

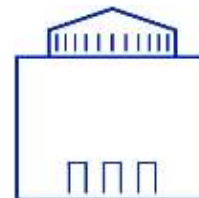
The Dysfunctional States of America? The U.S. Political System and Political Polarization

Hybrid Master Class for Students
Monday, September 23, 2024, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Andreas Etges, LMU Munich

Organizer: Research Center, Programs for Teachers and Students
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH - Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations
Free admission, prior registration required

Polarization and partisanship have grown to such a level that the American political system is frequently described as “dysfunctional” and “broken.” This lecture will discuss **key features of the American political system**, arguing that in order to truly understand many of the current problems, it is necessary to take a deeper historical look at the **U.S. Constitution** and the way **political structures** have changed and developed, as well as the constraints they impose.

The lecture attempts to answer the question: Are there opportunities for reform?



Who gets to cast a vote? Voting Rights and Voter Suppression in the U.S.

Hybrid Master Class for Students
Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Grit Grigoleit-Richter, Uni Passau

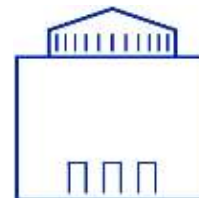
Organizer: Research Center, Programs for Teachers and Students
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In the landscape of American democracy, the right to vote is a fundamental pillar, but one that has been highly contested throughout history. Despite their belief in the virtues of democracy, the founders of the United States restricted voting for decades to white Protestant Christian males over the age of 21 who owned property.

After the Civil War, following the abolition of slavery, Congress passed the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which ensured that people could not be denied the right to vote because of their race. In the decades that followed, however, many states, particularly in the South, used a variety of barriers, such as poll taxes or literacy tests, to successfully prevent African American men from voting.

It took the Civil Rights Movement to bring about change: Congress passed the **Voting Rights Act in 1965**, which effectively eliminated these mechanisms for disenfranchising Black citizens. As a result, the number of Black elected officials has increased over the years. In response to enlarging voter enfranchisement, we have come to witness a rollback and an unprecedented wave of restrictive voting bills in recent years that once again effectively suppress the vote of people of color.

In this lecture, we will explore both the **history of voting rights** and the ways and outcomes of racist policies that have denied this fundamental civil right to large segments of the U.S. population.



Sozialen Medien in Wahljahren – Politische Radikalisierung der jungen Generationen

**Workshop für Schüler*innen an Mittel- und Realschulen
Donnerstag, 17. Oktober, 2024, 9:00 – 12:00 Uhr
Leiterin: Yasmin Al-Douri, TU München**

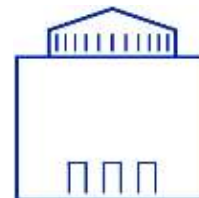
Veranstalter: Recherchezentrum, Programme für Schüler*innen und Lehrkräfte
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH
Kostenlose Teilnahme, eine vorherige Registrierung ist notwendig

Instagram, TikTok und Co.: Wo treiben sich eigentlich unsere Jugendlichen heutzutage rum, und wie funktionieren eigentlich soziale Medien? Diese Fragen lassen sich mit einem Workshop mit Yasmin Al-Douri beantworten. Aber auch die Frage, wie wir in Zukunft verantwortungsbewusst mit sozialen Medien umgehen soll nicht zu kurz kommen – mit dem Workshop sollen erste Schritte für eine bessere und breitere Medienkompetenz in gemacht werden. Nicht zu vergessen hierbei ist bereits eine Annäherung des Themas Radikalisierung auf sozialen Medien, was vor allem in Wahljahren große Auswirkungen haben kann.

In dem Workshop, welcher Schüler*innen interaktiv die Möglichkeit bietet, mehr über die Funktionen von sozialen Medien zu erfahren, dürfen die Teilnehmenden über drei Abschnitte hinweg ihre eigene soziale Plattform erschaffen, während sie spielend in die vielen Facetten dieser Medien abtauchen und somit ihre Kenntnisse darüber verbessern. Dazu passend die Frage: Wie schaut das ideale soziale Medium aus?

Dieser 3-stündiger Workshop im Amerikahaus wird exklusiv für Mittel- und Realschulen für die Jahrgangsstufen 8 bis 10 angeboten. Der Workshop ist kostenlos, eine kleine Verpflegung wird ebenfalls angeboten. In der Dauer sind Pausen bereits einberechnet.

Sollte der Workshop im Amerikahaus bereits ausgebucht sein, können interessierte Lehrkräfte jeglicher Schulform eine E-Mail an bibliothek@amerikahaus.de senden, um Kontaktaufnahme mit Workshop-Leiterin Yasmin Al-Douri anzufragen. Zusatztermine sind eventuell möglich.



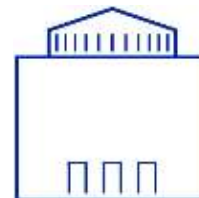
Everyday Americans: A “Living Library” Event on the U.S. Elections

Master Class for Students
Monday, November 4, 2024, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Speakers: U.S. citizens living in Germany

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

This special “living library” event is **all about interaction**. A living library is a type of event where a special group of people are stationed around a large room, and participants are free to visit each station at their leisure. Students can ask U.S. Americans about their experiences with voting, with election cycles and their personal views on the political situation in the U.S. They offer **unique views** on the U.S. voting system, and they can speak candidly about their personal experiences.

The idea behind a living library is to offer a human-to-human interaction with someone students may otherwise not come into contact with—people with exciting and unique stories to share. In this case, **everyday U.S. Americans** from a variety of states, generations and backgrounds will each introduce themselves briefly for the whole group. Then, they will each go to their dedicated station in Amerikahaus, and students will be welcome to move freely from station to station, visiting with whichever U.S. Americans they would like.



Elections Brunch for Students – With Pretzels and Tea

Master Class for Students

Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, LMU Munich

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

With the polls closed and the first results trickling in, where does the United States stand after the 2024 general election? What are the next steps in the election, and what are electoral votes?

Over pretzels and tea, Dr. Markus Hünemörder will discuss the initial key results of the U.S. elections, answering questions students have about the current political scene in swing states, Washington D.C. and in news media outlets. The usual lecture format will be replaced with a more interactive Q&A format so that students can ask as many questions about the elections as possible. Questions may be asked in English or in German.

Schedule:

9:30 Doors open, pretzels and tea served

10:00 Opening remarks


10:15 First analysis of the election results so far

10:45 Open Q&A

11:30 Clean-up and dish return

12:00 End

Recherchezentrum, Programme für Schüler*innen und Lehrkräfte
Stiftung Bayerisches Amerikahaus gGmbH – Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations
Karolinenplatz 3, 80333 München

 089 / 55 25 37 20, bibliothek@amerikahaus.de, www.amerikahaus.de