

# Health Care and Beyond: America's Social Safety Net

**Master Class for Students**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 16:00-17:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder LMU Munich**

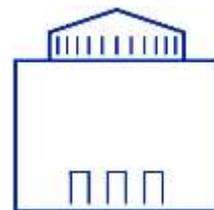
Organizer: Research Center, Programs for Teachers and Students  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus GmbH - Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Free Admission

From a Western European perspective, the **social safety net in the United States** seems woefully inadequate: no universal health care, no universal paid sick leave, no direct federal financial assistance for poor Americans, etc. At the same time, **federal expenditures on health care and other social programs** make up well over half the US budget, easily dwarfing military spending. Tens of millions of Americans depend on food stamps, disability payments, and a host of other assistance programs; most Americans over 65 rely on Medicare for their health needs. So a social safety net does indeed exist in the US; the question is **how it works** and **whether it addresses the needs of American society**.

This class will explain the major aspects of the American social safety net, focusing on **health care, aid for low-income Americans, and pensions**. We will examine the origins of the federal system (New Deal, Great Society, “Obamacare”), the role of the states, and also why the **political debate** about social spending is so much more controversial in the US than in Western Europe. What are the chances for reform ideas such as “Medicare for All” and universal basic income? As usual, political cartoons and satirical videos will provide comic relief from these serious and sometimes abstract topics.

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## USA Update 2022

**Master Class for Students**  
**Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 4-5:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich**

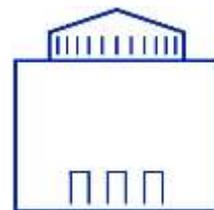
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Free Admission

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.

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# Immigration and the United States – Of Melting Pots and Border Fences

**Master Class for Students**  
**Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich**

Organizer: Research Center, Programs for Teachers and Students  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus GmbH - Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Free Admission

The United States of America is a **nation of immigrants**. This talk examines immigration as a historical, social, cultural, and political phenomenon. We will briefly look at **major immigration waves** in the 19th and 20th centuries, and especially at the **present immigration wave** that started in the 1990s. Who came and why? How did American society react to the influx of newcomers then and now?

While the United States has accepted untold millions of immigrants from all over the world, immigration has also been the **source of sharp political and social conflict**. Examples include the 19th century nativist movement and former president Trump's promise to build **a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border** to keep out illegal immigrants.

The lecture will analyze these conflicts and put them in perspective. Finally, immigration has also been the topic of political satire and popular culture, which will help us cast a more humorous light on this serious topic.