

U.S. Foreign Policy Today – Leader of the Free World or America First?

Hybrid Teacher Seminar

Friday, September 29, 2023, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler*innen und Lehrkräfte
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH – Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations
Registration fee: € 10. Active participation is possible in-person or digitally.

American foreign policy today seems characterized by contradiction and ambivalence. There is a persistent narrative of American decline, yet at the same time the U.S. economy and military remain the strongest in the world. U.S. willingness to engage in military intervention across the globe has waned, yet allies in Europe and Asia look to America for leadership and protection more than in decades. China is seen as America's rival number one, yet the most urgent crisis is Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Since the Trump administration, the post-WW2 foreign policy consensus in the U.S. no longer holds, yet the Biden administration feels almost like a revival of American Cold War leadership.

This seminar will examine the various competing developments and trends in contemporary American foreign policy, as well as the actual U.S. involvement in supranational organizations like the UN and multilateral international agreements. Is the U.S. retreating from its global leadership position, as the “America First” movement intends, or is America more than ever “the indispensable nation,” as Madeleine Albright once claimed? As usual, satirical cartoons and videos will help lighten the mood in discussing these often serious and even grim topics.

Schedule:

09:00 The post-World War II consensus on foreign policy and its critics

09:45 The United Nations, trade agreements, climate change, and the problems of multilateralism

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 The Middle East: from the “War on Terror” to the “End of Endless Wars”


11:30 The Cold War 2.0? The Ukraine invasion and the restoration of American leadership in Europe

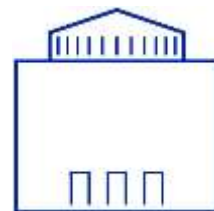
12:15 The U.S. and China: between disengagement and conflict

13:00 Conclusion and Discussion

14:00 End

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North American Climate Fiction and Film: History, Genres, Critical Approaches

Teacher Seminar

Friday, October 27, 2023, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Murat Sezi, Universität Kassel

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

The Earth's rapidly changing climate is connected to a wide range of issues in society, the sciences and our individual lives. In North American literature and literary studies, these areas are explored in a number of ways across multiple genres and through multifaceted approaches. How has climate fiction and its study developed over time, and how can teachers use examples in their classroom when approaching environment- and climate-related topics? This teacher seminar will explore the key concepts and introduce critical approaches to climate fiction and film.

Schedule:

09:00 Introduction and presentation of the Teaching & Research Project

Climate Thinking at the University of Kassel

09:30 Key theoretical concepts: historical development, narratology, and genres

10:15 Key thematic elements: relationship between nature and technology, race relations, capitalism, power structures, and post-humanism and genetics

10:45 Coffee break

11:15 Example texts and analyses


12:00 Examples from film and other media, with analyses

12:30 Pedagogic application and accounting for student needs and perspectives

13:00 Open discussion and useful resources

14:00 End

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USA Update 2023

Hybrid Teacher Seminar

Friday, November 17, 2023, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich

Organizer: Recherchezentrum, Programme Schüler*innen und Lehrkräfte
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH – Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations
Registration fee: € 10. Active participation is possible in-person or digitally.

Less than a year before the next presidential election, where does the United States stand? What successes and failures did the Biden administration have and how has it handled foreign policy? What are the issues that divide American politics and society on the national and local level? And are we in for a rematch between 81-year old Joe Biden and 78-year old Donald Trump in November 2024? As usual, satirical cartoons and videos will provide comic relief on these often dark and serious issues.

Schedule:

09:00 The ups and downs of the Biden administration

10:00 Foreign policy priorities and challenges for the Biden administration

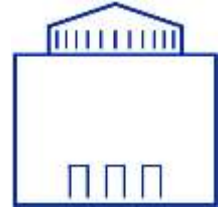
10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Domestic politics and culture wars on the national and local level

12:15 Rematch? The (mostly Republican) presidential primaries for 2024

13:00 Conclusion and discussion

14:00 End



MLA and APA Citation Styles for W-Seminars

Teacher Seminar

Thursday, December 7, 2023, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Speaker: Sarah Ackermann, Amerikahaus Munich

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

Proper citation is a central component to academic writing. The skill set needed to provide proper resources and comprehend citations are a building block of critical literacy, which in turn supports collective efforts to combat misinformation and disinformation. Although a topic often left towards the end of a W-Seminar, this teacher seminar will introduce various ways to integrate skill-building activities into various phases of a course. This interactive, workshop-style teacher training will cover the latest updates in MLA and APA citation styles and will offer a variety of take-home materials for integrating citation work into classroom scenarios.

Schedule:

09:00 Origins and key concepts in MLA and APA style guides

09:45 Source types and requirements for bibliographical entries

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Inductive and deductive approaches for learners: using a style guide

12:00 Complicated resources – approaches for the classroom

13:00 Open Discussion

14:00 End