

COURSE INFORMATION	
<b>EUPeace Alliance University</b>	University of Marburg
<b>Course Title</b>	Reading Immigrant Autobiographies
<b>Department and/or Faculty</b>	American Studies Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik
<b>Course Code</b>	LV-10-008-542
<b>Course Type</b>	<b>Course Modality</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curricular <input type="checkbox"/> Non-curricular	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Synchronous <input type="checkbox"/> Asynchronous <input type="checkbox"/> Both (A/S)ynchronous
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory
<b>Date</b>	Summer semester 2025, April - July
<b>Language(s) of Instruction</b>	English
<b>Course Coordinator</b>	Prof. Dr. Carmen Birkle
<b>Course Instructor</b>	Prof. Dr. Carmen Birkle

TARGET AUDIENCE
<b>Suitable as Pre-Service Teacher Training Course</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-primary <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary Lower <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary Upper <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary
<b>Suitable as In-Service Professional Development Course</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-primary <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Lower <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Upper <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary
<b>Suitable for non-student body</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other

TYPE – WORKLOAD – RECOGNITION	
<b>Number of hours</b>	360
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>ECTS Credits</b>	12
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Certificate</b>	

COURSE DESCRIPTION (EN/L1 [if taught in L1])
<p><b>Content</b></p> <p>“‘Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history’” (Oscar Handlin in 1951, qtd. in Daniels 7). The idea of the United States as a nation of immigrants supports the strong connection between immigration and nation-building processes. However, this focus does not reveal how embattled immigration has always been and that reasons (push and pull factors) have always differed; that African Americans’ ancestors had forcefully been brought to the “New World”; that Native Americans had migrated to this part of the world long before the nation was established. (Im)Migration almost always implies hardships, suffering, and loss but often also survival, success, and social rise, which is an idea encapsulated in the concept of the American Dream and the from-rags-to-riches myth. In this seminar, we will discuss the history of immigration to the United States from various ethnic perspectives by focusing on immigrant autobiographies (Chinese, Japanese, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Russian, Afghan) depicting departures, journeys, arrivals, and intercultural encounters. Moreover, we will also analyze this phenomenon from the perspective of the receiving end (e.g., welcome vs. nativism, Know-Nothing Party, immigration acts). Phenomena to be investigated are, for example,</p>

ethnic stereotyping, the U.S. as a contact zone, assimilation, integration, transculturation, sexism and racism as well as intersectionality, refugees, old and new immigrants. A brief look at the pre-1607 history will lead us to the first English-speaking settlement of Jamestown and the well-known encounter between the Indigenous population (among them Pocahontas) and early settlers (settler colonialism). We will take the current debate about immigration into account.

---

### **Competences & Learning Objectives**

This class will allow students to gain an in-depth knowledge on the history of immigration to the United States by reading immigrant autobiographies. Students will learn how to approach those life narratives from both a narratological and historical point of view. They will learn to appreciate the diversity of ethnic and gender groups in the United States.

---

### **LINK to Course Details**

[https://ilias.uni-marburg.de/ilias.php?baseClass=ilrepositorygui&ref\\_id=4247414](https://ilias.uni-marburg.de/ilias.php?baseClass=ilrepositorygui&ref_id=4247414)