Depictions of America have always been varied in modern German literature – from the land of new opportunities to the land of wild frontiers, from the land of jazz to the land of Hollywood.

What is America for Germans? How has it been defined and portrayed?

This course aims to familiarize the students with different images of America in German literature by exposing them to the popular and renowned works by modern German speaking authors and directors on American culture.

Starting with a few years before the 20th century with a depiction of America’s Wild West, we will discover and discuss many images of America portrayed through various uniquely shaped German perspectives. Towards the end of the course, we will also read and analyze excerpts from popular German novels and films that have achieved great critical and popular success in the States, thereby contemplating on the images of Germany in the American mind.