



# **American Studies**

## **Courses for MEAS**

Winter Term 2024/2025

## Office hours winter term 2024/2025

Name	Office hours	Room PT	Phone: 943-
SCHLARB, Prof. DR. Damien Lehrstuhlvertretung	Tuesday, 15:00-16:00 Wednesday, 15:00-16:00	3.2.73	3478
DEPKAT, Prof. Dr. Volker	Tuesday, 14:00-15:00 Thursday, 13:00-14:00	3.2.71	3476
HEBEL-BAURIDL, Dr. Birgit	Thursday, 14:00-15:00	3.2.85	3509
DEXL, Dr. Carmen	Thursday, 09:00-10:00	3.2.70	3475
GOTTESWINTER, Lena	Tuesday, 15:30-16:30	3.2.83	3507
HEGER, Tamara	Tuesday, 10:00-11:00 and by appointment	3.2.86	3510
WEYMANN-TESCHKE, Dr. Stefanie	Wednesday, 12:30-13:30 and by appointment	3.2.83	3507
FRIEBEL, Antonia	Wednesday, 15:00-16:00	3.3.88	3429
GEBAUER, Dr. Amy	Monday, 10:00-12:00	3.3.88	3429
STETLER, Dr. Julia	Tuesday, 8.30-9.30 via Zoom  Thursday 10-11 in PT 3.2.88	3.2.888	1809

Registration for office hours is obligatory!  
Please send an email to  
firstname.lastname@ur.de to register  
beforehand and make arrangements!

# Amerikanistik (American Studies)

## Lecture

**35804 "Nineteenth-Century African-American History, 1815–1914" Depkat**

Module: ENGYM-M32A.1 (4.0), AMST-M32.1 (4.0), AMST-M23.3 (4.0), ENG-UF-WB (4.0), WB-IAA, EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Vorlesung, SWS 2

Tag	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Beginn	Ende	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	08:30	10:00	s.t			Gr 1	H3	Depkat	

The lecture will discuss the major topics, problems, contexts and transformations of African-American history in the period from the end of the War of 1812 to the eve of World War I. This period saw the expansion, differentiation, and collapse of slavery as a “system of many systems” in an emerging cotton-industrial-complex. The rise of an increasingly vociferous and militant abolitionist movement is as much part of nineteenth-century African-American history as are the Civil War that abolished slavery and the period of Reconstruction that held open a window of change in race relations, if only for a short period of time. The final third of the century discussed in this lecture saw the advent of Jim Crow in the South and the beginnings of black resistance against this system of racial segregation. At the same time, African Americans became a growing presence also in the rapidly growing urban centers of the North. In discussing all these major problems of nineteenth-century African American history, the lecture transcends conventional periodizations and opens up new perspectives on the (dis)continuities of the American past.

Readings: Lois E. Horton and James Oliver Horton, *Hard Road to Freedom: The Story of Black America* (2 vols., New York: Oxford UP, 2022); Thomas C. Holt and Elsa Barkley Brown, eds., *Major Problems in African-American History: Volume 1: From Slavery to Freedom, 1619–1877: Documents and Essays* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000); the same, eds., *Major Problems in African American History: Volume 2: From Freedom to ‘Freedom Now,’ 1865–1990s* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).  
Credit requirement: final exam (for BA, LA); final exam on Thursday, February 6, 2025, 8:30am–10:00; room tba, and book review (for MA)

## First Semester MA Courses in European American Studies

**35846 Fundamentals and Frames of Transnational American Studies Hebel-Bauridl**

Module: EAS-M1.1 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch.	14:00	16:00	c.t.				ZH 5	Hebel-Bauridl	

The course introduces students to key methods and theories of the interdisciplinary field of American Studies on graduate level. It discusses perspectives that are central for an understanding of both core agendas of the discipline and its development toward *Transnational* American Studies. First, it critically reflects on central concepts and issues such as nation, globalization, identity, ethnicity, gender, memory, or neoliberalism, settler colonialism, and racial grammar. Second, it traces approaches to American Studies as a discipline from its beginnings to the so-called New American Studies and recent frameworks of Post-Exceptionalist and Transnational American Studies. Third, it engages in a critical discussion of recent theoretical and methodological trends shaped by the visual, performative, spatial, and transnational turns in American Studies. This course is based on central theoretical and methodological texts, which will be available on GRIPS.

Course requirement: oral presentation.

Credit requirements: *Modulprüfung* (module exam: Theories, Approaches, Methods); Final exam: February 9, 2024, 9am–noon (120mins), tba. All course materials will be available on GRIPS. Credit

for: MEAS.

**35847 Theories and Concepts in European-American Studies Hebel-Bauridl**

Module: EAS-M1.2 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.				ZH 5	Hebel-Bauridl	

Approaching European-American Studies within the frameworks of Transnational American Studies and Critical Area Studies, this course introduces students to scholarly theories that are central for a critical understanding of past and present European-American relations, negotiations, trajectories, exchanges, and entanglements as well as their impact on other areas in the world. First, the course discusses key concepts of American Studies and related interdisciplinary fields that are at the core of European-American Studies, e.g. space, mobility, or region. Second, it debates transnational approaches to American Studies that specifically inform the project of European-American Studies, e.g. circumatlantic and transatlantic studies as well as critical (transnational) regionalism and new/critical area studies. Third, it traces transnational dimensions of concepts of American Studies that allow for a particularly apt investigation of topics from the field of European-American Studies, e.g. contact zones, cultural transfer, transnational / European-American memory, transnational intertextuality, etc. This course is based on central theoretical and conceptual texts, which will be available on GRIPS.

Course requirement: oral presentation.

Credit requirements: *Modulprüfung* (module exam: Theories, Approaches, Methods); Final exam: February 9, 2024, 9am–noon (120mins.), tba. All course materials will be available on GRIPS. Credit for: MEAS.

**35848 Readings and Sources in European-American Cultural Relations I: From the Beginning through the End of the 19th Century Depkat**

Module: EAS-M2.1 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.	15.10.2024	26.11.2024		ZH 6	Depkat	
Do	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.	17.10.2024	28.11.2024		ZH 5	Depkat	

On the basis of key texts and visual documents, we will discuss mutual perceptions, political interaction, social ties, and cultural exchange between Europe and the United States from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Among the topics covered in this course are Europe's colonial expansion into the New World, eighteenth-century debates about progress and decline, European-American relations in the "Age of Atlantic Revolutions," migration history, and American capitalism and notions of modernity.

Course requirement: presentation.

Credit requirements: *Modulprüfung* (module exam: Readings I and Readings II; tba).

Reading: All course materials will be available on GRIPS. Credit for: MEAS

**35849 Readings and Sources in European-American Cultural Relations II: The 20th and 21st Centuries Depkat**

Module: EAS-M2.2 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.	3.12.2024	4.2.2025		ZH 6	Depkat	
Do	wöch.	16:00	18:00	c.t.	5.12.2024	06.2.2025		ZH 5	Depkat	

On the basis of key texts and visual documents, we will discuss mutual perceptions, political interaction, social ties, and cultural exchange between Europe and the United States in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Among the topics covered in this course are the World Wars,

the Cold War and the “War on Terror”, the Americanization of Europe, the formation of consumer societies, twentieth-century Euro-American pop culture, and the current state of European-American relations.

Course requirement: presentation.

Credit requirements: *Modulprüfung* (module exam: Readings I and Readings II; tba).

Reading: All course materials will be available on GRIPS. Credit for: MEAS

## Seminars in European American Studies

**35840** “Digital Games and American Culture: Approaches to New Media, Technology, and Culture” **Schlarb**  
(Topics in Mobilities and Cultural Transfers, EAS-M4)

Module: EAS-M4.1 (8.0), EAS-M4.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0), EGW-M09.3

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch	10:00	12:00	c.t.				H7	Schlarb	

This graduate seminar explores digital games (“video games” or “computer games”) as a characteristic form of 21<sup>st</sup>-century American digital media and technology cultures. The course doubles as a survey of major topics in technology culture and as an introduction to the field of Digital Game Studies. Video games present a major culture industry, one whose revenue and profits starkly outrank other industries like film, literature, and music (approx. 280-347 billion \$ revenue worldwide in 2022). Given this economic footprint, we may ask whether and how games matter culturally. Are games a characteristic form for our cultural moment? Do they produce culture? That is, do they allow us to engage with our own attitudes, thinking, and histories? Do they enable us to confront our actual (vs. our stated) values? And if so, how do they generate meanings? The class tries to answer these questions within the methodological framework of American Studies. We proceed in **three steps**: (1) We begin by exploring the categories relevant for formally analyzing video games, for example algorithmically enforced rules, embodiment in virtual worlds, designed agencies, and procedurality. Video games differ from other texts (literature, film, TV) in that they embody us in simulations of reality and make us act in specific ways within their virtual worlds. Hence, we must critically analyze the designs of these agencies and worlds to determine what they mean. (2) We then create a contextual frame of reference for our interpretations by surveying the political and technical underpinnings of contemporary American technology culture, for instance the logics of algorithms, software formalism, solutionism, neoliberal surveillance and platform capitalism. This survey allows us to think critically about the contexts video games exist in and to parse out how (by what formal means) they make us co-generate meanings and participate in ideologies. We will read texts from diverse academic disciplines and fields, such as Game Studies, Media Studies, Philosophy, Computer Science, and Sociology. (3) We will discuss select games and craft our own sample interpretations.

**Note:** you do **not** have to be an avid “gamer” or especially technology savvy to participate.

**Methodology / Final Papers:** We will employ a critical-analytical and historicist methodology. We will treat games as a kind of text that exists in specific contexts. The goal of our work (class discussion and final papers) will be to establish critical readings that make a case for what games mean and how we should think about them. Meanings are not obvious or self-explanatory, we must argue for them by presenting evidence, conducting analysis and research, and, finally, by offering an interpretation. Our discussions and your final papers will draw on both the methods and theories we cover in class **and** on the approaches and critical theories you already know from other classes. Considerations like the materiality of games, the production processes behind them, and the (online) communities and affects that form around them may inform those interpretations, but ultimately, your readings must take a stand on a complex problem (e.g., the colonial politics of *Civilization*, the gender performances in *Horizon Zero Dawn*, the rendering of immigration and totalitarianism in *Papers, Please*) and present compelling evidence for your position.

Topics: American Studies, technology, video games, culture, software, play, rules, procedures

Credit requirement CSAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of

ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: advanced academic writings in English (ca. 15 pages).

Credit requirement master's program: prior to WS 2018/19: presentation and final research paper (ca. 15 pages for 8 CP or ca. 20 pages for 10 CP, depending on credit type); master's program as of WS 2018/19: presentation and proposal for a possible research paper (5 pp.).

Please also check the *Modulbeschreibung*: [Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de)

All course materials will be made available on GRIPS.

**35842 “De/Mobilizing Race: Black Identities and Contemporary Visual Culture” (Topics in Mobilities and Cultural Transfers, EAS-M4) Hebel-Bauridl**

Module: EAS-M4.1 (8.0), EAS-M4.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	12:00	14:00	s.t.				ZH 4	Hebel-Bauridl	

This course investigates the construction of Black identities in and the socio-political role of contemporary visual culture. Examples will range from visual arts and photography to graffiti and muralism, from film to protest performance, and ultimately to virtual realities, algorithms, and Artificial Intelligence. Taking a critical perspective, the course will center on key questions of social in/justice such as empowerment, participation and equality/equity versus oppression, systemic racism, and white privilege. Thus, we will, for example, analyze political art and protest symbolism of the Black Lives Matter movement, the official portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama, film and streaming series such as *The Photograph* (2020), *Seven Seconds* (2018), or the flight & migration movie *The Swimmers* (2022), graffiti practices in Philadelphia, the storytelling fabrics and quilts by Bisa Butler, and we will probe and reveal the bias of algorithms, search engines, or AI facial recognition. Last but not least, we will view visual culture as a practice which is both spatially and temporally mobile; i.e. we will discuss our course examples in the context of visual traditions and transnational networks.

Credit requirement CSAAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: advanced academic writings in English (ca. 15 pages).

Credit requirement master's program: prior to WS 2018/19: presentation and final research paper (ca. 15 pages for 8 CP or ca. 20 pages for 10 CP, depending on credit type); master's program as of WS 2018/19: presentation and proposal for a possible research paper (5 pp.). Please also check the *Modulbeschreibung*: [Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de)

All course materials will be made available on GRIPS.

**35843 “The Black Lives Matter Movement: Performing Embodied Protest, Staging Spatial Choreographies” (Topics in Politics and Responsibilities, EAS-M5) Dexl**

Module: EAS-M5.1 (8.0), EAS-M5.2 (8.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST-M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32A.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Do	wöch	10:00	12:00	c.t.				ZH 6	Dexl	

Starting as a form of hashtag activism in response to the shooting of 17-year-old African American teenager Trayvon Martin in 2012 and the acquittal of his murderer, the slogan “Black Lives Matter” has come to designate the guiding principles of a global social and political movement committed to the fight against police brutality, racial and ethnic disparities in the US criminal justice system, the prison industrial complex, and systemic racism.

Drawing on theoretical concepts, methodology, and critical lenses of performance studies (e.g., McKenzy, Schechner, Taylor), we will use this seminar to explore the repertoire of protest tactics

employed by BLM activists with a special focus on 1) their use and conception of the body, 2), their performance of spatial choreographies and appropriation of public space, 3) the role of collectivity, and 4) their embodiment of collective memory and enactment of ritual. We will discuss the significance of new tactics of resistance identified with the BLM movement on the one hand and established action practices derived from other activist movements (e.g., AIDS, anti-war, or environmental activism) and longer traditions of protest (e.g., the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements) on the other hand. Acknowledging the transnational character of the movement, we will attend to the cultural specificity of expressions of resistance and solidarity and, by implication, their adaptation in different cultural contexts. The central aim of the seminar is to highlight the social, cultural, political and epistemological impact of embodied protest).

Credit requirement CSAAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: advanced academic writings in English (ca. 15 pages).

Credit requirement master's program: prior to WS 2018/19: presentation and final research paper (ca. 15 pages for 8 CP or ca. 20 pages for 10 CP, depending on credit type); master's program as of WS 2018/19: presentation and proposal for a possible research paper (5 pp.). Please also check the module catalogs: ([Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de))

Announcements on course materials will be made in the first session. For requirements in other programs, pls. consult the instructor.

**35844 "Object Worlds in American Literature" (Topics in Spaces, Regions, Spheres, EAS-M3) Weymann-Teschke**

Module: EAS-M3.1 (8.09; EAS-M3.2 (7.0), EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0), AMST-M32.2 (5.0), AMST M32.3 (7.0), ENGYM-M32A.2 (5.0), ENGYM-M32.3 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS: 2, Max. Teilnehmer: 15

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch	14:00	16:00					ZH 6	Weymann-Teschke	

In this seminar we will explore the significance and role of objects/things in American literature to assess their narrative potential. After establishing a theoretical framework with which to approach objects and things in their spatiality and temporality (via Arjun Appadurai, Bill Brown and Bruno Latour, for example), we will read works from different periods in American literary history and consider their engagement with material culture, the interaction of the animate and inanimate and specifically the encounters between characters, things and places that they dramatize. Here, objects may present themselves as ornaments or symbols, tell stories, connect characters and places, become extensions of self or remain obstinately other, but they invariably open complex worlds which we will investigate and analyze closely. Among the 'materials' to study are works by Sarah Orne Jewett, Edith Wharton, Ralph Ellison, William Carlos Williams or Ruth Ozeki.

All course materials will be announced/made available on GRIPS.

Credit requirement CSAAdv. (LA/BA): advanced academic writings in English (research paper of ca. 10 pp.).

Credit requirement HS LA/BA: advanced academic writings in English (ca. 15 pages).

Credit requirement master's program: prior to WS 2018/19: presentation and final research paper (ca. 15 pages for 8 CP or ca. 20 pages for 10 CP, depending on credit type); master's program as of WS 2018/19: presentation and proposal for a possible research paper (5 pp.). Please also check the module catalogs:

([Modulbeschreibungen \(uni-regensburg.de\)](http://Modulbeschreibungen.uni-regensburg.de))

For requirements in other programs, pls. consult the instructor.

## Kurse anderer Lehrstühle und Institute im Master-Programm MEAS (Courses Offered by Other Departments for our M.A. Program MEAS)

**80230** "Antisemitismuskritik und Rassismuskritik zusammen denken // Countering both: Antisemitism and Racism" **Brüske, Beyer**

Module: EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Seminar, SWS 2

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch	8:30	10:00	s.t.				S 214	Brüske, Beyer	

Course description: Please see online course catalog (SPUR).

**80900** "Intersektionalität von den Americas aus gedacht" **Brüske**

Module: EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Ringvorlesung, SWS 2

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Fr.	einzel	09:00	17:00	s.t.	8.11.2024	8.11.2024		tba	Brüske	
Do	wöch	16	18	s.t.				H25	Brüske	

Course description: Please see online course catalog (SPUR).

**33304** "Biden vs. Trump: Die US-Präsidentenwahlen 2024" **Bierling**

Module: EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Vorlesung, SWS 2

Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Di	wöch	16:00	18:00					H22	Bierling	

Course description: Please see online course catalog (SPUR).

**35700** "Language planning and policy" **Leimgruber**

Module: EAS-M7.2 (7.0), EAS-M8.1 (7.0), EAS-M8.2 (7.0)

Vorlesung, SWS 2



Day	Rhyth.	von	bis	Zeit	Anfangsdatum	Enddatum	Gruppe	Raum	Lehrperson	Bemerkung
Mi	wöch	10:00	12:00					H22	Leimgruber	

Course description: Please see online course catalog (SPUR).