



# M.A. in American Studies (MAS) Course Catalog Summer Semester 2024

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## Updates

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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 2024!

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 catalogs (LSF, HeiCO) 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/Department of Church History.

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

Please be aware that one individual 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 our MAS Coordinator PD Dr. Philipp Löffler ([philipp.loeffler@as.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:philipp.loeffler@as.uni-heidelberg.de)).

## General Information

### Measures of the university for protection against the coronavirus

March 1, 2023

#### Covid protection measures at Heidelberg University

\*Update\* The Covid pandemic is coming to a close and the updated regulations are paving the way back to normality. On 18 February 2023, the end of the lecture period for the 2022/2023 winter semester, the university also ended its last remaining recommendation to wear a mask in all its areas.

#### Occupational safety

The Covid hygiene rules and risk assessments have gone out of effect in all institutes and facilities. Naturally the general risk assessments of workplaces still apply, however, as before the pandemic.

For further information, please visit the main website of Heidelberg University and the FAQs about student affairs and teaching section linked below:

<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/newsroom/measures-of-the-university-for-protection-against-the-coronavirus>

<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/study/service-portal-for-students/coronavirus-faqs-about-student-affairs-and-teaching>

# 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 Geography, History, Literature and Cultural Studies, Political Science, and Religious History and Culture. 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.

## Sample Course of Study

<p><b>First Semester (28 credits)</b></p> <p><b>Methodology module</b> Course: Theory &amp; Methods (4 credits) Course: Academic Writing (4 credits)</p> <p><b>Main module I</b> M.A. seminar: Core discipline I (10 credits) Lecture: Core discipline I (4 credits)</p> <p><b>Main module II</b> Lecture: Core discipline II (4 credits)</p> <p><b>Interdisciplinary module</b> MAS Colloquium I (2 credits)</p>	<p><b>Second Semester (30 credits)</b></p> <p><b>Main module II</b> M.A. seminar: Core discipline II (10 credits)</p> <p><b>Research module</b> M.A. seminar: Core discipline I (10 credits)</p> <p><b>Flexibility module</b> Discussion group: Discipline III (4 credits) Lecture: Discipline IV (4 credits)</p> <p><b>Interdisciplinary module</b> MAS Colloquium II (2 credits)</p>
<p><b>Third Semester (28 credits)</b></p> <p><b>Research module</b> Independent study: Core discipline I (4 credits)</p> <p><b>Interdisciplinary module</b> Interdisciplinary seminar (6 credits)</p> <p><b>Flexibility module</b> 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><b>Fourth Semester (34 credits)</b></p> <p><b>Examination module</b> Research colloquium (2 credits) M.A. thesis (24 credits) Oral final exam (8 credits)</p>

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

## Mandatory Classes

### MAS Interdisciplinary Colloquium

**Eligibility:** Interdisciplinary Module

**Lecturer:** Dr. Wilfried Mausbach; Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

**Time:** Thursdays; 18:15 - 19:45

**Location:** HCA Atrium/Oculus

**Registration:** via HeiCO

**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. Scholars sharing their current interests or most recent scholarship will alternate with fellow MAS students presenting the outlines of their final thesis. A detailed program for the Colloquium will be available in October.

Students planning to earn credits for this course will be asked to prepare a short summary of one presentation/discussion.

## Courses by Discipline

### 1. Religious History

#### **Lecture: African American Religious History**

**Eligibility:** Main Module Religion and Culture; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

**Time:** Tuesdays; 11:15-12:45

**Location:** Neue Uni; Lecture Hall 4a

**Registration:** via HeiCO; registration period February 5, 2024 – March 2, 2024

**Course Description:** This lecture offers a survey of the religious history of African Americans from the emergence of black Christianity amidst the transatlantic slave trade, through the dramatic Civil Rights-era to the present period and the role of religion in the Black Lives Matter-movement. We will examine how black Christianity provided theological, institutional, and personal strategies for survival, empowerment and resistance during bondage and into an era of partial freedom, even as the Bible and theological arguments were wielded in defense of slavery and oppression. We will also look at how black communities have negotiated the tensions between European traditions and African-derived practices, and how some came to reject the “white man’s religion” in favor of alternatives such as the Nation of Islam. The course will discuss the writings of black leaders and “highbrow” theologians such as James W.C. Pennington, Martin Luther King and William Barber but also pay attention to the religious experience of ordinary African Americans.

**Texts:** Albert J. Raboteau, *Canaan Land: A Religious History of African Americans* (New York: Oxford UP, 2001)

**Additional Information:** Prof. Dr. Christopher Cameron (University of North Carolina) will also be a lecturer for this course.

## **Advanced Seminar: African Americans and Religious Liberalism: From Abolitionism to Black Power**

**Eligibility:** Main Module Literature and Culture; Research Module Literature and Culture; Main Module Religion and Culture; Research Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

**Time:** Black seminar sessions on June 21 (10-5:30pm), June 22 (10-5:30pm) and June 28 (10-5:30pm), June 29 (10-5:30pm)

**Location:** HCA Oculus

**Registration:** Please pre-register via e-mail to: [jstievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:jstievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de)

**Course Description:** Black Protestantism is often exclusively identified with the Baptist and Methodist traditions. In this course we will study the underappreciated role of African Americans in the history of Protestant liberalism in the US. The seminar will begin by exploring African Americans' engagement with Transcendentalism, both as consumers and producers of Transcendentalist thought. It will then explore the critical role that Unitarianism played in Black intellectual and political life during the late 19th century, the rise of Black Unitarian and Universalist churches from the 1880s to the 1940s, and the relationship between religious liberalism and Black Power in the 1960s, as seen through the founding of the Black Unitarian Universalist Caucus. This compact seminar gives students the opportunity to engage with one of the leading experts on African American political thought: Prof. Christopher Cameron (UNC Charlotte), who comes to Heidelberg as recipient of the James W.C. Pennington Award.

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

## Applied Skills Class: Religion and Politics in American History

**Eligibility:** Main Module Religion and Culture; Main Module History; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Dr. Ryan Gregg Tobler

**Time:** Thursdays; 9:15-10:45

**Location:** HCA

**Registration:** via email to [rtobler@hca.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:rtobler@hca.uni-heidelberg.de)

**Course Description:** Religion and politics are sometimes considered two topics to avoid in polite conversation. This *Übung*, however, tackles both, focusing especially on the peculiar intersections of these forces and their evolution through the long sequence of American history. Among other topics, the course explores: moral foundations theory and the social psychology of “political righteousness”; the complex religio-political environments of the North American colonies; the dynamics of religious disestablishment in the new American nation; the rise and periodic renewal of evangelical political power; the coercive effects of religious power on marginalized groups and their responses; the American Civil Rights movement and religious conservatism in the twentieth century; religious influences in American foreign policy and domestic ‘culture wars’; and the religious dimensions of American presidential politics. Along with historical insight, the course aims to provide useful contexts for understanding political convulsions and polarization in the contemporary USA.

**Texts:** Jonathan Haidt, *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2012).

## 2. Political Science

### Lecture: Grundlagen der Vergleichenden Analyse Politischer Systeme

**Dozent:** Prof. Dr. Aurel Croissant

**Zeit:** Mo; wöch; 14:15-15:45

**Ort:** Große Mantelgasse 2, Heuscheuer II

**Eligibility:** Main Module Political Science; Flexibility Module

**Registration:** online via heiCO

#### **Course Description:**

Die Vorlesung konzentriert sich auf die Vermittlung von Grundwissen zu den Zielen, Gegenständen und Methoden der vergleichenden Analyse politischer Systeme. Im ersten Teil geht es darum die Studierenden mit dem Grundverständnis, den einschlägigen Analysestrategien und Methoden sowie Forschungsansätzen in diesem Teilbereich der Politischen Wissenschaft vertraut zu machen. Im zweiten Teil werden zentrale Forschungsfragen und Forschungsfelder des Teilbereichs vorgestellt und die Möglichkeiten der vergleichenden Analyse politischer Systeme mit Beispielen aus der Forschungspraxis illustriert. Vorgestellt und diskutiert werden Ansätze und Befunde der komparativ-politikwissenschaftlichen Forschung zu Regimetypen und ihrer Messung, Demokratisierungsprozessen, Wahlen und Wahlsysteme, Parteien und Parteiensysteme, Typen und Institutionen des Regierungssystems einschließlich Föderalismus und Verfassungsgerichtsbarkeit, Demokratietypen und ihre Politikperformanz sowie die empirisch-analytische Politische Kultur-Forschung. Die verschiedenen Themen werden exemplarisch an aktuellen Beiträgen zu methodologischen, theoretischen und empirischen Fragen der vergleichenden Analyse politischer Systeme innerhalb und außerhalb der Kern-OECD-Staatengruppe vertieft.

Zu der Vorlesung wird ein Tutorium angeboten.

**Course Requirements:** final exam.

The exams will take place on the following dates: August 1, 2024; September 26, 2024

## Seminar: Strategy and Organization in the Transatlantic Alliance

**Eligibility:** Flexibility Module; Main Module Political Science; Research Module Political Science

**Lecturer:** Dr. Seth Johnston

**Time:** Block seminar; Fri April 19 9:15-16:45; Sat April 20 10:00-16:00; Fri June 14 9:15-16:45; Sat June 15 10:00-16:00

**Location:** HCA Oculus

**Registration:** online via HeiCO

**Course Description:** Today's North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with more than thirty members and a global reach, differs strikingly from the alliance of twelve countries created to "keep the Americans in, the Russians out, and the Germans down." These differences are not simply the result of the war in Ukraine, 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. Confrontation with Russia, the rise of China, and other geopolitical and strategic challenges have reinvigorated the debate about NATO's relevance, while European and international security crises from the Middle East 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.

**Course Requirements:** In addition to classroom seminar discussion and written evaluation, the course will include a "strategic decision-making" practical exercise.

## **Seminar: Populism and Foreign Policy: The United States in a Comparative Perspective**

**Eligibility:** Flexibility Module; Main Module Political Science; Research Module Political Science

**Lecturer:** Dr. Gordon Friedrichs

**Time:** Wednesdays, 18:15-19:45

**Location:** IPW, Bergheimerstraße 58, room: 431002

**Registration:** online via HeiCO

**Course Description:** In recent decades, a surge in populism has led to the rise of populist state leaders and governments, not only in the United States in the form of Donald Trump, but also in nations ranging from Poland, the Philippines, India, and Hungary to Brazil and Italy. While the fields of comparative politics and political theory have extensively explored the drivers, causes, and governmental impacts of populism, its international implications and effects have remained largely unexplored. However, a growing body of literature has emerged in the past few years, shedding light on the impact of populism on foreign policy and international politics.

This course will teach students the foundational conceptual debates on populism and examines its foreign policy and international consequences. It critically explores the relationship between populism and foreign policy, while considering different levels of analysis and theories of foreign policy analysis and international relations. Throughout the semester, students will actively engage with theoretical frameworks, case studies, and analyses, fostering a nuanced understanding of how populists' shape a country's approach on the global stage. By the end of the course, students will possess a sophisticated understanding of the intricate relationship between populism and foreign policy, providing them with analytical tools to contribute meaningfully to discussions on contemporary global affairs.

**Course Requirements:** Class Participation and Discussion (20%): Actively contributing to class discussions is paramount. Students are expected to critically engage with assigned readings, provide thoughtful contributions to debates, and apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios.

Student Presentations (30%): Each student is tasked with delivering a 10-minute presentation on a specific case study or aspect of populism and its impact on foreign policy. Presentations should integrate relevant literature, offer critical insights, and stimulate class discussion.

**Student Commentary (20%):** Students will take turns providing commentary on their peers' presentations, offering constructive feedback, and fostering further discussion. This component emphasizes the development of analytical and evaluative skills.

**Final Term Paper (30%):** The course culminates in a research paper where students delve deeply into a specific aspect of populism and foreign policy. Papers should showcase a thorough grasp of relevant literature, demonstrate critical analysis, and apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios.

## Seminar: Gender and Politics

**Eligibility:** Flexibility Module; Main Module Political Science; Research Module Political Science

**Lecturer:** Alejandro Ecker

**Time:** tba

**Location:** tba

**Registration:** tba

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to the main theoretical concepts and the major empirical research questions in the area of Gender and Politics. It addresses fundamental questions in Comparative Politics from the perspective of gender differences and confronts students with important questions of causal inference in empirical-analytical research. Based on selected recent contributions students examine 1) questions of descriptive and substantive representation (e.g., in political institutions such as parties, national and sub-national legislatures). Students also learn 2) about political participation and explore the causes and consequences of gender gaps in individual voting behavior. Other key aspects that are discussed in the seminar include 3) policy-making and 4) gender dynamics in judicial decision-making. Throughout the course, students are introduced to the relevant data sources of gender and politics, providing them with plenty of opportunities to conduct their own preliminary analyses and develop first ideas for their term paper.

## Seminar: Food Movements

**Eligibility:** Flexibility Module; Main Module Political Science; Research Module Political Science

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Renata Motta

**Time:** tba

**Location:** tba

**Registration:** tba

**Course Description:** Increasingly, citizens perceive the global food system as part of the historical causes of the ecological crisis and the persisting hunger in the world. Alternative local food initiatives react to the environmental impacts of globalized food relations; food sovereignty movements highlight class inequalities and power asymmetries in the food system that affect people's rights to culturally appropriate foodways; food justice movements denounce institutional racism; feminist movements fight persistent gender inequalities from food production to consumption; vegan movements defend animal rights. These are often mapped into different world regions, with food justice movements more present in the US; food sovereignty movements louder in the Global South, feminist food movements more active in Latin America, and local food movements commonly in the Global North. The growing politicisation of the production, distribution and consumption relate to the fact that food relations are structured by economic, social, political, cultural and environmental inequalities. This course brings together diverse strands of activism and research on food movements from Europe, North America and Latin America under the conceptual umbrella of food inequalities. It aims at offering analytical tools for students to make sense of the diversity and multiplicity of food movements and their contribution to transforming food politics.

### Additional Information:

- 2 ECTS: Participation. Regular presence and active participation in debates, preparation of the assigned texts
- 8 ECTS: regular presence and active participation in debates, preparation of the assigned texts, inclusive memos each session, seminar paper (6000 words, 120 hours).
- 5 or 6 ECTS: the same requirements, but the length of the term paper is 3000 words or 4000 words respectively. Word count excludes Table of Content (ToC) and Bibliography.

Information on term paper:

- The term paper may be in English, German, Spanish or Portuguese. The topics of the final paper can be freely chosen among the issues discussed during the seminar. Papers must engage with the literature of the seminar and also show independent research.
- Term paper: Formalities: 12pt Arial or Times New Roman, 1,5 space, margins min. 2,5.
- The deadline is 30. September 2024

## **Advanced Seminar: Immigration, Education, and Chinese Americans**

**Eligibility:** Main Module Geography; Research Module Geography; Main Module Political Science; Research Module Political Science; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Shasha Lin

**Time:** Tuesdays; 9:15-10:45

**Location:** HCA Stucco

**Registration:** via HeiCO; deadline April 30, 2024

**Course Description:** Chinese Americans are the earliest and largest Asian origin group in the U.S. and they have observable impact on U.S. cities, higher education institutions, and politics. This interdisciplinary course sits at the intersection of geography and political science. The first half of the course surveys the history of migration and settlement of Chinese immigrants and their impact on local geographics and cultural landscapes. We will explore major themes in geography, including geographical theories of migration, the establishments of ethnic enclaves and ethnoburbs, and placemaking. The second half of the course covers Chinese immigrant narrative of education, Asian American politics, race relations, as well as theories and frameworks that advance our understanding of Asian/Chinese Americans' racial policy attitudes. The goal of this course is to equip students – through course readings, discussions, and writings – with the analytical tools and interdisciplinary approaches beneficial to their understanding, analysis, and active participation in discussions surrounding immigration, education, and racial politics.

**Course Information:** The sessions and course materials will be in English.

**Course Requirements:** In-class participation 25%; Discussion posts/responses 25%; Short paper 50%

## Advanced Seminar: Women in American Politics

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

**Lecturer:** Dr. Natalie Rauscher

**Time:** Wednesdays; 14:15-15:45

**Location:** HCA Oculus

**Registration:** online via HeiCO

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the role of women in American politics, both in recent history and in contemporary settings. We will cover topics ranging from women's political participation and voting patterns, to how women engage in and navigate political campaigns and behave as law-makers. We will also specifically focus on women's roles in the American political institutions, specifically local/state legislatures, Congress, the Presidency, and the Supreme Court. We will explore these topics focusing on gender, as well as the intersections of race, class, and party. Throughout the course, you will pick a representative to follow as a case study and apply the theoretical concepts learned within the class to your particular candidate. This course is based in American Politics, but it aims to introduce ideas and concepts that can apply in cross-country settings as well.

## 3. Geography

### Lecture: Stadtgeographie

**Instructor:** Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard

**Time:** Di; 9:15 – 10:45 Uhr

**Location:** tba

**Eligibility:** Main Module Geography; Flexibility Module

**Registration:** online via heiCO

#### Course Description:

In der Vorlesung werden die Grundlagen der Stadtgeographie vorgestellt. Hierzu gehören die verschiedenen Forschungsperspektiven der Stadtgeographie, ein historischer Abriss der Stadtentwicklung, Theorien und Modelle zur inneren Struktur und Entwicklung von Städten und vor allem aktuelle Entwicklungsbedingungen und -prozesse, die an einer Vielzahl von Beispielen aus Deutschland, Europa, Nordamerika und anderen Teilen der Welt diskutiert werden.

**Course Requirement:** final exam

## **Seminar: Neighborhood Studies Revisited: A Socio-Cultural Perspective on an Urban Form**

**Eligibility:** Main Module Geography; Research Module Geography; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard and Prof. Daniel Malachuk

**Time:** Blockseminar; June 6, 2024 – July 25, 2024; 13:00-16:00

**Location:** HCA Stucco

**Registration:** via email to [nordamerika@geog.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:nordamerika@geog.uni-heidelberg.de)

**Course Description:** This seminar studies neighborhoods in cities from an interdisciplinary perspective. We will start with the concept of the neighborhood in general and how “traditional” neighborhood studies have approached this special urban form (mainly in sociology, urban geography and literary studies). Then we will look at how literary texts portray neighborhoods and what role they play in “setting the scene.” We will then compare and contrast these descriptions to those developed in urban studies. A guiding question for the seminar will be what role does the neighborhood play on the meso-scale between the home and the city? To gain insight into the manifoldness of urban development, we will focus especially on Chicago.

The seminar is co-taught in an interdisciplinary setting between Heidelberg and Western Illinois University. It will rely on weekly readings that are discussed and analyzed with different methods in class. A written term paper will finish up the discourse-intensive class.

**Additional Information:** Preparatory Meeting on April 25, 14.00-16.00 via Zoom.

## **Advanced Seminar: Immigration, Education, and Chinese Americans**

**Eligibility:** Main Module Geography; Research Module Geography; Main Module Political Science; Research Module Political Science, Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Shasha Lin

**Time:** Tuesdays; 9:15-10:45

**Location:** HCA Stucco

**Registration:** via HeiCO; deadline April 30, 2024

**Course Description:** Chinese Americans are the earliest and largest Asian origin group in the U.S. and they have observable impact on U.S. cities, higher education institutions, and politics. This interdisciplinary course sits at the intersection of geography and political science. The first half of the course surveys the history of migration and settlement of Chinese immigrants and their impact on local geographics and cultural landscapes. We will explore major themes in geography, including geographical theories of migration, the establishments of ethnic enclaves and ethnoburbs, and placemaking. The second half of the course covers Chinese immigrant narrative of education, Asian American politics, race relations, as well as theories and frameworks that advance our understanding of Asian/Chinese Americans' racial policy attitudes. The goal of this course is to equip students – through course readings, discussions, and writings – with the analytical tools and interdisciplinary approaches beneficial to their understanding, analysis, and active participation in discussions surrounding immigration, education, and racial politics.

**Course Information:** The sessions and course materials will be in English.

**Course Requirements:** In-class participation 25%; Discussion posts/responses 25%; Short paper 50%

## **Advanced seminar: Writings on Home, Place and Belonging: Creative Encounters and Geographical Reflections**

**Eligibility:** Main Module Geography; Research Module Geography; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Judith Keller

**Time:** Thursdays; 14:15-15:45

**Location:** Berliner Straße 48, HS

**Registration:** online via heiCO by 31.03.2024

**Course Description:** Where do we know from? What places shape the way we see the world? How do they influence our sense of belonging and home? What intimate place relations do we experience? How do we feel when these places change? These are some of the questions this seminar engages with. The answers, if there are any, are probably as diverse as the students and teachers in this class. Yet, it is exactly the aim to uphold this diversity of personal place experiences in this seminar. Whether we feel most connected to a traditional sick-and-brick home, a public space, such as a library or a café, our first car, the bedroom of our first student dorm while studying abroad, or the place we grew up in but have left behind—there is a multitude of ways to engage with and to feel for a place. What matters is that we tell ourselves stories about places to understand something about who we are, where we have come from, and the society that shapes them. So, in this seminar we want to enhance new ways of seeing and experiencing place by drawing from our own creative potential. We do so by bringing geographic texts, literary research, and storytelling into conversation. This triad will help us (1) to situate storytelling in geography and see it as a way of doing geography in the everyday, (2) to deconstruct and reimagine what home is by engaging with the realities of others through literary encounters, and (3) to voice our own personal place stories in a safe space. This seminar is thus not asking you to write a term paper, but to write short creative texts or engage with different media (photography, film, sketching, drawing) to produce your personal home portfolio.

**Exam Criteria:** Portfolio

**Additional Information:** This seminar will be held in English since most of the literary texts we engage with and the guest lectures will be in English. However, you are free to choose between English and German in our own (written) work since it might be easier to write on such intimate topics in your native language.

## Advanced Seminar: Introduction to Qualitative Methods

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

**Lecturer:** Jun. Prof. Dr. Yaatsil Guevara Gonzalez

**Time:** Blockseminar: Di; 12:15 – 13:45 Uhr; Beginn: 16.04.2024; vier Wochen in Präsenz + zwei Wochen Datenanalyse (ohne Präsenz)

**Ort:** tba (Neue Uni)

**Registration:** online via LSF by 16.04.2024

**Course Description:** This course is designed for students who are looking for a *first* approach to qualitative methods. The course aims to introduce students to some of the main methods for data collection and analysis in qualitative research. However, it is more focused on the preparation and collection of data than on the analysis.

In this course students will be able to reflect on the “classic” questions: What type of qualitative method is most appropriate for my research? How do I prepare for conducting an interview? How do I adjust my methods during fieldwork? How do I organize and systematize my data after fieldwork? What kind of analysis can be carried out for the methods I used in my research? What are the main challenges I will face when using qualitative methods?

This is a theoretical-practical seminar that offers not only discussions around the main characteristics of qualitative research, but also a space for practical exercises -in situ-. In this seminar it will be *mandatory* to carry out practical sessions where students will implement some of the methods learned in the course.

### \*Examination criteria and format:

The **seminar’s format** will take place in **face-to-face sessions** and **practical sessions** where students will have to implement one of the methods discussed in class.

	<i>Face-to-face Sessions</i>	<i>Fieldwork</i>
April	16.04, 23.04, 30.04	
May	07.05, 28.05	14.05, 21.05
June	04.06, 11.06, 18.06	25.06
July	09.07 and 16.07	02.07

The face-to-face sessions will be as follows: 16.04, 23.04, 30.04, 07.05, 28.05, 04.06, 11.06, 18.06, 09.07 and 16.07.

Practice sessions will be as follows: 14.05, 21.05, 25.06, 02.07.

The last session of the course, on July 23, will be online.

The **examination performance** is composed as follows:

Active participation in the seminar: 20%

Practice sessions, analysis and presentation of own data: 50%

Term Paper with own data: 30%.



The Term Paper should be based on the discussion of the empirical data collected by the student. It should not exceed 6.000 words, excluding references, Times New Roman 12, APA citation style, and double spacing.

Though the topic is free, it must be related to the topics covered during the Seminar and must be discussed and approved in advance with the lecturer during in-office hours (Mondays 11-13 or by appointment).

## 4. Literature and Culture

### **Advanced Seminar: African Americans and Religious Liberalism: From Abolitionism to Black Power**

**Eligibility:** Main Module Literature and Culture; Research Module Literature and Culture; Main Module Religion and Culture; Research Module Religion and Culture, Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

**Time:** Black seminar sessions on June 21 (10-5:30pm), June 22 (10-5:30pm) and June 28 (10-5:30pm), June 29 (10-5:30pm)

**Location:** HCA Oculus

**Registration:** Please pre-register via e-mail to: [jstievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:jstievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de)

**Course Description:** Black Protestantism is often exclusively identified with the Baptist and Methodist traditions. In this course we will study the underappreciated role of African Americans in the history of Protestant liberalism in the US. The seminar will begin by exploring African Americans' engagement with Transcendentalism, both as consumers and producers of Transcendentalist thought. It will then explore the critical role that Unitarianism played in Black intellectual and political life during the late 19th century, the rise of Black Unitarian and Universalist churches from the 1880s to the 1940s, and the relationship between religious liberalism and Black Power in the 1960s, as seen through the founding of the Black Unitarian Universalist Caucus. This compact seminar gives students the opportunity to engage with one of the leading experts on African American political thought: Prof. Christopher Cameron (UNC Charlotte), who comes to Heidelberg as recipient of the James W.C. Pennington Award.

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

## Advanced Seminar: Fictions of Innocence: Revisiting an American Literary Tradition I and II

**Eligibility:** Main Module Literature and Culture; Research Module Literature and Culture; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

**Time:** Tuesdays; 16:15-17:45 / Wednesdays; 14:15-15:45 every other week

**Location:** Kettengasse 12; Room 113

**Registration:** via email: [dietmar.schloss@urz.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:dietmar.schloss@urz.uni-heidelberg.de)

**Course Description:** Since the early nineteenth century, American writers have been fascinated by the phenomenon of youth. The state of adulthood, however, has often received short shrift or been treated with contempt. Many of the young heroes and heroines of American fiction show a resistance to ‘growing up’ – a stance for which the critic Ihab Hassan has coined the label “radical innocence.” Critics have pointed out that this preoccupation of American literature and culture with youth coincides with the American self-understanding of the US as a young nation; juxtaposed to ‘Old Europe,’ American society is seen as being endowed with a particular dynamism enabling it to escape the corruptions of age. While the idea of “American innocence” has also received a considerable amount of criticism (not the least from the Postmodern writers who have declared the idea of ‘newness’ a delusion), its cultural power seems undiminished. In fact, the myth of youth seems to be an integral part of the DNA of modernity.

In this course, we will study American stories of innocence from the early nineteenth century to the present. We will take a look at how authors of different periods explain the power of this myth and also sample different critical approaches to the subject. Among the works to be discussed are the following: Nathaniel Hawthorne, “Young Goodman Brown” and “My Kinsman, Major Molineux”; Herman Melville, “Billy Budd, Sailor”; Henry James, “Daisy Miller”; Richard Wright, “The Man Who Was Almost a Man”; Carson McCullers, *A Member of the Wedding*; Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye*; and Bret Easton Ellis, *Less Than Zero*.

**Please note:** This course will meet on **Tuesday (16:15 - 17:45) and Wednesday (14:15 - 15:45) every other week**. Please plan your schedule in such a way that you can attend both sessions. The first two sessions will take place on April 23 and April 24.

**Texts:** The shorter texts on the reading list will be made available on Moodle, however, students should get hold of an edition of the novels by McCullers, Salinger, and Ellis.

## Advanced Seminar: First Century of US-American Drama

**Eligibility:** Main Module Literature and Culture; Research Module Literature and Culture;  
Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** PD Dr. Margit Peterfy

**Time:** Mondays; 14:15-15:45

**Location:** Kettengasse 12; Room 110

**Registration:** via email: [margit.peterfy@as.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:margit.peterfy@as.uni-heidelberg.de)

**Course Description:** In this course, we will look at the development of a national American theatre, starting with plays from the Early Republic, such as Royall Tyler's *The Contrast* (1787), and from there moving through the long 19th century. We will read some examples of so-called "Indian Plays", but also a comedy of manners (*Fashion*, by Anna Cora Mowatt) and melodramas by Dion Boucicault and Augustin Daly. Popular theater and the so-called "show business" will be represented by burlesques (literary parodies), temperance plays and other, shorter genres. We will finish our survey with plays by Clyde Fitch, James A. Herne, and William Vaughn Moody.

**Texts:** A Reader with all the texts will be available at the "Copy Corner" as of the beginning of April.

**Course Requirements:** Class participation, oral presentation, term paper

## Lecture: Literary Culture, 1910-1950

**Eligibility:** Main Module Literature and Culture; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt

**Time:** Mondays; 11:15-12:45

**Location:** Heuscheuer I

**Registration:** via HeiCO; registration period February 5, 2024 – March 1, 2024

**Course Description:** This course of lectures will review the emergence of transatlantic modernism in the United States during the early 1900s. Our main focus will lie on the literary manifestations of the modernist movement, the shifts in aesthetic and cultural sensibilities that runs in a line of continuation from the late novels of Henry James to William Faulkner and John Dos Passos, and from the poetics of Walt Whitman to the work of T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Hilda Doolittle, Wallace Stevens, and William Carlos Williams. We will also discuss relevant early-twentieth-century cultural contexts of the modernist movement (Fordism, cultural professionalism, the new urban environment, immigration, imperial expansion, ethnic pluralism and the vogue of exoticism/primitivism, etc.).

**Texts:** Most of the primary texts are contained in the *Norton* and *Heath* anthologies of American Literature. As introductory texts, see Emory Elliot, *Columbia Literary History of the United States*, part 4, and, for more in-depth background reading, Sacvan Bercovitch, *Cambridge History of American Literature*, vols. 5 and 6.

## 5. History

### Advanced Seminar: US International Economic Policy Since 1945

**Eligibility:** Main Module Political Science; Research Module Political Science; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Dr. Natalie Rauscher and Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

**Time:** Thursdays; 11:15-12:45

**Location:** HCA Stucco

**Registration:** Please register for this seminar via HeiCO. HCA students have priority.

**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 – with an emphasis on the world economy, the United States, Europe and China. In the summer semester 2024 we focus primarily on economic policies of the Biden administration in the run-up to the presidential elections, economic developments globally, persisting challenges of inflation and high interest rates, as well as the impact of global geopolitical challenges. The relationship between the two super powers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the U.S. and China, will be of special concern.

**Course Requirements:** Presentation, Paper, in-class participation; exam in lecture *The US in the World Economy since 1945*

**Additional Information:** The classroom language is English, including student presentations and papers. The Wednesday hour (13:00-14:00) is set aside for individual tutoring.

**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).

**Prerequisite:** Taking the lecture *The U.S. in the World Economy* in the summer semester 2024 is a prerequisite for this seminar. For seminar participants it will be mandatory to complete the graded exam at the end of the semester, that is, to fulfill all assignments in the lecture.

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

## Lecture: The U.S. in the World Economy Since 1945

**Eligibility:** Main Module Political Science; Main Module History; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

**Time:** Thursdays; 9:15 – 10:45 Uhr

**Ort:** Neue Uni, tba

**Registration:** online via LSF

**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. But threats to international economic cooperation have not only come from a turn-around in U.S. trade policies and specifically during the Trump administration, but also from the Covid- 19 pandemic, Russia's war in Ukraine, other geopolitical challenges, and a general trend towards self-sufficiency in the face of growing nationalism in many parts of the world. 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 written exam.

### Additional Information:

#### A. Graded Schein

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

- **Assignment A:** The **exam** 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 exam 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)

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

## Applied Skills Class: Religion and Politics in American History

**Eligibility:** Main Module History; Main Module Religion and Culture; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Dr. Ryan Tobler

**Time:** Thursdays; 9:15-10:45

**Location:** HCA Oculus

**Registration:** via email to [rtobler@hca.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:rtobler@hca.uni-heidelberg.de)

**Course Description:** Religion and politics are sometimes considered two topics to avoid in polite conversation. This *Übung*, however, tackles both, focusing especially on the peculiar intersections of these forces and their evolution through the long sequence of American history. Among other topics, the course explores: moral foundations theory and the social psychology of “political righteousness”; the complex religio-political environments of the North American colonies; the dynamics of religious disestablishment in the new American nation; the rise and periodic renewal of evangelical political power; the coercive effects of religious power on marginalized groups and their responses; the American Civil Rights movement and religious conservatism in the twentieth century; religious influences in American foreign policy and domestic ‘culture wars’; and the religious dimensions of American presidential politics. Along with historical insight, the course aims to provide useful contexts for understanding political convulsions and polarization in the contemporary USA.

**Texts:** Jonathan Haidt, *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* (New York: Pantheon Books, 2012).

## Seminar: American Art in German Museums

**Eligibility:** Main Module History; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Dr. Nikoo Paydar

**Time:** Block seminar; First session Friday, April 19; 10:15 – 11:45; other session dates tbd

**Location:** HCA Stucco; Some sessions held offsite

**Registration:** via email [atahennemann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:atahennemann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de)

**Course Description:** This course explores American art on view in museums and galleries in the region. We will have the opportunity to travel as a group to different sites in nearby cities to study art objects in person. In addition to learning about American art and consequently its history, culture, and politics, students will gain valuable insight into how different art institutions collect, conserve, display and promote art. Varied forms of visual culture collected by art museums may be covered in the course: photography, installation art, sculpture, painting, and video games. The course does not attempt to take a holistic view of American art; instead, its focus is to take advantage of opportunities for close looking and viewing related objects together in special presentations of American art available during the course period. By the end of the course students will have developed their ability to research and analyze visual culture along with their understanding of how art, artists, and curators illuminate a number of topics and themes within American Studies.

**Course Requirements:** Readings will include a range of voices from critics to academics to the artists themselves. Students will give a presentation in class and complete a short paper (ca. 6 pp.)

## Other Events & Classes

### **Book Club: How America Eats: Culinary Memoirs from the United States**

**Eligibility:** Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Dr. Anja Schüler

**Time:** Wednesdays; 14:15-15:45

**Location:** HCA Oculus

**Registration:** in the first session

**Course Description:** Are Americans what they eat? While American food habits have undoubtedly been shaped by the country's immigrant cultures, technological innovations and changing gender roles have also been pivotal to the way Americans eat. Drawing from culinary histories and food memoirs that cover the range from regional food traditions over the origins of convenience products to the story of the vegetarian movement, this class will explore how American foodways have changed over time and what this tells us about the history and culture of the United States. Students are expected to give a presentation on one of the books on the syllabus and complete a reading assignment every week so they can contribute to class discussion.

## Book Club: Hot off the Press

**Eligibility:** Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Dr. Heiko Jakubzik and Annika Elstermann

**Time:** Wednesdays; 16:15-17:45

**Location:** Kettengasse 12; Room 110

**Registration:** in the first session

**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.

## **Film and Society: The New Norm - Deconstructing American Commercial Cinema in the 2010s**

**Eligibility:** Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Carolyn Burlingame-Goff

**Time:** Wednesdays; 18:00-21:30

**Location:** Kettengasse 12; Room 122

**Registration:** in the first session

**Course Description:** This semester, Film and Society will be discussing movements in American cinema between 2010 and 2020, including American Smart Cinema, Elevated Horror, Mumblecore, Feminist New Wave Cinema, Afrofuturism, and New Sci Fi. Films will include *Ladybird*, *Get Out*, *The Lighthouse*, *Booksmart*, and *Sorry to Bother You*.

## **Independent Study: Recent Trends in US Literary and Cultural Theory**

**Eligibility:** Research Module Literature and Culture; Flexibility Module

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt

**Time:** Thursdays; 18:15-19:45

**Location:** HCA

**Registration:** via e-mail: [leypoldt@as.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:leypoldt@as.uni-heidelberg.de)

**Course Description:** This colloquium is intended for aspiring post-graduate students and will serve as a forum for presenting and discussing research projects and debating project-related problems of literary and cultural theory. M.A. students looking for Independent Studies projects are very welcome. The list of readings will be announced in the first session.