

## Bookable Lectures for Students

### **„We Gon’ Be Alright:” African American History through Music“**

Speaker: Dr. Bärbel Harju, Amerika-Institut LMU München

This lecture examines African American history through music. From work songs and spirituals of the times of slavery to jazz, blues, and bebop of the Harlem Renaissance; from the anthems of the Civil Rights Movement to hip hop and today’s diverse soundtrack of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, we will take a closer look at how music reflects and shapes the social context in which it is created and performed.

### **Immigration, Refugees, and Nativism**

Speaker: Dr. Andreas Etges, Amerika-Institut LMU München

Until World War I, millions of German, Irish, Italian and other European “Auswanderer” immigrated to the United States, desperately trying to leave serious economic and social problems in their homelands behind. Catholics frequently faced strong rejection by nativist groups that considered them a danger to American society. From the 1920s to 1965 a restrictive quota system made it much more difficult to immigrate. How to deal with large numbers of refugees is still a very controversial topic in the United States. Looking at a time when millions of Europeans were “economic refugees” offers a valuable comparative perspective on how we have been dealing with the current refugee crisis.

### **Academic Writing and the W-Seminar in English (or How to Write an Academic Paper)**

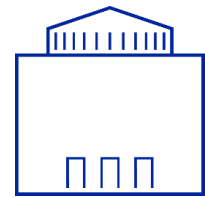
Speaker: Dr. Amy Mohr

This presentation reveals the process of writing an academic paper in English with an overview and examples drawn from the students’ individual topics. Designed to motivate, organize, and reduce stress, the presentation helps the students understand how to develop their topic and communicate the significance of their project. The seminar will be adapted to the needs of the class

### **Harper Lee**

Speaker: Dr. Amy Mohr

Author of *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) and *Go Set a Watchman* (2015), Harper Lee’s life and works have captured America’s literary imagination. This presentation will give an overview of her life, her classic novel’s historical and cultural significance, and the ongoing literary debates about her work. We will also consider the presence of her novel in American popular culture with reference to the 1962 film and the recent Broadway adaptation.



## **Populism and Popular Culture**

Speaker: Dr. Sascha Pöhlmann

The recent resurgence of populism is often framed in political terms in the public debate. However, it also has a strong cultural component that is often neglected. This lecture will discuss populism at the intersection of politics and aesthetics by exploring potential connections between populism and popular culture. This exploration will introduce a selection of theories of populism as well as popular culture and then draw on numerous examples from American culture, including painting, literature, music, comics and video games.

## **Studying Video Games: Culture, Technology, Ideology**

Speaker: Dr. Sascha Pöhlmann

Video games are arguably the most pervasive and successful entertainment medium of the twenty-first century, and they have developed into an important cultural force, as gaming is no longer a subcultural but a general phenomenon that is not restricted to any particular age, gender, class, or other identity category. This interactive lecture approaches this vast field from a variety of perspectives, exploring historical and technological developments, contemporary cultural and ideological implications regarding identity issues of gender and race, as well as ecological and economical aspects, with the overall goal to show—in theory and by example—some of the many ways in which to study video games.

## **Dry Times: Alcohol and the United States in the 1920s**

Speaker: Dr. Nadine Klopfer

This lecture examines the U.S. in the 1920s through the lens of Prohibition, the nationwide ban on alcohol that was enacted 100 years ago. Originating in the 19th century temperance movement and strongly promoted by women, Prohibition shaped the economy, politics, society, and culture of the entire decade. We will explore the circumstances leading to Prohibition, its enforcement, its impact during the “Roaring Twenties”, or “Jazz Age”, and its repercussions in American society until today. Key topics such as the role of anti-immigrant politics, the First World War and anti-German propaganda, the emergence of the “new woman” and youth culture, the violent boom of organized crime, the revival of the Ku Klux Klan and more will be discussed – as related to drinks.

Sollten Sie interessiert sein, senden Sie bitte eine Mail an [bibliothek@amerikahaus.de](mailto:bibliothek@amerikahaus.de)

**Ihre Anfrage wird an den jeweiligen Referenten weitergeleitet, mit dem Sie direkt Termin, Honorar, Länge der Veranstaltung etc. vereinbaren können.**

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