

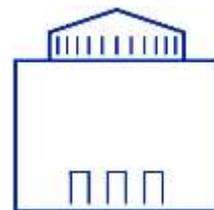
# To Keep and Bear Arms? Guns, Gun Control, and Mass Shootings in the U.S.

**Hybrid Master Class for Students**  
**Wednesday, October 05, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder LMU Munich**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrkräfte  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH – Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Free Admission

The **role of guns** is maybe the strangest aspect of US society from a German point of view. For many Americans, possessing a firearm is nothing less than a **fundamental civil right**. Many others point to the disturbingly high number of gun related deaths through accident, suicide, crime, and mass shootings and call for much stricter gun control legislation. The fronts are hardened, the debates bitter, and **no consensus or compromise is in sight**. The “Never Again” movement started by survivors of the 2018 Parkland school shooting is just the latest chapter in a decades-old struggle.

This talk will examine the debates on gun ownership, gun control, and gun violence in the US with a **special focus on the mass shootings in schools and public places** that have plagued American society for years. Why is opposition to gun control so adamant? What solutions and measures have been proposed and would any of them actually work? What is the **role of federal and state governments** in all of this? As usual, satirical cartoons and videos will add some dark humor to these grim topics.



## USA Update 2022 – A Nation Divided

**Online Master Class for Students**  
**Monday, November 14, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrkräfte  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH – Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Free Admission

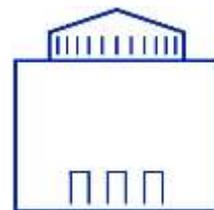
Nearly two years have passed since Joe Biden's inauguration as president, and the **2022 midterm elections** on November 8 have altered the make-up of Congress. In light of this, where does the United States stand? What **administrative and legislative reforms** have the Biden administration brought about and what changes are on the horizon considering the new members of Congress?

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**. Was the Democratic Party doomed to lose the congressional midterm elections a few weeks ago? 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.

Recherchezentrum, Programme für Schüler\*innen und Lehrkräfte  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH – Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
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## USA Update 2022 – A Nation Divided

**Online Master Class for Students**  
**Thursday, November 17, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrkräfte  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH – Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Free Admission

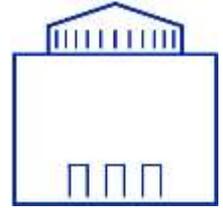
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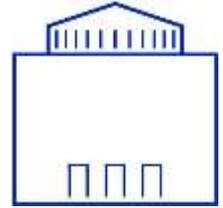
**Film showing and brief lecture:  
*More than a Word: Native American-Based  
Sports Mascots***

**Film Screening and Lecture for Students  
Tuesday, November 22, 2022, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Speaker: Prof. Volker Depkat, University of Regensburg**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrkräfte  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH – Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Free Admission

Directed by John and Kenn Little, brothers and members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, *More Than a Word* (2017) analyzes the history and modern ramifications of Native American cultural appropriation through the lens of sports team names. In particular, the documentary presents the controversial case of the Washington football team and includes interviews with experts and everyday people on both sides of the issue of using a racial slur as a team name. Because the film was released in 2017, it offers a perspective of the time before the lawsuits against Washington's football team had been settled and before a name change came about.

In order to better understand the historical context of the use of indigenous references in sports, whether derogatory or not, the film screening will be accompanied by a brief introduction and a follow-up Q&A session with Professor of American Studies Volker Depkat of the University of Regensburg.

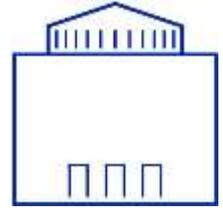


# **“We Gon’ Be Alright”: African American History through Music**

**Hybrid Master Class for Students  
Tuesday, November 29, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m.  
Speaker: Dr. Bärbel Harju, LMU Munich**

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler\*innen und Lehrkräfte  
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH – Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations  
Free Admission

This lecture examines African American history through music. From work songs and spirituals of the times of slavery to jazz, blues, and bebop of the Harlem Renaissance; from the anthems of the Civil Rights Movement to hip hop and today’s diverse soundtrack of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, we will take a closer look at how music reflects and shapes the social context in which it is created and performed. The lecture will be supplemented with examples from music videos, recordings and other primary source materials.



# **The Simpsons and American Society – Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of the Perfect Donut**

**Online Master Class for Students**  
**Monday, December 12, 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

For once, **Homer is wrong**. Since its inception over 30 years ago, the Simpsons television cartoon show has not only become one of the most iconic products of American popular culture, it is also the **most famous and relevant satire** of American society, culture, politics, and life in general. While the show works even on its most superficial level as slapstick comedy, every episode is full of allusions to popular culture, history, politics, religion and philosophy that often only become apparent on the second (or third, or fourth) viewing.

The Simpsons has commented on everything from American democracy, immigration, feminism, class warfare, racism, and gun control to evangelical Christianity and life after death. No celebrity can really be considered famous until he or she had a guest appearance on the show. This talk will focus on some relevant (and funny) examples of **how to read the Simpsons as social and political satire**.  
Don't have a cow, man!