talk will focus on several examples of political issues on the Simpsons and discuss their significance both as satire and as issues in the “real world.” Obviously, several of the episodes discussed in this seminar are suitably for classroom use to teach specific aspects of American politics and society.

09.00: introduction: the Simpsons as political satire

09.20: real-life politicians on the Simpsons

09.45: the Simpsons, the Constitution, and patriotism

10.15: the Simpsons, political parties, and elections

10.45: coffee break

11.15: Springfield's town hall democracy

11.45: illegal immigration, gun control, gay marriage, and other issues

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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