

# The Hollywood Melodrama in the Classroom

## Teacher Seminar

Friday, January 21, 2022, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Speaker: Prof. Dr. Heike Paul, FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrer\*innen  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH - Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Registration fee: € 10

"Hollywood melodrama" usually refers to a **set of iconic films and their characteristic style**. The label evokes **powerfully sentimental plots** of suffering and sacrifice along with scenes of **romantic bliss and estrangement**, familial tragedy, fateful coincidences, and **happy (or not-so-happy) endings**. Ever since the emergence of the filmic formula in the first half of the 20th century, melodramas 'made in Hollywood' have been shown, on the one hand, to **address and critique social injustices** reflected in hierarchies of race, class, and gender in American society. Think, for instance, of Douglas Sirk's *All That Heaven Allows* (1955; starring Jane Wyman and Rock Hudson) and its critique of snobbish hypocrisy and class-based prejudice.

On the other hand, it has also been pointed out that Hollywood melodramas have nostalgically **affirmed systems of inequality** and have even condoned slavery. Thus, a film such as *Gone with the Wind* (1939) has been repeatedly at the **center of harsh controversy**. The sentimental politics of the melodrama are ambivalent to this day and can also be traced in remakes, sequels, and other cultural forms. In this seminar, we will discuss selected melodramas and examine the cultural work they have performed. We will also widen our perspective to look beyond Hollywood and at least briefly acknowledge more recent appropriations of the genre of the **melodrama in a postcolonial world**.

### Schedule:

09:00 An Introduction to Hollywood Melodrama, Past and Present

09:30 Case Studies from the 1930s to 50s

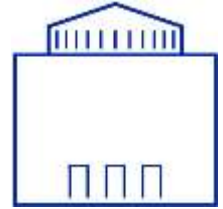
### 10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Case Studies from the 1960s to 90s

12:00 After 2000: From Hollywood to Bollywood, Nollywood and beyond

13:00 Open Discussion

**14:00 End**



# “I Can’t Breathe”: Contemporary Race Relations in the U.S.

Teacher Seminar

Friday, February 11, 2022, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrer\*innen  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH - Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Registration fee: € 10

This talk examines **race relations in the United States** today with a specific focus on the situation of African Americans and the recent controversies over **police violence**. Were the great achievements of the civil rights movement in the 1960s in vain? What is **the social and economic situation of racial minorities** in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century? Is **class** as much a factor in today’s problems as race? What role does the extremely fragmented **organization of police forces** in the U.S. play? What are the **political implications** and consequences of recent conflicts? We will look at these and other questions. As much as possible, political humor and satire will help lighten up these grim topics.

## Schedule:

09:00 Introduction: The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement

09:45 Race and Education, Income and Class

### 10:45 Coffee Break

11:15 Political Participation and Voter Obstruction


11:45 Criminal Justice, Police Shootings, and Protests

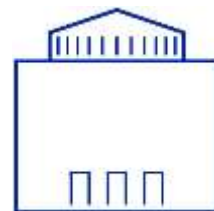
12:30 Post-Racial Society or White Privilege? Different Perceptions of Racism in the U.S.

13:00 Open Discussion

14:00 End

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# **(DIGITAL, 2 parts) “I Can’t Breathe”: Contemporary Race Relations in the U.S.**

**Online, 2-Part Teacher Seminar**  
**Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 5-7:30 p.m. and**  
**Thursday, February 24, 2022, 5-7:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrer\*innen  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH - Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
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## **Wednesday, February 23, 2022**

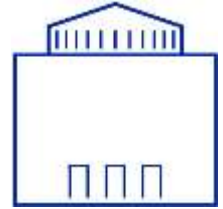
17:00 Introduction: The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement  
17:45 Race and Education, Income and Class  
18:30 Political Participation and Voter Obstruction  
19:00 Open Discussion  
19:30 End

## **Thursday, February 24, 2022**

17:00 Criminal Justice, Police Shootings, and Protests  
18:00 Post-Racial Society or White Privilege? Different Perceptions of Racism in the U.S.  
19:00 Open Discussion  
19:30 End

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## **(DIGITAL, 2 parts) USA Update 2022**

**Online, 2-Part Teacher Seminar**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 5-7:30 p.m. and**  
**Thursday, May 5, 2022, 5-7:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrer\*innen  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH - Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Registration fee: € 10

More than a year after Joe Biden's inauguration as president, where does the United States stand? What **administrative and legislative reforms** did his administration bring about? This seminar will look at central topics of American politics such as **international relations** and **economic policy**, as well as perennial issues like **immigration** and **racial justice**. Is the Democratic Party doomed to lose the congressional midterm elections in November? And are there any signs of the Republican Party growing more independent of Donald Trump? As usual, satirical cartoons and videos will provide comic relief on these often dark and serious issues.

### **Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

17:00 The end and legacy of the Trump presidency

18:00 Foreign Policy Priorities and Challenges for the Biden Administration

19:00 Open Discussion

19:30 End

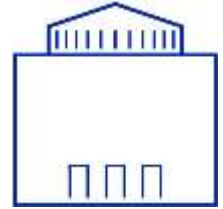
### **Thursday, May 5, 2022**

17:00 Domestic Priorities and Challenges for the Biden Administration

18:00 Midterm Elections, Local Politics and their Implications for the United States

19:00 Open Discussion

19:30 End



# USA Update 2022

## Teacher Seminar

Friday, May 13, 2022, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrer\*innen  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH - Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Registration fee: € 10

More than a year after Joe Biden's inauguration as president, where does the United States stand? What **administrative and legislative reforms** did his administration bring about? This seminar will look at central topics of American politics such as **international relations** and **economic policy**, as well as perennial issues like **immigration** and **racial justice**. Is the Democratic Party doomed to lose the congressional midterm elections in November? And are there any signs of the Republican Party growing more independent of Donald Trump? As usual, satirical cartoons and videos will provide comic relief on these often dark and serious issues.

### **Schedule:**

09:00 The end and legacy of the Trump presidency

09:45 Foreign Policy Priorities and Challenges for the Biden Administration

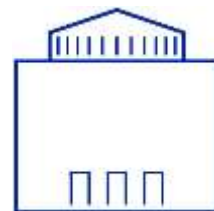
### **10:30 Coffee Break**

11:00 Domestic Priorities and Challenges for the Biden Administration

12:00 Midterm Elections, Local Politics and their Implications for the United States

13:00 Open Discussion

**14:00 End**



# Teaching with Queer Studies in the English Classroom

## Teacher Seminar

Thursday, June 02, 2022, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Speaker: Dr. Linda Heß, Universität Augsburg**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrer\*innen  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH - Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Registration fee: € 10

In Anglophone contexts, “queer” has developed into a kind of umbrella term for individuals who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, asexual, or in a wider sense as not heterosexual. But the term “queer” also has a **significant political history**, which is reflected in the field of queer theory. While queer theory frequently appears to be a rather academic discourse that tends to rely on its own complicated jargon and be far removed from actual everyday life, it actually **emerged in conjunction with the HIV/AIDS activism** in the late 1980s and 1990s in the USA. In its core impulses, queer theory is very much concerned with the ways in which people live in their communities and in society at large.

This seminar will have a look at **ways in which impulses from queer theory can become useful tools in the English classroom** to **discuss societal conventions** that have long been assumed to simply be “natural,” or “normal.” In this way, I aim to show how the questions that queer theory asks can productively be integrated in the course plan to **reflect on the diversity of contemporary society**, and to ask productive questions about current ideas of for example **family, gender norms, stereotypes and tolerance**, and the **role of media**.

### **Schedule:**

9:00 Queer: An Introduction to the Concept and Some of Its History

9:30 HIV/AIDS Epidemic and the Development of Queer Theory

10:00 Some Central Goals and Questions of Queer theory

### **10:30 Coffee Break**

11:00 The Significance of Representation in Literature and Film


11:30 Queerness and Intersectionality: Thinking Several Dimensions of Diversity

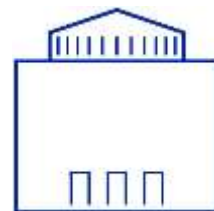
12:00 Integrating Queer Theory into the Classroom: Sample Analyses of a Novel and a Film

13:00 Open Discussion

### **14:00 End**

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# The Cold War and the American Century

**Teacher Seminar, Friday, July 01, 2022, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Speaker: Dr. Andreas Etges, Amerika-Institut LMU Munich**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrer\*innen  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH - Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Registration fee: € 10

This teacher seminar will discuss the **origins, different phases, as well as the end of the Cold War** with a special emphasis on Transatlantic and German-American relations, the role decolonization played, and also the domestic impact of the Cold War. Numerous archival sources, film and audio clips, photos, cartoons, songs, and movies will be presented and analyzed.

For decades, the Cold War dominated the foreign policy of the United States. While the country had become a major political and economic power in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it did not join the League of Nations after World War I, and “isolationists” pushed for neutrality in the 1930s. With the Second World War, the US became the “global workshop and banker, umpire and policeman, preacher and teacher” and “major breadbasket” (Thomas McCormick), shaping what Henry Luce in 1941 had predicted to become the “American Century.”


Determined to learn the lessons from history (e.g. “no more Munichs”), **American leaders defined national security globally**, to be defended in places like Korea and Vietnam. **Containment**, the **domino theory**, and **credibility** were key concepts, guiding American Cold War thinking. Germany, Berlin, and the **“German question”** were of central importance in the Cold War, at the beginning, at the end, and in between. But it was **more than an East-West conflict** and quickly became a global struggle and in fact a “hot” war in regions like Southeast Asia. Here and elsewhere, **decolonization and struggles for independence** clashed with the interests of the old colonial powers and the strategic interests of the super powers.

The Cold War also had a major impact on domestic policy, from **McCarthyism** and the **Second Red Scare** to what President Dwight D. Eisenhower in his farewell speech called the **military-industrial complex**.

## **Schedule:**

09:00	The Early Cold War	12:15	The End of the Cold War
09:45	The 1950s and 60s	12:40	Lessons, Legacy, and Public Memory of the Cold War
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	13:00	Open Discussion
11:15	Détente	<b>14:00</b>	<b>End</b>
11:45	The Second Cold War in the 1980s		

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