

Die Geschäftsführung

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Ergänzungen zu den Lehrveranstaltungen des Englischen Seminars im SoSe 2021

M.A.-Seminar, Cultural Studies US (040170)

U.S.-American Political Culture Late Nineteenth Century - Present, 5 CP

4 hrs per week: Wednesdays and Fridays 14-16

Starting on May 26th and lasting until July 23rd, 2021

ZOOM

Donohue

Drawing on popular films and best-selling novels, this course will examine the ways in which U.S.-Americans have tried and continue to try to make sense of their political world. What did they see as the main threats to democracy? How did they believe these threats should be addressed? How did they define political corruption and what did they believe was the best way to deal with it? How did they understand the media and its role in the political sphere? What role did they reserve for citizens? The ways in which Americans answered such questions changed over time, depending on the political events and the historical forces of the day. But those answers go a long way toward making sense of the current U.S.-American political landscape.

Mandatory Reading:

Adams, Henry. *Democracy*

Dionne, E. J. *Why Americans Hate Politics* (excerpt)

Donohue, Kathleen, ed. *Liberty and Justice for All?* (excerpt)

Katznelson, Ira. *Fear Itself* (excerpt)
Proctor, Nicholas. *Chicago, 1968*.
Ryan, Mary. *Civic Wars* (excerpt)
1968 Democratic National Convention: CBS News Coverage (video)

All the above texts will be available on Moodle.

Mandatory Films:

Birth of a Nation (1915)
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)
Advise & Consent (1962)
Dr. Strangelove (1964)
Seven Days in May (1964)
One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975)
All the President's Men (1976)
Dave (1993)
Airforce One (1997)
Lincoln (2012)
Trial of the Chicago 7 (2020)

Students are responsible for watching films on their own.

Assessment/requirements: *Übung*: regular attendance, active participation, written assignments, quizzes; *Seminar*: the above plus four 3-page papers.

If you want to take the course, please contact Prof. Donohue herself at donoh1k@cmich.edu
a.s.a.p.

M.A.-Übung, Cultural Studies US (040207)

U.S.-American Civic Wars, 1860-1970, 3 CP

4 hrs per week: Wednesdays and Fridays 10-12

Starting on May 26th and lasting until July 23rd, 2021

ZOOM

Donohue

In August 1968, delegates to the Democratic National Convention gathered in Chicago to determine their party platform's position on domestic issues as well as a policy on Vietnam and to choose a candidate for President. Meanwhile, in the streets outside the convention hall thousands of protesters drew on the methods of the civil rights movement to bend the Democrats to their will, while a pugnacious Mayor Richard Daley encouraged police to respond aggressively to the unrest in the streets. A little over a century earlier, in the crisis unleashed by Lincoln's election in 1860, members of the Kentucky legislature determined how to reconcile varied motivations, interests, and ideologies as the nation rushed headlong toward, war and the political and military situation seemed to change almost daily.

Drawing on Reacting to the Past, an active-learning pedagogy designed for higher education, students in this course will explore these two moments of deep division in U.S.-American history. They will take on roles, research their historical characters, and then debate critical issues with their fellow classmates. Should Kentucky remain within the Union or should it secede and join the Confederacy? How does a nation torn apart over issues of race, gender, the War in Vietnam, and abuses of government power balance political order and democratic freedoms? Answers to such questions will shed light on not only two defining moments in U.S.-American history but also on the political struggles and challenges the nation faces today.

Mandatory Reading:

Nicholas W. Proctor, *Kentucky, 1861: Loyalty, State, and Nation*

Nicholas W. Proctor, *Chicago, 1968*

Both will be provided on Moodle.

Assessment/requirements: regular attendance, active participation, written assignments, quizzes.

If you want to take the course, please contact Prof. Donohue herself at donoh1k@cmich.edu a.s.a.p.