



M.A. in American Studies (MAS) Course Catalog Winter Term 2023

Last Updated: 08.09.2023

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Updates

08.09.2023	“Key Concepts”, course description
	“Transit Migrations”, room change
	Classes by Dr. Victoria Hügel cancelled (Political Science)

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

The Heidelberg Center for American Studies welcomes you to the winter term 2023-24.

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/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).

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>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)		
1	Methodology Module (Σ 8 CP) Theory & Methods (4 CP) Academic Writing (4 CP)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #90ee90; width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> Research Module (14 CP) Core discipline I or II 1 M.A. seminar 1 Independent Study </td> <td style="background-color: #90ee90; width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> Flexibility Module (12 CP) 12 CP worth of classes from any discipline in the program </td> </tr> </table>	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
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		Interdisciplinary Module (Σ 10 CP) 1 Interdisciplinary seminar (6 CP) 2 MAS Colloquium (2 x 2CP)		
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #90ee90; width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> Main Module I (14 CP) Core discipline I 1 M.A. seminar 1 lecture </td> <td style="background-color: #90ee90; width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> Main Module II (14 CP) Core discipline II 1 M.A. seminar 1 lecture </td> </tr> </table>	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
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			

Mandatory Classes

Theory and Methods

Eligibility: Methodology Module

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach; PD Dr. Martin Thunert; PD Dr. Philipp Löffler

TUE: 14:15 – 16:45, HCA Oculus

Registration via LSF

Course Description:

Thinking about culture - if done with any sophistication, any depth or complexity - also calls for thinking about thinking. American Studies, along with cultural studies and the humanities more generally, is marked by this self-reflexive move, where the study itself is taken as the object of study. In this class, we refocus on the frames for and structures of thinking about culture, rather than on culture itself.

Surveying contemporary critical theory, this class will consider and explore the ideas of the Frankfurt school, deconstruction, post colonialism, queer theory, psychoanalysis, and social constructionism, paying special attention to how that thinking about thinking can be used methodologically in the study of American culture.

Academic Writing

Eligibility: Methodology Module

Dr. Anja Schüler

TUE: 11:15 – 12:45, HCA Oculus

Registration via LSF

Course Description:

This course offers students concrete guidelines and practical approaches to for writing academic texts. We will start with a review of your writing practices from thesis development to paragraph construction, discuss microskills like introductions and conclusions as well as revision, editing for coherence, style, and grammar, effective referencing and proofreading. Students are welcome to discuss any questions related to the academic writing process in

class. Please expect to share your writing experiences and your texts as well as your opinion of the writings of others, students and non-students. The format of the seminar consists of both whole-class and small-group discussions. Part of this class will be taught as an all-day workshop on January 19, 2024.

MAS Interdisciplinary Colloquium

Eligibility: Interdisciplinary Module

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach; Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

THU: 18:00 - 20:00, **HCA Atrium/Oculus**

Registration via LSF

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.

Independent Study

Eligibility: Research Module

All instructors eligible to be chosen as advisors for your M.A. thesis. Please consult with the MAS Coordinator.

Based on individual demand; online and in-class meetings possible.

Courses by Discipline

1. Religious History

Lecture: Radical Dissenters and New Religious Movements in America

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

Prof Dr. Jan Stievermann

TUE: 11:00-13:00, **Neue Universität, lecture hall 04**

WED: 11:00-13:00, **Neue Universität, lecture hall 12a**

Registration via LSF

Course Description:

From the beginning, British North America and then the United States attracted a great variety of radical religious dissenters. Partly these individuals and groups lived in tension and conflict with religious majorities and the state. Partly they helped create more tolerant societies (such as Quaker Pennsylvania) and then an incredibly pluralistic nation built on the separation of state and church. Especially since the nineteenth century, America also brought forth numerous “native” varieties of Christianity, most of which departed—although to very different degrees—from the broad consensus of Western Christian orthodoxy. Today a number of these groups form a distinct and durable part of the American religious landscape, and some, such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, have developed into highly successful and globally active communities. The US also proved fertile ground for new religious movements beyond the Judeo-Christian pale, some of which—such as the Nation of Islam—thrived among minorities and highlight the peculiar relationship between the race and religion in the US. This lecture course will offer a survey of radical religious dissent and new religious movements from the colonial period to the present. Always with an eye on the wider cultural context, it will cover a broad spectrum of examples, ranging from the colonial Shakers, to Mormons, Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses and early Pentecostalism, but also

including “esoteric” movements such as Spiritualism, New Thought, and Christian Science, as well as racial minority movements such as the Moorish Science Temple of America.

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)

Paul C. Conkin. *American Originals: Homemade Varieties of Christianity* (1997).

Advanced Seminar: The Great Awakening and the Origins of American Evangelicism

Eligibility: Main Module Religion and Culture, Research Module Religion and Culture, main Module History

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

THU: 11:00-13:00, HCA, Oculus

Registration via email: jstievermann@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

Protestant evangelicalism is one of the most significant features of the American religious landscape. It has exerted a major influence on U.S. culture and society more generally. This class will study the historical origins of American evangelicalism in what has traditionally been called the “First Great Awakening”—a series of revivals that swept the British colonies during the middle decades of the eighteenth century. From these revivals emerged a new, often enthusiastic and populist, movement that cut across old denominational lines in its efforts to renew churches and society, deepen piety, win souls for Christ and complete the Reformation. On the basis of central source texts, we will discuss the most important developments, debates, and conflicts in the different centers of colonial revivalism from New England to Georgia. Students will be introduced to key figures and movements such as George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards (Calvinist revivalism), the Wesley brothers (Methodism), and the Moravians of Count Zinzendorf. Special attention will be given to the German-Pietist dimension of the Awakening.

Please buy and read: Thomas S. Kidd. *The Great Awakening: The Roots of Evangelical Christianity in Colonial America*. New Haven: Yale UP, 2007.

2. Political Science

Lecture: U.S. Economic Policy

Eligibility: Main Module Political Science, Research Module

Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

THU: 9:15-10:45, **online**

Registration via LSF

Course Description:

The U.S. economy provides an important reference point in academic and policy discussions because of its success in providing rapidly rising living standards over a period of more than 200 years. At the same time, it serves as an example of a liberal market economy and an illustration of rising inequality and marginalization. For quite a few decades, it has been a showcase for new economic activities based on knowledge and information technology.

Among the topics discussed in this lecture are the current state of the U.S. business cycle and the economic policies of the Biden administration; the influences of economic globalization, technological progress and structural change; fiscal, monetary and regulatory policies; the (political) institutions involved in economic policy-making and matters of inequality, participation and discrimination. The course draws on economics, political economy and economic history. It puts current developments into international comparative and historical perspectives.

Credit Points/ECTS:

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. In order to earn these credits, the following two assignments have to be fulfilled:

- **Assignment A:** A **final 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 a take-home exam paper with 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.
- An **ungraded 'Sitzschein'** and 2 ECTS can be earned by fulfilling only assignment B (see above)

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.

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

Advanced Seminar: Elections and Comparative Perspective: Political Actors, Electoral Systems and Campaigns

Eligibility: Main Module Political Science

Dr. Delia Dumitrescu

MON: 12:00 – 14:00, **Bergheimer Straße 58, 4310, SR 02.034**

Registration via LSF 01.09.-11.10.2023

Prerequisites: Students must have successfully completed the module POL_P5.

The seminar will be taught in English. Some familiarity with quantitative methods of analysis would be beneficial.

Course Description:

Elections are a key element fostering the legitimacy of the democratic system, but there is no unique way to organize them, and contestation of election results is increasingly common in the democratic world. This seminar examines theoretical and empirical perspectives on how elections are organized in older and newer democracies, with a particular focus on electoral systems, on how political actors (e.g., political parties, leaders, media organizations, etc.) interact in the process, and on the conditions under which they compete. The relatively broad scope of the seminar aims to provide students with opportunities to consider and debate the factors affecting the quality of the electoral process and, ultimately, the acceptance of the election results.

Requirements: term paper, presentation, attendance

Literature:

- Farrell, D. M. (2011). *Electoral systems: A comparative introduction*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Colomer, J. (Ed.). (2016). *The handbook of electoral system choice*. Springer.
- Dalton, R. J., Farrell, D. M., & McAllister, I. (2011). *Political parties and democratic linkage: How parties organize democracy*. Oxford University Press, USA.
- Aarts, K., Blais, A., & Schmitt, H. (Eds.). (2013). *Political leaders and democratic elections*. OUP Oxford.
- Norris, P., Frank, R. W., & i Coma, F. M. (Eds.). (2015). *Contentious elections: From ballots to barricades*. Routledge.

Advanced Seminar: Experimental Methods in Political Science

Eligibility: Main Module Political Science, Research Module Political Science

Dr. Delia Dumitrescu

MON: 14:00-16:00, **Bergheimer Straße 58, 4310, SR 02.034**

Registration via LSF

Prerequisites: The seminar will be taught in English. Some prior familiarity with quantitative methods of analysis would be beneficial.

Course Description:

Experimental studies are becoming ubiquitous in political science, whether it is to study the effects of political communications, the effects of political institutional design or the effects of policy alternatives. This seminar provides an introduction to the best practices of experiment-based research in political science. It is structured in three sections: the first introduces students to the fundamentals of experimental design, the second discusses the main types of experiments, and the third examines examples of research in different areas, such as political communication and public policy.

Students will have the opportunity to formulate their own experimental study ideas in this hands-on methodological seminar.

Requirements: term paper, presentation, presence, active participation

Advanced Seminar: Political Psychology: Theories and Methods

Eligibility: Main Module Political Science, Research Module Political Science

Dr. Delia Dumitrescu

TUE: 14:00 – 16:00, **Bergheimer Straße 58, 4310, SR 02.034**

Registration via LSF

Prerequisites: The seminar will be taught in English. Some familiarity with quantitative methods of analysis would be beneficial.

Course Description:

Political psychology is an interdisciplinary field of study that has experienced considerable growth in the past three decades. The core of the scientific exploration inside this interdisciplinary field is the elucidation of the psychological mechanisms that contribute to individuals' political decisions and behavior, as individual members of the society and in groups. In this class we will explore the cognitive and emotional bases of decision-making and their applications to political situations, the contribution of theories of identity and social dominance to understating group relations and behavior, as well as new directions of inquiry such as the study of genetics and psychophysiology for political behavior. Students are expected to contribute to each seminar session through critical and informed discussion of the proposed topics, in relation to the theoretical and methodological advances in the discipline as introduced each week.

Requirements: presentation, term paper, presence.

Advanced Seminar: Current Challenges and Controversies in U.S.

Economic Policies

Eligibility: Main Module Political Science, Research Module Political Science

Prof. Dr. Welf Werner, Dr. Natalie Rauscher

THU: 11:15 – 12:45, **HCA Stucco**

Registration via LSF

Prerequisites: Taking the online lecture *U.S. Economic Policy* in the winter semester 2023/24 is a prerequisite for this seminar.

Course Description:

Based on the knowledge acquired in the lecture *U.S. Economic Policy*, this seminar invites discussion of a broad range of case studies on current U.S. economic developments and economic policies. This seminar will focus on challenges within the US under the influence of the war in Europe, lowering inflation and rising unemployment, economic policies of the Biden Administration, the American welfare state, U.S. environmental and climate policies and specifically the A.I revolution and its effects on US industries, companies and labor market.

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

During the in-person seminar, participants will be asked to fulfill several assignments, including presentations, readings, and active participation.

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

Prerequisite: Taking the lecture *U.S. Economic Policy* in the winter semester 2023/24 is a prerequisite for this seminar. For seminar participants it will be mandatory to attend the lecture's **graded exam** at the end of the semester, that is, to fulfill all assignments in the lecture.

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.

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

Interdisciplinary Seminar: North American Philanthropic Foundations: Origins, History, Activities

Eligibility: Interdisciplinary Seminar, Research Module Politics

PD Dr. Martin Thunert, Dr. Natalie Rauscher

WED: 14:15 – 15:45, **HCA Oculus**

Registration via LSF

Course Description:

Foundations (Stiftungen) are important institutions and actors in organized philanthropy, a sector distinct from, but not unrelated to the sectors of government/politics and business. Drawing from fields of (economic) history, sociology, political science, this interdisciplinary seminar will first provide an overview of the origins, history and growth of philanthropic foundations in North America, highlighting the perhaps unique legal and cultural framework for these institutions in this region of the world. After analyzing organizational types, legal rules etc. the seminar will turn to facts and figures about the impressive size, scope, and social role of philanthropy in North America today. Thereafter, the focus will be directed at specific fields of activity of foundations and donors such as education and research, disaster relief and urban renewal, global and public health, women and girls, and (political) advocacy and the market of ideas. The seminar will also include specific case studies of foundations and their various activities – highlighting international activities of US-based foundations, and the motives of donors and philanthropists with a particular look at the role of women in philanthropy - as well as their interaction with related actors such as think tanks, other non-profits and government. The seminar will conclude with recent trends in North American

philanthropy such as donor-advised funds, impact investing, or community foundations etc. Despite of – or perhaps because of - the often significant impact and key contributions of philanthropic giving and grantmaking, critiques of foundation philanthropy seem to be on the upswing, but upon closer look had a long history. Thus, we will try to better understand and evaluate the long tradition of criticism of foundations and philanthropy in North America and elsewhere.

Select Literature:

Bremner, Robert H. 1988. *American Philanthropy*. The University of Chicago Press. Bernholz, Lucy, and Brigitte Pawliw-Fry. 2020. *How We Give Now: Conversations Across the United States*. Stanford, CA: Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society.

Callahan, David. 2017. *The Givers: Wealth, Power, and Philanthropy in a New Gilded Age*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

McCarthy, Kathleen D. 2001. *Women, Philanthropy and Civil Society*. Indiana University Press.

Reich, Robert. 2018. *Just Giving: Why Philanthropy is Failing Democracy and How it Can Do Better*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Zunz, Olivier. 2011. *Philanthropy in America: A History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press

Requirements: Oral Presentation, term paper.

The class will be held mostly in English, but oral contributions and term papers in German are also possible and welcome.

3. Geography

Lecture: North American City

Eligibility: Main Module Geography

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard

TUE: 9:00-11:00, **Neue Universität, lecture hall 09**

Registration is not necessary.

Course Description:

Comprehensive overview of the Urban Geography of North America: urban theory, urban systems, recent and historical urban developments (urbanization, suburbanization, reurbanisation), internal structure of cities (esp. urban inequalities, cultural patterns, neoliberalization), modeling and theorizing urban space, urban policies, planning the twenty-first-century city, future of cities.

Requirements: written exam.

Literature: The lecture will be accompanied by weekly readings that will be provided via Moodle.

Basic reading suggestion for the whole class (highly recommended):

Hahn, Barbara (2022): The U.S. City in Transition. Berlin: Springer.

Seminar: Mexico: Entangled Geographies: Migration, Infrastructure and Urban Space of Contemporary Mexico

Eligibility: Main Module Geography; Research Module Geography

Hamid Abud Russell, Jun. Prof. Dr. Yaatsil Guevara Gonzalez, Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard

TUE: 14:15-15:45, Berliner Straße 48, lecture hall

Registration via E-Mail to: nordamerika@geog.uni-heidelberg.de until August 31st, 2023

Course Description:

This seminar explores the intersections between urban space policies and migratory processes in contemporary Mexico. Furthermore, the seminar seeks to provide students with the skills to understand the urban policies and migratory processes that have shaped Mexico's current infrastructure. The course purports to understand the interplay between migration, urban space, and infrastructures to better comprehend the socio-cultural transformations that have shaped the country that we know today. Methodologically based on the knowledge provided by history, geography, anthropology, and mobility studies, the course offers an interdisciplinary approach to grasp phenomena (that are too often studied in isolation. The seminar is divided into three sections. The first provides an account of both Mexico's geography and history, an analysis how their interplay influenced the formation of the nation that we know today. The second section focuses on the study of (forced) migration. It will draw on the previous historical, sociological, and geographical accounts to portray the complex socio-economic nature of migratory flows that shape Mexico nowadays, whether they originate in the country (e.g., internal migration, Mexican migration into the U.S.) or rely on it as a point of transit. Lastly, the course will study processes of urban (trans)formation, and the political and economic ramifications of decades of uneven development. The growth of cities, such as Cancun, Mexico City, and Mexican border cities with the U.S. (e.g., Tijuana or El Paso), will serve as case studies to explore the backdrop of the configuration of urban spaces. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the course seeks to shed light on the intricate connections between these topics. By underscoring their entangled nature, we wish to provide a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between migration, urban space, and infrastructures in contemporary Mexico. We seek to stimulate a critical discussion that

inspires students to analyse urban socio-spatial dynamics, not as something isolated, but as a complex web that extends both beyond internal affairs, as well as geopolitical borders.

Additional Remarks: The first session will take place on October 31st, 2023. Preparation for Mexico excursion in Spring 2024 with lectures, text reading, presentations and discussions. This course is mandatory for all participants of the Mexico excursion.

Seminar: Mobilities: Home, Travel, and the Making of Urban Space

Eligibility: Main Module Geography

Hamid Abud Russell, Carla Jung-König

MON: 11:00-13:00, **Berliner Straße 48, lecture hall**

Registration via HeiCo or LSF.

Course Description:

Urban space is imbued with motion. The flow of people, goods, and information are essential components that both shape and (re)configure the landscape of the city. However, traditional studies of urban space have all too often overlooked the lived experience of people's daily lives, ignoring the subjectivities that constitute its rich tapestry. In this seminar we will study the making of space through the study of motion. The main objective will be to analyze how regimes of automobility shape our interaction with everyday spaces, such as urbanity and the home, and how urban and regional planning can reconfigure our mobility to improve travel and our right to the city. Based on the interdisciplinary approach that characterizes mobility studies, this course will highlight the complex and nuanced interconnection between the different elements of everyday journeys. Home-space, workspace, and the spaces in between will be explored not as static and separate, but as related and entangled with the economic, cultural, political, and social forces that shape daily life (mainly in Germany and Mexico). Through this relational approach we hope to stimulate a critical discussion that inspires students to study the urban dynamics present in our everyday lives and to think beyond the present automotive narrative.

Seminar: Reckoning with History in Urban Spaces

Eligibility: Main Module Geography

Lauren Rever

Blockseminar: January 12, 2024, 9:00-17:00; January 13, 2024, 9:00-17:00; February 9, 2024, 9:00-17:00, Berliner Straße 48, lecture hall

Registration via HeiCo until September 27.

Course Description:

Who picks our memorials and museums? Who decides how they are used? Who decides what they mean? This seminar uses interdisciplinary methods to examine the authorities of historymaking in urban, public space. Major themes in public history, cultural heritage, and historical geography will be introduced before students take an active exploration of case studies from the United States. Participants will be able to articulate major problems & interventions in the field, as well as present creative reckonings of history. Open to MA students and advanced BA students from geography, American Studies, history, Cultural Heritage, and related fields.

Requirements: Student participation, zine workshop, & oral presentation z.B. Klausur/Seminararbeit/Protokoll/Übungsaufgaben etc.

Seminar: Street Fights for the Anthropocene: Competing Narratives for Mobility Futures in North America and Europe

Eligibility: Main Module Geography

Jason Henderson

Blockseminar: 08.11.2023, 16:00-19:00; 09.11., 16:00-19:00; 10.11., 10:00-17:00; 18.11., 10:00-13:00; 22.11., 16:00-19:00; 23.11., 16:00-19:00; 24.11., 10:00-17:00; place tba.

Registration via HeiCo

Course Description:

This seminar will look at the politics and cultures of mobility in North America and Europe. Copenhagen and San Francisco, but also local examples in the Rhine-Neckar region and elsewhere in Germany and the USA will serve as case studies to examine conflicts over road space, future mobility pathways, racial politics, and negotiations of trust, among other aspects. A cycling/walking tour will be part of the seminar.

There will be a preliminary meeting on Zoom in October to discuss details of the class, etc.

Seminar: Transit Migration and Everyday Life Across the Americas

Eligibility: Main Module Geography, Research Module

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Yaatsil Guevara-Gonzalez

MO: 11:15-12:45, **HCA: Stucco**

Registration via LSF

Registration period: 24.07.2023 - 22.10.2023

Students will receive a confirmation via email after completion of the registration period with further information on the class format, moodle, etc.

Course Description:

The concept of transit migration was conceived in the field of European public policies, and it has been a politicized concept since its origins. For the UN Economic Commission for Europe, transit migration means migration from “one country with the intention of seeking the possibility there to emigrate to another country as the country of final destination.” Hence, in

the Latin American academic field, the concept of *transmigration* has been discussed as a synonymous manner of referring to transit migration. But, even if there is a wealth of international literature on this concept in the academic field, how is transit migration currently discussed? What kind of migratory processes can be grasped through the lens of transit migration? What does transit migration refer to? What is a transmigrant? How and where does this kind of migration take place? What are the social processes originating from this type of human movements?

This seminar seeks to better understand the social (inter)relations occurring in the ‘in-between’ of irregularized migration. We will analyze the diverse encounters happening between people on the move, things and places along the irregularized migratory routes in the Americas. We will study diverse migratory corridors (in South America, Central America, Mexico and the U.S.) to deepen the understanding of irregular migration ‘from below.’ In spite of increased attention on irregularized migrants, there is still a lack of discussions about the implications of such migratory processes in migrants’ life trajectories and their encounters with other actors, things, and places taking part of this mobility phenomenon. In this seminar, we will look into the interior of everyday life of irregularized migration: emotions, negotiations, contestations, ‘tactics of survival’, gendered practices, health, among others, built around this kind of human movements.

Requirements: The examination performance is composed as follows:

Active participation 20%, oral presentations 45%, and final project 35%.

Depending on the interest and skills of each student, you will have the option to choose one of these alternatives to be produced and submitted as a final project:

1: Final Essay (6.000 words, excluding references, Times New Roman 12, APA citationstyle, double spacing)

2: Podcast: at least 30 minutes recorded and developed as audio product.

Details and guidelines for each of these formats, or any other audio-visual or narrative project that might work as a final project, can be discussed in class. 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 lecturers during in-office hours.

4. Literature and Culture

Lecture: Literary Dissenters

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

Dr. Annika Elstermann

MO: 18:15-19:45; **Neue Universität, lecture hall 14**

Course Description:

Generally, consensus among a large group of people is seen as desirable for society – but what about the few who disagree? This year's lecture series will be all about dissenters: How are those individuals who oppose a majority opinion portrayed in literature? Are they brave heroes or grumbling malcontents – or even dangerous outsiders? How do they fare within the story, and how are they treated and presented by the text? How have content and communication of dissent changed over time (or not)? At what points have authors themselves opposed a dominant ideology, and what were the consequences?

Looking at dissenters in texts from very different geographical, temporal, and political contexts will also give us an opportunity to shed some light on the majority stance presented in those texts, as well as different approaches to society and community, the individual, values, and compromise (or lack thereof).

As always, this will be a joint venture featuring different members of the English Department in individual sessions. This means that you will benefit not only from expertise in different subsections of literary history, but also from different voices and points of view every week.

If you wish to obtain credit points for this lecture, you will be asked to submit a response paper. Administrative details will be explained in due course.

Lecture: U.S. Literary Culture Since 1945

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

Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt

MO: 11:15-12:45, Heuscheuer 1

Course Description:

This course of lectures will review literary trends in US culture since WWII. Our main focus will lie on important aesthetic and cultural trends of this period that include the Beat Movement, the Black Aesthetic, postmodernist discourse, neorealist writing and ethnic fiction. We will also pay close attention to mid- and late-twentieth-century cultural socio-institutional and medial transformations relevant to the literary field in the US in this period.

Texts: Most of the shorter primary texts are contained in the Norton and Heath anthologies of American Literature. For a list of relevant fiction, see the first session. General introductory readings can be found in Sacvan Bercovitch, Cambridge History of American Literature, vols. 7 and 8, and Mark McGurl, *The Program Era* (2009).

Lecture: Language in the Courtroom

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

Prof. Dr. Daniela Landert

THU: 9:15-10:45, Neue Uni, lecture hall 15

Course Description:

This lecture course will explore the role of language in the courtroom, with special focus on US jury trials. In this setting, language plays an especially important role when it comes to persuading jury members of the innocence or guilt of a defendant and the credibility of witnesses. In the first part of the lecture course we will look at the participation framework of courtroom interaction. Different participants in the courtroom have different communicative rights and different goals which are reflected in their communicative practices. We will study speech acts and communication styles that are characteristic of courtroom interaction and we

will look at how lawyers try to persuade the jury and how witnesses try to establish credibility through their language use.

We will then take a closer look at historical data from courtrooms in the early modern period, both in England and the US. The discussion will cover trials of historical and cultural significance, such as treason trials and the Salem witchcraft trials. We will explore central differences between trials in the early modern period and present-day US jury trials and we will discuss the role of data from historical trials for linguistic research. Trial proceedings and witness depositions are valuable data for historical linguistics because they provide evidence of the language use of lower social status groups, who are underrepresented in many other types of written documents that have survived from earlier periods.

In the final part of the lecture, we will turn to some recent trends in forensic linguistics. These include studies on the role of language as evidence, e.g. in establishing authorship of texts, as well as research on language use that constitutes a punishable offence, such as defamation. The lecture will conclude with a written exam (pass/fail).

Learning objectives:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- describe the communicative roles, rights and styles of different courtroom participants in US jury trials.
- identify and describe typical characteristics of legal language with linguistic terminology.
- describe the concept of legal speech acts and illustrate it with suitable examples.
- describe the role of historical courtroom data for linguistics and illustrate it with reference to suitable examples.
- describe selected methods of forensic linguistics (authorship analysis, voice profiling and comparison, speaker identification), including their limitations.

Registration: via SignUp. For questions concerning sign-up procedures, please contact Claudia Schmidt at sekretariat.landert@as.uni-heidelberg.de

Texts:

Students should read the following book as companion to the lecture course:

Durant, Alan, and Janny HC Leung. 2016. Language and Law. A Resource Book for Students. Routledge English Language Introductions. Oxford/New York: Routledge.

The book is freely available in electronic form through the library catalogue HEIDI. And additional compulsory readings will be made available on Moodle.

Advanced Seminar: What is Contemporary Literature?

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

PD Dr. Philipp Löffler

THU: 9:15-10:45, HCA Stucco

Course Description:

In this class, we are reading a selection of texts – mostly fiction, some poetry – that have shaped the most recent developments in Anglo-American literature and have been referred to as “contemporary”. In approaching these texts and their surrounding critical debates, we will ask questions about the particular nature of the “contemporary”. When did literature become contemporary? What came before? And how can we describe this transition? If there is something like “the contemporary,” what are its constitutive features? These and related questions will guide our readings as we trace the evolution of US and European literature since the 1990s. At the end of the seminar, students will be able to talk comfortably about labels such as “New Sincerity”, “Millennial Fiction,” or “Turn to Memoir” (and some more) while positioning the texts these rubrics represent against the literary legacies of 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, most prominently postmodernism.

This seminar is fairly reading intensive and suited in particular for students with literary-theoretical leanings.

Texts:

Please buy and read:

Bret Easton Ellis, *American Psycho*

Katsuo Ishiguro, *The Buried Dragon*

Ben Lerner, *Leaving the Atocha Station*

Claudia Rankine, *Citizen*

Otessa Moshfegh, *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*

Advanced Seminar: Sincerity and Authenticity in American Literature

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

PD Dr. Philipp Löffler

THU: 16:15-17:45, English Department, 122

Course Description:

This seminar explores a variety of texts in American literature of the post-45 period that all share a commitment to forms and expressions of sincerity and authenticity. In that, they oscillate between varieties of realism, seeking to craft most reliable representations of specific social worlds, and versions of confessionalism, in which the truth of the narrative hinges on the purest and most immediate forms of self-expression. These literary explorations of authenticity have come in a number of different shapes and genres, challenging the more experimental, fabulist literatures of the post-45 era that we typically identify with postmodernism and its aftermath.

Reading post-45 US literature against the grain of postmodernism proper, we will explore the epistemological, spiritual-therapeutic, and ethno-political dimensions of sincerity and authenticity. We will start out by reading J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* and a number of shorter texts that became well-known in the context of the so-called Beat Generation. We will then explore the poetics of the confessional poets. Here, we will focus on Sylvia Plath's novel *The Bell-Jar* as well as a number of her and Anne Sexton's poetry. The third section of the seminar is devoted to neo-realist literatures of the 1980s and 1990s. Our main example will be Richard Ford. We will conclude the seminar with a fourth section, in which we investigate the New Sincerity movement of the 2010s and 2020s. Ben Lerner and Karl-Ove Knausgaard will serve as our representative authors.

This will be a reading intensive seminar. Please make sure your schedule allows for the time necessary to prepare the individual sessions throughout the term.

Texts:

Please buy and read the following books:

J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*

Sylvia Plath, *The Bell-Jar*

Richard Ford, Independence Day

Ben Lerner, Leaving the Atocha Station

Karl-Ove Knausgaard, A Man in Love (My Struggle 2)

Advanced Seminar: Literature Turned Spectacle: Performative Practices in 19th Century U.S.-American Culture

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

PD Dr. Margit Peterfy

WED: 14:15-15:45, English Department, 110

Course Description:

In this seminar, we will discuss 19th-century literary texts alongside performative adaptations that can be termed "spectacles" because they emphasized pluri-medial aesthetic experiences instead of the written word. Americans in this era were not just enthusiastic readers of literature, but also frequent theatre-goers. In their search for ever new forms of engagement with literature, they also created and attended other forms of public performances based on literary texts, many of which involved their own participation in one way or another. In this seminar, we will look at a sample of these hybrid performative genres, such as burlesques, musicals, tableaux vivants, melodramas, carnivals, vaudeville productions, extravaganzas, pageants, etc. We will examine these examples of American culture with the critical tools of literary, performance, and media studies, and with the help of digital archives and electronic databases.

Requirements for HS:

Participation in classroom discussions, oral presentation, term paper

Requirement for PS III:

Participation in classroom discussions, oral presentation and term paper, or oral exam.

Advanced Seminar: Authorship and the Making of Literary Prestige

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

Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt

TUE: 16:15-17:45, English Department, 122

Course Description:

This course will examine the socio-institutional aspects of literary authorship. Looking at developments since the 1960s, we will explore how the space of the literary has adapted to such structural changes as the education revolution, the expansion of academic creative writing, and the new marketing regimes epitomized by conglomerating publishers, deal-brokering literary agents, and new and digital delivery systems. Our focus lies on the making of literary authority: We will look at the relevance and function of literary prizes, and explore how curators and institutions distinguish the prize-worthy from apparently lesser forms (“middlebrow,” “genre fiction,” etc.). We will also frame the question of literary value in transcultural terms: How does authority emerge in world-literary space? Who gets to divide the world into perceived “centers” and “peripheries”? And how does the making of literary prestige relate to democratic representation (“another white male European Nobel winner this year”)? We will look at research from a variety of disciplines (literary sociology, publishing studies, book history, cultural studies), but also consider how the realities of authorship present themselves in the fiction, paratexts, and self-ethnographies of contemporary writers.

Texts:

Please by the following two texts:

Rebecca F. Kuang, *Yellowface* (2023)

Emma Healey, *Best Young Woman Job Book: A Memoir* (2022).

All other materials will be provided on Moodle by the beginning of term.

5. History

Advanced Seminar: Washington: Exploring the History of the U.S. Capital, 1790-2020s

Eligibility: Main Module History, Research Module History

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach

THU: 14:15 – 15:45, **HCA, Oculus**

Course Description:

Washington is a place of paradoxes. “A city of Southern efficiency and Northern charm,” as John F. Kennedy sardonically quipped, it is the administrative center of a superpower but also a town that regularly fails at snow removal. Congressional hearings and gangland murders used to occur in close proximity. Designed to symbolize the American experiment of liberty, democracy, and self-determination, the city has been riven by corruption, polarized by race, and populated by residents whom Congress denied home rule until 1973 and who spitefully sport license plates complaining about “taxation without representation,” given that they can still only send a single, non-voting representative to the U.S. House (and none to the Senate). In this course, we will take a closer look at these paradoxes, survey a variety of political, social and cultural issues, explore attendant primary source collections, and aspire to interpret these sources in light of current historiographies. You will be asked to introduce one of the course’s topics through an oral presentation and submit a well-argued and fully documented term paper (15-20 pp.) by the end of the semester. After taking this course, you will have practiced surveying the literature on a specific subject, developed your skills of analyzing and contextualizing primary sources, and improved your ability to craft a historical argument both orally and in writing—and you will, hopefully, have become an expert on the history of the U.S. capital!

Suggested Readings:

Tom Lewis, *Washington: A History of Our National City*. New York: Basic Books, 2015.

Chris Myers Ash and George Derek Musgrove, *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation’s Capital*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017.

Other Events & Classes

Key Concepts in American Studies

Eligibility: Flexibility Module

PD Dr. Philipp Löffler

FRI: 11:15-12:45, **HCA Stucco**

Registration: Via e-mail to philipp.loeffler@as.uni-heidelberg.de

Course Description:

This course is meant to offer an in-depth conversation about key concepts and methodologies in American Studies. We will look at the various disciplines within our field and see how certain topics and concepts transcend disciplinary demarcations.

The course has three main objectives: First and foremost, it is designed as a forum for students to ask and discuss all of the questions that they have always wanted to ask about their field of study but never could, especially in light of the developments in academia during the pandemic in recent years (online teaching, lack of face-to-face interaction with peers and lecturers, online research instead of the traditional library browsing). We want you to get an idea of what it means to be an Americanist, which intellectual traditions informed our discipline, and attempt to answer the question “What should you know if you consider yourself an Americanist at the end of your program?”

Second, we want to offer students with fairly developed study projects the opportunity to revisit crucial moments in the institutional history of our discipline. We will read central theoretical essays and try to get a sense of how our understanding of what we do as Americanists today relates to and perpetuates the legacies of earlier practitioners. Our goal is to answer specific questions, for instance, how your own work is related to earlier traditions of Americanist scholarship, how to define certain -isms, and how they, in turn, define and influence our analysis (progressivism, conservatism, feminism, historicism etc.).

Third, we want to provide an additional platform to discuss and advance your projects. This part is meant to provide an opportunity to understand the skills of developing research questions, forming a thesis from the information you have gathered, and outlining an essay in

accordance with its underlying theoretical background. This section will get you the tools necessary for writing convincing academic papers.

Requirements:

regular and active participation, oral presentation, final exam

Book Club: Hot off the Press

Eligibility: Flexibility Module

Dr. Heiko Jakubzik and Annika Elstermann

WED: 16:15-17:45, **English Department, 113**

Registration: in 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.