

<b>Veranstalter</b>	<b>Prof. Dr. Astrid Böger</b>
<b>Thema; Modulbezug</b>	<b>Visions of America: From Tocqueville to Trump</b> [ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-13, AA7, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-MA01, AA-MA02, AA-MA03, AA-MA04]
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b>	<b>Seminar II</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b>	<b>53-562</b>
<b>Zeit</b>	<b>Di 16-18</b>
<b>Raum</b>	<b>Digital (per Zoom)</b>
<b>Beginn</b>	<b>06.04.2021</b>

**Course Description:**

Throughout its history, America has served as a projection surface for myriad and often conflicting desires, fears, and fantasies. Thus, at the outset European explorers expected to find paradise in what they saw as ‘the new world’, their vision clashing with that of the indigenous populations already there. Over the decades and centuries, America has continued to hold great fascination for both natives and people coming from elsewhere. In this seminar, we will take a close look at some of their contributions across literary and visual media. These will include, among others, Alexis de Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America* (1835); *Picturesque America* (1872); *The Plow that Broke the Plains* (dir. Pare Lorentz, 1936); John Steinbeck’s *Grapes of Wrath* (1939); Ralph Ellison, *The Invisible Man* (1952); Robert Frank’s *The Americans* (1955); and Jean Baudrillard’s *America* (1988). Finally, we will also engage with critical views of America during the Trump presidency, such as those included in *Trump’s America. Political Culture and National Identity* (ed. by Liam Kennedy, Edinburgh Univ. Press, 2020). All texts will be made available online.

Requirements for receiving full course credit: Regular attendance and active participation; thorough knowledge of the texts assigned, via careful reading/preparation; completion of short assignments and/or in-class presentations, as well as a term paper of ca. 15 pages to be completed by the end of the semester (September 30, 2021).

<b>Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:</b>	Mo 14:00-15:00 (telefonisch oder per E-Mail)
<b>Sprechstunde in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:</b>	Termine werden noch bekannt gegeben