
M.A. in American Studies (MAS)
Course Catalog
Summer Term 2022

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Dear students of the M.A. in American Studies,

The Heidelberg Center for American Studies welcomes you to the summer term 2022.

In the MAS course catalog, you will find all lectures and courses that are relevant for the program and taught in English. You may also take classes held in German if you speak German on a university level. Please consult with the MAS coordinator prior to signing up for any German-taught courses. You may find further classes and lectures in the university's online catalog ([LSF](#)) or on the respective department's website.

The here listed classes are offered by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, the English Department, the Institute for Geography, the History Department, the Institute for Political Science, and the Theological Seminary.

Please note that due to the multidisciplinary set-up of our program registration for single classes may differ from each other. You will find directions on how to register in each course description. Please also note the different registration deadlines.

Please be aware that one class may not count toward two different modules at the same time. E.g., if you choose a seminar for the main module Literature & Culture, the class cannot count toward the research module Literature & Culture as well, but you need to take a different class for the research module. The same applies for courses that are listed in different modules. If you take a class, you must choose toward which module the credit points will count.

If you have any questions, please contact MAS Coordinator Nikolas Mariani, M.A. (mas@hca.uni-heidelberg.de)

Information on Online and In-Person Teaching in the Summer Semester 2022

The universities in the state of Baden-Württemberg are aiming to return to in-person teaching in the classroom as far as possible in the coming summer semester. However, this return is closely linked to the expectation that the proportion of fully vaccinated students at the start of the lecture period in October will be so high that the regulations still in force today regarding distance, contact tracing, and proof of vaccination, recovery, or testing can be scaled back to a level that is feasible for all concerned. Should the aforementioned conditions be met, the range of in-person classes listed in this course catalog would be able to take place as indicated. Should they not be able to take place in person, they will most likely continue to be offered in an online format, either synchronously or asynchronously. Should the currently existing health guidelines and restrictions remain so in the fall, courses offered in person at the HCA will be at reduced capacity. Be advised that many other departments' courses may also have reduced capacity.

Given the dynamic nature of the development of the Covid pandemic and the resulting regulations, the information in the Course Catalog (KVV) represents a realistic snapshot of the current planning status.

Therefore, before you make any registrations and decisions, always make sure that you are doing so on the basis of the most current version of the Course Catalog. The most up to date version can always be found on the MAS page of the website of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

M.A. in American Studies The Program

Students enroll in the program each winter semester. The standard duration of study, including the writing of the Master's thesis, is four semesters. The M.A. in American Studies (MAS) program (100%) includes the academic disciplines of geography, history, literature and cultural studies, political science, and religious history. At the start of the program, students will choose two of those as their core disciplines. One of these two core disciplines will receive further emphasis in the research module, which is meant to prepare students for the writing of their M.A. thesis. The flexibility module gives students the opportunity either to take American Studies courses outside their core disciplines in order to broaden their understanding of the comprehensive field of American Studies, or to attend additional classes in one of their two core disciplines for a deeper engagement with their primary fields of interest. The interdisciplinary module is designed to bring the perspectives and methods of the various disciplines into dialogue with one another.

These subject modules are supplemented by a methodology module meant to impart both theoretical proficiency and empirical methods, as well as practical skills; and a module on cross-cutting perspectives, which—in the spirit of a traditional *studium generale*—affords students an opportunity to venture outside of the field of American Studies. There will also be a chance during the “mobility window,” usually slated for the third semester, to study abroad on an exchange, accept an internship, etc. The MAS program concludes with an examination module.

Modules and courses

By dividing the program into various modules, the HCA has three goals for students:

1. To acquire and deepen the latest subject-specific knowledge and research methods of the individual disciplines.
2. To implement multi- and interdisciplinary approaches, and to demonstrate the synergistic potential of such approaches.
3. To practically apply methodological and research skills in order to make graduates competitive in both the academic and the non-academic international job market.

The M.A. program “American Studies” is comprised of:

- A study plan (*Kernfach*)
- An examination module

The study plan encompasses:

- A subject-specific component
- A section on building “comprehensive competencies”

The subject-specific component of the program is divided into four parts:

- 1. Main modules:** Students choose two of the HCA’s offered disciplines as core disciplines in which they will develop and deepen their subject-specific knowledge and skills. Main modules in the chosen disciplines come with a minimum of one seminar that will be exclusively available to M.A. students, as well as an additional course (in either lecture or seminar format). Students can select their core disciplines freely. They may combine two fields from the humanities or from the social sciences, or they may choose to traverse academic disciplines. All combinations are possible.
- 2. Research module:** After finishing the main modules, students complete a research module in order to immerse themselves more fully in one of their two core disciplines. For the research module, students will participate in a seminar offered exclusively to M.A. students. In an “Independent Study” format, students will autonomously work through and discuss with their professor an assigned reading list. This will usually serve as preparation for writing the M.A. thesis.
- 3. Flexibility module:** In the flexibility module, students may choose 12 credits worth of courses from any discipline offered in the program. For these elective credits, any combination of courses is allowed. Students can either choose to broaden their understanding of American Studies with classes outside of their core disciplines, or they can choose to focus more deeply on their primary areas of interest.
- 4. Interdisciplinary module:** The interdisciplinary module serves to promote an interdisciplinary approach to scholarship and demonstrate the synergistic potential of such an approach. Students will take part in an interdisciplinary seminar offered by instructors from two different disciplines, as well as a two-semester interdisciplinary colloquium in

which variegated topics and approaches from the field of American Studies will be discussed.

The section of the program on “comprehensive competencies” is divided into the following three parts:

1. **Methodology module:** In this module, students will deepen their understanding of the theoretical and empirical methods of American Studies, as well as develop their academic writing skills.
2. **Cross-cutting perspectives:** In this module, students will take courses outside of the area of American Studies. These courses may either be related to or independent from the disciplines of American Studies. Language course credits also count toward this module.
3. **Mobility window:** The mobility window provides students with the opportunity for intensive and practical engagement with their degree in American Studies. Students can complete an internship in a relevant field, or can choose to study abroad in order to foster cultural understanding and strengthen intercultural competencies. For students interested in pursuing an academic career, completion of a teaching assignment can also be counted toward this module, provided the assignment does not concern a constituent curricular component of the HCA’s B.A. or M.A. programs.

The program concludes with the examination module:

Examination module: With the completion of a Master’s thesis in the same area as their research module, students will have acquired specialized knowledge in a particular area of American Studies and will have demonstrated the ability to use academic methods to work on and research a topic independently. The particulars of the M.A. thesis are described in section 7.11 of the *Modulhandbuch*. Completion of the thesis takes four months during which students will present an outline of the thesis to their peers at a research colloquium. After completing the thesis, students will take a 60-minute oral final exam. Additional details about the exam are covered in the exam regulations.

5.2 Sample course of study

<p>First Semester (28 credits)</p> <p>Methodology module Course: Theory & Methods (4 credits) Course: Academic Writing (4 credits)</p> <p>Main module I M.A. seminar: Core discipline I (10 credits) Lecture: Core discipline I (4 credits)</p> <p>Main module II Lecture: Core discipline II (4 credits)</p> <p>Interdisciplinary module MAS Colloquium I (2 credits)</p>	<p>Second Semester (30 credits)</p> <p>Main module II M.A. seminar: Core discipline II (10 credits)</p> <p>Research module M.A. seminar: Core discipline I (10 credits)</p> <p>Flexibility module Discussion group: Discipline III (4 credits) Lecture: Discipline IV (4 credits)</p> <p>Interdisciplinary module MAS Colloquium II (2 credits)</p>
<p>Third Semester (28 credits)</p> <p>Research module Independent study: Core discipline I (4 credits)</p> <p>Interdisciplinary module Interdisciplinary seminar (6 credits)</p> <p>Flexibility module Lecture: Core discipline I</p> <p>Cross-cutting perspectives 2 courses outside of American Studies (8 credits)</p> <p>Mobility window Internship (four weeks) (6 credits)</p>	<p>Fourth Semester (34 credits)</p> <p>Examination module Research colloquium (2 credits) M.A. thesis (24 credits) Oral final exam (8 credits)</p>

Sem	Modules		
4	Cross-Cutting Perspectives (Σ 8 CP) 2 courses outside of the area of American Studies	Examination Module (Σ 34 CP) Research colloquium (2 CP) M.A. thesis (24 CP) Oral final exam (8 CP)	
3		Mobility Window (Σ 6 CP) Study abroad, internship or teaching assignment	
2		Subject-Specific Classes (Σ 54 CP)	
		Research Module (14 CP) Core discipline I or II 1 M.A. seminar 1 Independent Study	Flexibility Module (12 CP) 12 CP worth of classes from any discipline in the program
1	Methodology Module (Σ 8 CP) Theory & Methods (4 CP) Academic Writing (4 CP)	Main Module I (14 CP) Core discipline I 1 M.A. seminar 1 lecture	Main Module II (14 CP) Core discipline II 1 M.A. seminar 1 lecture
		Interdisciplinary Module (Σ 10 CP) 1 Interdisciplinary seminar (6 CP) 2 MAS Colloquium (2 x 2CP)	

Interdisciplinary Module

MAS Colloquium

Eligibility: Interdisciplinary Module

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach; Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

THU: 18:00 - 20:00; **Hauptstraße 120 / Atrium**

Registration via [LSF](#) by 30.03.2022

Course Description:

The Interdisciplinary Colloquium provides a venue for MAS students to meet with renowned experts from various fields, such as politics, economics, journalism, or academia. Most of them will be Americans who will share with us their current interests or most recent scholarship. The Interdisciplinary Colloquium will also serve as a forum for the presentation and discussion of state-of-the-art research in academic disciplines that are not otherwise represented in this year's curriculum.

Participation in the Interdisciplinary Colloquium is mandatory for MAS students.

Hot off the Press

Eligibility: Interdisciplinary Module, Flexibility Module

Dr. Heiko Jakubzik; Annika Elstermann; PD Dr. Philipp Löffler

WED: 16:15 – 17:45; **Kettengasse 12 / 114**

Registration via [LSF](#) by 24.02.2022

Course Description:

What is new in the cultural sphere of the United States? We will sample new books, films, tv-series, music etc. to find out what stirs the American minds and hearts at the present moment.

While there will be a focus on new publications in literature and the arts, new contributions in the fields of politics, history, religion, and popular science writing will also be assessed. We will discuss a different work every week and students will take part in the choice and

presentation of topics.

In order to keep the workload manageable, we will read most of the works in excerpts and students who have familiarized themselves with the entire work will guide us through the discussion.

Oberseminar: Theories and Issues in American Religious History

Eligibility: Interdisciplinary Module

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

THU: 14:00 – 16:00; **Hauptstraße 120 / Meeting Room**

Registration via e-mail to: jstievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

Geared toward students specializing in American religious history, this advanced seminar will examine important theories and issues currently debated in the field. This semester's focus will be on recent literature exploring the intersections between race and religion. But our course reading list will accommodate student interests and projects.

Literature:

A reading list will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Flexibility Module

In the flexibility module students can take courses from all disciplines **within** the field of American Studies. Please consult the course catalogue to find courses that fit your interests. Each course is awarded 4 CP.

Hot off the Press

Eligibility: Interdisciplinary Module, Flexibility Module

Dr. Heiko Jakubzik; Annika Elstermann; PD Dr. Philipp Löffler

WED: 16:15 – 17:45; **Kettengasse 12 / 114**

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While there will be a focus on new publications in literature and the arts, new contributions in the fields of politics, history, religion, and popular science writing will also be assessed. We will discuss a different work every week and students will take part in the choice and presentation of topics.

In order to keep the workload manageable, we will read most of the works in excerpts and students who have familiarized themselves with the entire work will guide us through the discussion.

Courses by Discipline

Geography

Advanced Seminar: Cultures of Diaspora across Ibero-America

Eligibility: Main Module Geography, Research Module Geography, Flexibility Module

Dr. Soledad Álvarez Velasco

MON: 17:15– 18:45, Grabengasse 3-5, Neue Uni / V-Orgel

Registration via [LSF](#) by 31.05.2022

Course Description:

Diasporas destabilize traditional fixed notions of culture, identity, belonging, home, community, territory, place and nation-state. They need to be historically and geographically located to understand how and why their cultural practices are produced and how they have shaped transnational communities and spaces that transcend and burst national borders while challenging national identities. This course proposes a conceptual, historical and thematic exploration of diasporas and their politics of cultural expression and resistance across the Americas. It is organized into two major sections. The first explores the existing interrelationship between diasporas, the history of the conquest of America, colonialism and post-colonialism, transnational spaces, and cultural hybridity; it does so by revising selected interdisciplinary contributions from Post-Colonial, Decolonial and Feminist Studies, Critical Migration and Border Latinxs and Chicano Studies and Geographies of Diaspora Studies. The second section zooms into the formation and transformation of diverse diasporas and their politics of cultural expressions and resistance in specific places and times across the Americas.

Registration via LSF. HCIAS-students have priority. Students will receive a confirmation via email after completion of the registration period with further information on the class format, moodle, etc.

Information

for:

Students of the MA Communication and Society in Ibero-America: course counts for module 5, seminar "knowledge focus 2".

Students of other study programs: if the number of ECTS required differs, the coursework will be adjusted accordingly.

Advanced Seminar: Migration, Border Regimes and Language Identity: Theories, Methodologies and Current Debates

Eligibility: Main Module Geography, Research Module Geography, Flexibility Module

Dr. Soledad Álvarez Velasco

THU: 12:00 – 13:45, Grabengasse 3-5 - Neue Uni / V-Orgel

Registration via [LSF](#) by 31.05.2022

Course Description:

Human migration, its cultural and linguist impact and the systems of governance that either impede or prompt such movements are among the most salient conflicts of our time. Past and present migrations from Africa and Asia have combined Latin American and Caribbean migrations across the hemisphere creating new opportunities for understanding how and why humans move and impede the movement of others while producing linguistic, cultural and identity transformations in the spaces where they transit or settle temporarily or permanently. This course examines diverse theories, methodologies, and the most relevant current debates regarding human migration from an interdisciplinary and transnational approach. Students will become familiar with different discipline-based theories and methodologies to investigate human migration and central analytical concepts in migration studies. In addition to canonical and alternative readings from sociology, anthropology, history, demography, socio-legal studies, human geography, socio-linguistics and Latinx Studies, throughout the course, we will also examine qualitative and quantitative approaches to the study of this complex and multi-dimensional phenomena. By studying concrete cases from the Americas, the most relevant current debates regarding the cultural and socio-linguistics transformations produced by human migration and the ways through which heterogeneous border regimes operate across the continent to control migrants' mobilities will also be covered and discussed.

History

Lecture: The U.S. in the World Economy since 1945

Eligibility: Main Module History, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

THU: 09:15 - 10:45; Hauptstraße 120 / Atrium

Registration via LSF

Commentary:

After the registration period on LSF is complete, you will receive an e-mail through your student e-mail account with further information on the Moodle registration.

In case of an online lecture: Each week a PowerPoint presentation with audio commentary will be provided on Moodle.

Course Description:

The U.S. has had a decisive influence on international economic policy issues for more than seventy years. U.S. governments were influential in opening borders to free international trade in international organizations such as the GATT in the post-war era. After the collapse of the Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates in the early 1970s, the U.S. opened a new chapter in the international globalization process by encouraging the liberalization of financial flows and markets. In recent years, the North American hegemon has entered yet another stage of global involvement. In times of rising international competition from emerging economies and developing countries, trans-border economic activities and international institutions of the liberal world order are viewed more critically by U.S. citizens and governments. In the presidential elections of 2016 all three major contenders had a protectionist agenda. During the summer semester there will be opportunities to see whether or not the Biden administration in its second year revives multilateral economic cooperation that had come under serious attack during the Trump years. Another focus of the course will be the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and rising inflation on the US economy and its trans-border economic activities. This lecture provides a historical basis for understanding current U.S. international economic policies from three academic

perspectives: economic history, international economics and international political economy.

On the last day of the class at the end of the semester, students will be asked to be available for the take-home exam paper (digitally).

Credit Points/ECTS:

I. In case of an online lecture:

A. Graded Schein

Students of this lecture may receive a total of up to 4 ECTS and a grade by taking the take-home exam paper at the end of the semester. In order to earn these credits, the following two assignments have to be fulfilled:

- **Assignment A:** A **take-home exam paper** will take place at the end of the semester in written form. It will be based on the lecture slides and the literature of this course. The take-home exam paper will be made up of a couple of short essay questions that test the understanding of the materials of the course and its main ideas and topics. For the preparation of the exam, please see PowerPoint slides and readings on Moodle.
- **Assignment B:** During the semester, another course requirement will consist of a **literature review** of the mandatory readings of one of the lecture sessions in the form of a handout. This handout will summarize the MAIN and MOST IMPORTANT points of the texts for the respective week. Each text is to be summarized in 5 bullet points maximum! The point of this exercise is to boil down the texts to the core and main arguments. Therefore, the handout will only consist of bullet points and no running text. Students may choose which session's literature they want to review. This assignment is ungraded.

B. Ungraded "Sitzschein"

- An ungraded 'Sitzschein' and 2 ECTS can be earned by fulfilling only assignment B (see above)

- B.A. in American Studies students can choose this option ONLY for the 'Überlaufkonto'!

II. In case of in-person lecture:

Students of this lecture may receive a total of up to 4 ECTS and a grade by taking the written exam at the end of the semester. An ungraded "Schein" and 2 ECTS can be earned for regular attendance of the course sessions.

Literature:

A reader with all texts will be made available on Moodle. Additional sources may be uploaded throughout the semester.

Lecture: Civil War and Reconstruction

Eligibility: Main Module History, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg

MON: 11:15 - 12:45; **Neue Uni, HS 14**

Registration in the first session (if in presence) or online via Moodle (if online)

Course Description:

Many historians consider the Civil War and Reconstruction (1861-1877) as the "Second American Revolution." By preserving national unity at the price of roughly 700,000 war dead, the Civil War and the ensuing Reconstruction of the federal union laid the foundations of the modern United States. Moreover, within one decade four million black slaves were emancipated and became U.S. citizens entitled to the equal protection of the laws. Still, the effort to remake America as a biracial democracy eventually failed, leaving the Second American Revolution unfinished. In this lecture course I will provide an overview of events and analyze the key political, military, social, economic, and cultural issues of the Civil War and Reconstruction, including their legacies in American memory.

Zu diesem Kurs wird es ein semesterbegleitendes Online-Angebot geben.

Literature:

Michael Perman (ed.), *Major Problems in the Civil War and Reconstruction*, Boston - New York, 1998; Eric Foner, *Reconstruction. America's Unfinished Revolution*, New York, 1988; James Oakes, *Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865*, New York, 2013; Aaron Charles Sheehan-Dean (ed.), *A Companion to the U.S. Civil War*, Chichester and Malden, 2014; ders. (ed.), *The Cambridge History of the American Civil War*. 3 vols. Cambridge, Mass., 2019; Michael Hochgeschwender, *Der amerikanische Bürgerkrieg*, München, 2010.

Advanced Seminar: Ticket to Freedom? The Struggle for African American Voting Rights in American History

Eligibility: Main Module History, Research Module History, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg

BLOCK: 21.04. 10 :00-12 :00 ; 18.05.-20.05. 9 :00-13:00, 14:00-18:00, **HCA, tba**

Registration via email to michaela.neidig@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

In the long struggle for black civil rights, the right to vote has often taken center stage. For many activists and ordinary citizens, the ballot represented the “ticket to freedom” for which they risked their livelihoods and their lives, while white supremacists employed legal chicanery, intimidation, and violence to bar black citizens from the polls and deny them their place in American democracy. Securing the right to vote was a key achievement of the civil rights reforms during the 1960s. In recent years, however, efforts to disfranchise African Americans and other minority citizens have once again become a salient and contentious issue in American politics. In this seminar, we will put the black struggle for the suffrage in a historical perspective ranging from the early United States to the 21st century. Professor Berg is pleased to co-teach this seminar with Professor Carol Anderson of Emory University, a distinguished expert on voting rights.

Earning credits requires regular attendance and classroom participation, an oral presentation, and a term paper. The seminar is open to MA students (History, American

Studies). Discussions will be held in English. Papers may be written in either English or German.

Registration is required until March 31, 2022 at michaela.neidig@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de Upon registering, please provide the following information: Majors and minors (Studienfächer); program (Studiengang); module (belegtes Modul); semester (Semesterzahl); student ID (Matrikelnummer). The number of students will be limited to 15.

A preliminary meeting will be held on April 21, 10-12 a.m. (Schurman Library, History Department).

Literature:

Carol Anderson, *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*. New York, 2018; Manfred Berg, *“The Ticket to Freedom”: The NAACP and the Struggle for Black Political Integration*. Gainesville, FL, 2005; Ari Berman, *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*. New York, 2015; Michael Waldman, *The Fight to Vote*. New York, 2017; David Daley, *Ratfucked: The True Story Behind the Secret Plan to Steal America’s Democracy*. New York, 2016; Charles L. Zelden, *The Battle for the Black Ballot: Smith V. Allwright and the Defeat of the Texas All-White Primary*. Lawrence, KS, 2004.

Advanced Seminar: US Occupation of Japan

Eligibility: Main Module History, Research Module History, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Harald Fuess

TUE: 14:00 – 16:00; **Voßstraße 2, KJC / 400.00.02**

Registration via e-mail to: tanja.unger@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description: **tba**

Advanced Seminar: Varieties of Conservatism in the United States: History/Politics/Literature

Eligibility: Main Module History, Research Module History, Main Module Political Science, Research Module Political Science, Main Module Literature and Culture, Interdisciplinary Module, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Martin Thunert; Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

TUE: 14:00 – 16:00; HCA, Oculus

Registration via LSF until 30.03.2022

Course Description:

Conservatism in the United States represents a family of opinions and ideas rather than a fixed and coherent doctrine or ideology. While all conservatives look alike to their critics, conservatives themselves disagree – sometimes moderately, sometimes more sharply – about the essence of conservatism. In this class, we will discuss the antecedents and moral underpinnings of several varieties of American conservatism as well as their political and cultural implications. We will also consider what counts for conservatism in different fields of politics, culture and literature and study communalities and divergences. Proceeding in a roughly chronological manner, we will pinpoint periods when conservatism triumphed and when it failed, discuss pivotal figures, and explore the cultural factors that have helped or hindered its rise. The relationship between conservatives and the Republican Party will be thematized, too. Developments in the 21st century such as the Tea Party, Trumpism and conservatism's relationship to the so-called Alt-Right will receive special attention. Some of the animating questions are: Was American conservatism ever ideologically coherent? Has twenty-first-century conservatism strayed from its roots? Is there a form of conservatism that might prove attractive to the increasingly diverse generations Y and Z?

We will partly adopt a history-of-ideas approach and study primary sources including some literary works and artistic productions in order to acquire a sense of the historical variants of American conservatism. But we will also draw on scholarly treatments and secondary sources such as biographies, journalistic narratives, studies by philosophically and historically minded political scientists as well as works of cultural theory. The readings will be made available on Moodle. Each week, we will have one or two student presenters guiding us through the readings. Participants are expected to regularly contribute a one-page response

paper to the discussion forum. A final paper is also among the requirements; its length and scholarly depth will be determined by the respective degree-program requirements of the participant.

Economics

Advanced Seminar: U.S. International Economic Policy Issues Since 1945

Eligibility: Main Module Economics, Research Module Economics, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Welf Werner; Dr. Natalie Rauscher

THU: 11:00 – 13:00; **Hauptstraße 120 / Atrium**

Registration via LSF until 30.03.2022

Course Description:

Based on the knowledge acquired in the lecture The U.S. in the World Economy Since 1945, this seminar offers opportunities for a more in-depth look at U.S. international economic policy issues as they have emerged in the current globalization era. In the summer semester 2022 we focus primarily on economic policies of the Biden administration, the shaky economic recovery, high inflation rates and continued policy reactions to the COVID19 pandemic and their effects on trans-border economic activities – with an emphasis on the world economy, the United States, Europe and China. The relationship between the two super powers of the 21st century, the U.S. and China, will be of special concern.

Credit Points/ECTS: Students of this seminar can earn up to 12 ECTS by (a) fulfilling all assignments of the lecture The U.S. in the World Economy, and taking the exam of the lecture (4 ECTS) and (b) attending the seminar and completing its examinations (8 ECTS).

Registration: Please register for this seminar over LSF. Due to space and size limitations, only a limited number of participants will be able to attend this seminar. HCA students have priority. The classroom language is English, including student presentations and papers. The number of participants is limited to 20. HCA students have priority.

- I. Online Seminar Online Seminar: The online seminar that will mainly consist of student input and discussion. The input will consist of (a) weekly student presentations on a given subject as well as (b) a discussion of the presentation and questions in the online course.
- II. In-person Seminar During the in-person seminar, participants will be asked to fulfill several assignments, including presentations, readings, and active participation.
- III.

Prerequisite: Taking the online lecture The U.S. in the World Economy in the summer semester 2022 is a prerequisite for this seminar. For seminar participants it will be mandatory to complete the graded take-home exam paper at the end of the semester, that is, to fulfill all assignments in the lecture.

Readings and Course Requirements:

A reader with all texts will be made available on Moodle. Additional sources may be uploaded throughout the semester. A detailed description of the course requirements and structure will follow on Moodle.

After the registration period on LSF is complete, you will receive an e-mail through your student e-mail account with further information on the Moodle registration.

Lecture: The U.S. in the World Economy since 1945

Eligibility: Main Module Economics, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

THU: 9:00 – 11:00; **Hauptstraße 120 / Atrium**

Registration via LSF until 30.03.2022

Course Description:

The U.S. has had a decisive influence on international economic policy issues for more than seventy years. U.S. governments were influential in opening borders to free international

trade in international organizations such as the GATT in the post-war era. After the collapse of the Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates in the early 1970s, the U.S. opened a new chapter in the international globalization process by encouraging the liberalization of financial flows and markets. In recent years, the North American hegemon has entered yet another stage of global involvement. In times of rising international competition from emerging economies and developing countries, trans-border economic activities and international institutions of the liberal world order are viewed more critically by U.S. citizens and governments. In the presidential elections of 2016 all three major contenders had a protectionist agenda. During the summer semester there will be opportunities to see whether or not the Biden administration in its second year revives multilateral economic cooperation that had come under serious attack during the Trump years. Another focus of the course will be the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and rising inflation on the US economy and its trans-border economic activities. This lecture provides a historical basis for understanding current U.S. international economic policies from three academic perspectives: economic history, international economics and international political economy. In case of an online lecture: Each week a PowerPoint presentation with audio commentary will be provided on Moodle. On the last day of the class at the end of the semester, students will be asked to be available for the take-home exam paper (digitally).

I. In case of an online lecture:

Credit Points/ECTS:

A. Graded Schein

Students of this lecture may receive a total of up to 4 ECTS and a grade by taking the take-home exam paper at the end of the semester. In order to earn these credits, the following two assignments have to be fulfilled: *

Assignment A: A take-home exam paper will take place at the end of the semester in written form. It will be based on the lecture slides and the literature of this course. The take-home exam paper will be made up of a couple of short essay questions that test the understanding of the materials of the course and its main ideas and topics. For the preparation of the exam, please see PowerPoint slides and readings on Moodle. *

Assignment B: During the semester, another course requirement will consist of a literature review of the mandatory readings of one of the lecture sessions in the form of a handout. This handout will summarize the MAIN and MOST IMPORTANT points of the texts for the respective week. Each text is to be summarized in 5 bullet points maximum! The point of this exercise is to boil down the texts to the core and main arguments. Therefore, the handout will only consist of bullet points and no running text. Students may choose which session's literature they want to review. This assignment is ungraded.

B. Ungraded "Sitzschein" * An ungraded 'Sitzschein' and 2 ECTS can be earned by fulfilling only assignment B (see above)

- II. In case of in-person lecture Students of this lecture may receive a total of up to 4 ECTS and a grade by taking the written exam at the end of the semester. An ungraded "Schein" and 2 ECTS can be earned for regular attendance of the course sessions. Mandatory Reading: A reader with all texts will be made available on Moodle. Additional sources may uploaded throughout the semester.

After the registration period on LSF is complete, you will receive an e-mail through your student e-mail account with further information on the Moodle registration.

Religion

Lecture: History of Christianity in North America, 1500-1800

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

TUE: 11:30 – 13:00; Grabengasse 3-5 - neue Uni / HS 06

WED: 11:30 – 13:00; Grabengasse 3-5 - neue Uni / HS 06

Registration via [Moodle](#)

Course Description:

This lecture course offers a survey of the history of Christianity in North America from the Reformation age to the revolutionary period. Always with an eye on the European background, the course will examine the often surprising ways in which the various forms of Christianity that were imported from the Old World developed in different contexts of colonization, mission, intercultural contact and conflict. While special attention will be given to the British colonies, we will also look at New Spain, New France and other European settlements. As we trace the evolution of churches, beliefs, practices and communities over three centuries and thousands of miles, students will be familiarized with important primary sources and key-concepts in the early history of North American Christianity.

After the lecture class on Wednesday (11-12) we will discuss one central primary document relevant to each week's topic. This additional "Quellenübung" is highly recommended but optional.

Recommended Reading:

Edwin Gaustad and Leigh Schmidt. *The Religious History of America* (Harper, 2002)

Sidney E. Ahlstrom. *History of the American People* (Yale UP, 1972)

Advanced Seminar: Religion in the Antebellum Period and Civil War

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Research Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann; Edward Manger

THU: 11:00 – 13:00; HCA, Oculus

Registration via jstievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

In this class students will learn about the crucial role religion played during the antebellum period, specifically in the developments, debates, and conflicts that contributed to the coming of the Civil War. We will also examine how religion factored into the ways in which the military conflict between North and South was understood and conducted on both sides. Over the course of the semester we will discuss, among other things, the formative influence

of evangelical Protestantism on the abolitionist movement, the theological battles over the biblical justification of slavery, religious interpretations of the conflict in high-brow discourse as well as popular media, and the evolution of American civil religion in the context of the war.

In June Prof. Manisha Sinha (University of Connecticut), a leading scholar of the history of abolitionism, will join our class to discuss that topic.

Literature:

All texts will be made available via Moodle.

Advanced Seminar: Religion in Contemporary America

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Research Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

TUE: 14:00 – 16:00; **HCA, Oculus**

Registration via jstievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

This course offers an advanced introduction to religion in contemporary America from a multidisciplinary angle, taking into account the multiple intersections of religion with politics, race, sexuality/gender, class, and broader trends of historical change. We will explore the transformations of the American religious landscape from the 1950s up to the present day, looking at the major traditions including mainline Protestantism, the evangelical-Pentecostal family of churches, Catholicism, Judaism, African-American religions and new religious movements. The course will engage with questions surrounding secularization and examine how religious thought in the US has moved from traditional systematic theology to approaches such as black and feminist theology.

Literature:

Please buy and read: Charles H. Lippy and Eric Tranby. *Religion in Contemporary America*. Routledge, 2013.

Oberseminar: Issues and Theories in American Religious History

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Research Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

THU: 14:00 – 16:00; **HCA, Stucco**

Registration via jstievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

Geared toward students specializing in American religious history, this advanced seminar will examine important theories and issues currently debated in the field. This semester's focus will be on recent literature exploring American religion in the context of transatlantic and global history from the colonial period to the present. But our course reading list will accommodate student interests and projects.

Literature:

A course reader will be available at the beginning of the semester.

Political Science

Advanced Seminar: Strategy and Organization in the Transatlantic Alliance

Eligibility: Main Module Political Science, Research Module Political Science, Flexibility Module

Seth Johnston

Block THU/SAT: 29.-30.04.; 20.-21.05.; **tba**

Registration via [LSF](#) by **30.03.2022**

Course Description:

Today's North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with thirty members and a global reach, differs strikingly from the alliance of twelve created to "keep the Americans in, the Russians out, and the Germans down." These differences are not simply the result of the Cold War, 9/11 and Afghanistan, or recent twenty-first-century developments; instead, they represent a more general pattern of adaptability first seen in the incorporation of Germany as a full

member of the alliance in the early 1950s. Renewed confrontation between Russia and the West has reinvigorated the debate about NATO's relevance, while European and international security crises from Ukraine to cyberspace and have challenged NATO to adapt. This course is for advanced undergraduate- and graduate-students of international relations, history, political science, and related fields. The course will appeal most to students interested in transatlantic relations, security in Europe and North America, as well as theories about strategy and change in international institutions. In addition to classroom seminar discussion and written evaluation, the course will include a "strategic decision-making" practical exercise.

Advanced Seminar: American Politics in the Age of Trump

Eligibility: Main Module Political Science, Research Module Political Science, Flexibility Module

Susan Herbst

WED; 11:15 – 12:45; **Hauptstraße 120 / Oculus**

Registration via [LSF](#) by 30.03.2022

Course Description:

This course evaluates the state of contemporary national politics in the United States. We will cover a broad range of topics of great importance and urgency for both scholars of political culture and American citizens.

In this seminar we will explore the latest research and thinking about political polarization, incivility, the upcoming Fall 2022 elections to determine the nature of the Congress, as well as the fears of civil war and a deeper constitutional crises. Also of great concern in this class will be the rise of populism, of racism, and the critical roles of both broadcast journalism and social media. Students will write one paper on a topic of their choosing, with guidance on how to narrow the focus.

The course will be entirely in English.

Literature:

In addition to articles distributed after the start of the term, we will use the following texts for the course:

Adam Serwer, *The Cruelty is the Point: The Past, Present and Future of Trump's America* (New York: Random House, 2021).

Barbara Walter, *How Civil Wars Start and How to Stop Them* (New York: Crown, 2022).

Advanced Seminar: Varieties of Conservatism in the United States: History/Politics/Literature

Eligibility: Main Module History, Research Module History, Main Module Political Science, Research Module Political Science, Main Module Literature and Culture, Interdisciplinary Module, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Martin Thunert; Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

TUE; 14:15 – 15:45; **Hauptstraße 120/Oculus**

Registration via LSF until 30.03.2022

Course Description:

Conservatism in the United States represents a family of opinions and ideas rather than a fixed and coherent doctrine or ideology. While all conservatives look alike to their critics, conservatives themselves disagree – sometimes moderately, sometimes more sharply – about the essence of conservatism. In this class, we will discuss the antecedents and moral underpinnings of several varieties of American conservatism as well as their political and cultural implications. We will also consider what counts for conservatism in different fields of politics, culture and literature and study communalities and divergences. Proceeding in a roughly chronological manner, we will pinpoint periods when conservatism triumphed and when it failed, discuss pivotal figures, and explore the cultural factors that have helped or hindered its rise. The relationship between conservatives and the Republican Party will be thematized, too. Developments in the 21st century such as the Tea Party, Trumpism and conservatism's relationship to the so-called Alt-Right will receive special attention. Some of the animating questions are: Was American conservatism ever ideologically coherent? Has twenty-first-century conservatism strayed from its roots? Is there a form of conservatism that might prove attractive to the increasingly diverse generations Y and Z? We will partly adopt a history-of-ideas approach and study primary sources including some literary works and artistic productions in order to acquire a sense of the historical variants of American conservatism. But we will also draw on scholarly treatments and secondary sources such as

biographies, journalistic narratives, studies by philosophically and historically minded political scientists as well as works of cultural theory. The readings will be made available on Moodle. Each week, we will have one or two student presenters guiding us through the readings. Participants are expected to regularly contribute a one-page response paper to the discussion forum. A final paper is also among the requirements; its length and scholarly depth will be determined by the respective degree-program requirements of the participant.

Literature and Culture

Lecture: Introduction to Literary Studies

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Margit Peterfy

MON: 11:15 – 12:45; HS 01, Heuscheuer

Registration in first session

Course Description:

This course of lectures will serve as an introduction to the study of literature in English. We will make use of key concepts and critical tools relevant to the analysis and interpretation of literary texts, and will also discuss structural aspects of the major genres (drama, prose, poetry), explore different schools of literary and cultural theory, and survey fundamental categories of literary historiography. There will be tutorials on offer, in which advanced students will review central issues of the lecture and help you develop the analytical skills that you will be using throughout your entire studies. This class will be taught in English and will conclude with a written exam.

Texts: Please buy the longer works in the following editions:

- Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter and Other Writings*. Norton Critical Editions. New York: Norton & Company, 2017. (ISBN-13: 978-0393264890).
- William Shakespeare. *Othello*. Ed. E. A. J. Honigman. With a new introduction by Ayanna Thompson. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016. (ISBN-13: 978-1472571762).

There will be an additional “Reader” on sale in the Copy Corner (Merianstr.) with the shorter texts.

Lecture: American Literary History: Civil War—Present

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

PD. Dr. Philipp Löffler

FRI: 09:15 – 10:45; **Neue Uni, HS 04**

Registration in first session.

Course Description:

In this lecture course, we will read representative US literary works written between the years following the Civil War and the contemporary present. Beginning in what Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner once called the “Gilded Age,” we will trace the evolution of American literature from the realist period through Modernism and Postmodernism, concluding with an attempt to define the contemporary literary field of the 2000s and 2010s. Students will read canonical works by authors such as Henry James, Kate Chopin, William Faulkner, Toni Morrison, and Bret Easton Ellis, amongst many others, while reflecting on what it means to place such a variety of different writers within the rather rigid demarcations of traditional literary periods.

Literature:

All texts will be included in a course reader.

Advanced Seminar: US Literary Modernism

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Philipp Löffler

THU: 9:15 – 10:45; **English Department: R. 114**

Registration via [SignUp](#) by 24.02.2022

Course Description:

In this class, we will study a variety of literary and artistic contexts and authors that are said to define Modernism in the US. Students will engage with canonical texts, among them T.S. Eliot's *The Wasteland*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*. But we will also look at the political and institutional contexts that were integral to the rise of Modernist literature: the transatlantic formation of the so-called New Criticism and the professionalization of literary studies; the great northward Migration and the consequent rise of Harlem as the first cultural center of African-American Avant-Gardism; the socio-economic conditions of US society during the interwar period—from the roaring twenties to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Literature:

Please buy and read:

- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (Norton)
- Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Harper Perennial) - William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying* (Vintage)

Advanced Seminar: Pragmatist Crosscurrents in US-American Literature

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Margit Peterfy

THU: 14:15 – 15:45; **English Department: R. 115**

Registration via [SignUp](#) by 24.02.2022

Course Description:

Pragmatism (sometimes also called “pragmaticism”) is one of the most distinctive philosophical schools originating in the USA. It is primarily associated with the philosophers Charles S. Pierce and William James, but also with the writings of the sociologist and educational theorist John Dewey. The core of pragmatist thinking is

that the meaning of a philosophical statement is the same as the practical consequences of adopting it. But pragmatism has also developed an afterlife in literature and culture. In this course, beside discussing the possible origins and basic tenets of pragmatism, we will also look at its cultural manifestations and its reception by thinkers, writers, and artists.

Literature:

A course reader will be made available at the Copy Corner (Merianstr.) by the beginning of the semester.

Advanced Seminar: Varieties of Conservatism in the United States: History/Politics/Literature

Eligibility: Main Module History, Research Module History, Main Module Political Science, Research Module Political Science, Main Module Literature and Culture, Interdisciplinary Module, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Martin Thunert; Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

TUE: 14:00 – 16:00; HCA, Oculus

Registration via LSF until 30.03.2022

Course Description:

Conservatism in the United States represents a family of opinions and ideas rather than a fixed and coherent doctrine or ideology. While all conservatives look alike to their critics, conservatives themselves disagree – sometimes moderately, sometimes more sharply – about the essence of conservatism. In this class, we will discuss the antecedents and moral underpinnings of several varieties of American conservatism as well as their political and cultural implications. We will also consider what counts for conservatism in different fields of politics, culture and literature and study communalities and divergences. Proceeding in a roughly chronological manner, we will pinpoint periods when conservatism triumphed and when it failed, discuss pivotal figures, and explore the cultural factors that have helped or hindered its rise. The relationship between conservatives and the Republican Party will be thematized, too. Developments in the 21st century such as the Tea Party, Trumpism and

conservatism's relationship to the so-called Alt-Right will receive special attention. Some of the animating questions are: Was American conservatism ever ideologically coherent? Has twenty-first-century conservatism strayed from its roots? Is there a form of conservatism that might prove attractive to the increasingly diverse generations Y and Z?

We will partly adopt a history-of-ideas approach and study primary sources including some literary works and artistic productions in order to acquire a sense of the historical variants of American conservatism. But we will also draw on scholarly treatments and secondary sources such as biographies, journalistic narratives, studies by philosophically and historically minded political scientists as well as works of cultural theory. The readings will be made available on Moodle. Each week, we will have one or two student presenters guiding us through the readings. Participants are expected to regularly contribute a one-page response paper to the discussion forum. A final paper is also among the requirements; its length and scholarly depth will be determined by the respective degree-program requirements of the participant.

Advanced Seminar: T. S. Eliot: The Waste Land

Eligibility: Main Module Literature and Culture, Research Module Literature and Culture, Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Anette Kreis-Schinck

FRI: 9:00 – 12:15; **English Department: R. 110**

Registration via e-mail to: annettekreis@bluewin.ch.

Course Description:

There are three good reasons to take a closer look at T.S. Eliot's *Waste Land* again: it is, undoubtedly, the most renowned literary achievement in English of the 20th century and a prime example of modernist poetry; in 2022 we celebrate the 100th anniversary of its first publication; and—pace the first point—it is worthwhile studying in a contemporary context. In this seminar we will familiarise ourselves with Eliot's literary techniques by looking at two earlier poems ("The Love Song of J. Alfred

Prufrock," "Portrait of a Lady") before turning to *The Waste Land* and, possibly, to the later Eliot of *Murder in the Cathedral* (1935) and *Four Quartets* (1940-2). Modernist techniques, the plurality of voices, the simultaneity of time(s) and place(s), and the influence of European and non-European literature and myth will be some aspects of our discussions. If literature is, among other things, the product of a continuous human dialogue, Eliot's poetry is a prime example.

Literature:

Students wishing to participate must have read the early poems and *The Waste Land* (for example in: T.S. Eliot, *Selected Poems*, Faber, 2009).