



Dear Teachers,

The new year has started and it is bringing fresh and exciting learning opportunities for both you and your students! With educational **teacher trainings**, informative **US-lectures**, and inspiring **Human Rights workshops** your English classroom will have plenty of material to choose from. ☐☐☐

☐ **Teacher Training: Using Film in Class**

Gain practical tools to engage students through film! Led by **Fiona Pleasance**, this teacher training on **March 13th** will help you learn how to analyze **film adaptations**, compare media, and spark meaningful discussions—with ready-to-use strategies and a spotlight on specific works.

☐ **America250 Lectures**

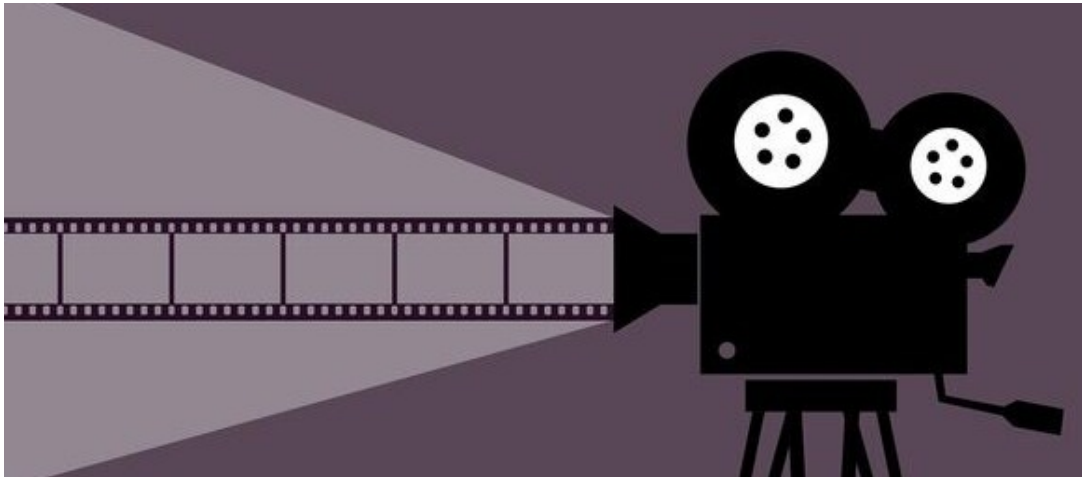
Explore key **U.S. political and civic topics** connected to the nation's 250 year long history, as we launch our **America250 program** with a variety of engaging and educational lectures offered by **Dr. Jonah M. Otto**, Assistant Professor at the University of Augsburg.

☐ **Special Human Rights Workshops**

In honor of various key dates in the international human rights calendar, we are pleased to work with **Corinne Tucker** from [Let them Learn: Empowered Human Rights Hub](#) who is expanding their **Human Rights Education** program with the DAI through a series of specially themed workshops.

Keep reading for more details about each of these exciting opportunities!

Sincerely,
Your DAI Team



Using Film in Class: Film Adaptations of Literary Texts

March 13th, 9:30am–3pm, Filmkunsttheater Casablanca Nürnberg

This teacher training explores what happens when **plays and novels are adapted for film**, beginning with common misconceptions about the adaptation process.

Participants will examine the key similarities and differences between **theatre, literature, and cinema**, and consider how meaning and interpretation shift when texts move from one medium to another.

Designed to support classroom practice, the seminar led by **Fiona Pleasance** provides teachers with practical teaching approaches, film recommendations, and discussion topics to use with their students, with a particular emphasis on screen adaptations of **William Shakespeare's** works.

Please register via [FIBS](#) using the number: 430737-1.

AMERICA250 LECTURES

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, our lecture series with **Dr. Jonah M. Otto** invites students to explore the ideas, events, and individuals that have shaped the nation's political and historical journey. These lectures examine pivotal moments in **U.S. history** and the evolution of **American democracy**, offering students context for how the past continues to influence contemporary politics.

Here's a sneak peek of some of the available lectures:

Commander in Chief: the US Presidency

This talk explores how the U.S. presidency has evolved over 250 years, from the modest office envisioned by the Constitution to one of the world's most powerful political roles. It examines the President's formal and informal powers and what this history reveals about leadership and American democracy today.

Making Judgments: the US Judiciary & Supreme Court

This lecture examines the Supreme Court's 250-year history, its role in shaping constitutional governance, and how it exercises authority. It highlights how past decisions continue to influence American life and why the Court remains a focal point of political and social debate.

Donating Time & Money: the US Nonprofit Sector, Philanthropy & Volunteerism

This talk explores the history and impact of voluntary action in the United States, from early civic traditions to today's nonprofit sector. It examines how philanthropy, volunteerism, and nonprofit work shape American life and the challenges the sector faces as the nation looks to the next 250 years.

Other lectures include:

- **The United States Abroad: the US State Department & Diplomacy**
- **Submitting the Ballot: the US Voting System & Voting Rights**
- **Geographic and Governance Territorialism: US Federalism**
- **Transforming Ideas into Laws: the US Legislative Process**
- **Ivory Tower Universities and Community Colleges: US Higher Education**
- **Defining and Restricting Power in the Federal Government: US Checks and Balances**

To book any lecture, please contact **Kristina Opitz** via programm@dai-nuernberg.de.

Dr. Jonah M. Otto, MPA, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Augsburg. As a German-American dual citizen with an academic and professional background in political science and international relations, his public talks focus on how core U.S. institutions have evolved over time and how historical design choices continue to shape contemporary political, civic, and social life. In the context of the America250 commemoration, his talks invite audiences to reflect on 250 years of American democratic experimentation—highlighting both institutional continuity and change and situating present-day debates within a longer historical and constitutional perspective, and what this means for the future of the transatlantic relationship.



SPECIAL THEMED WORKSHOPS

This season, [Let Them Learn](#) is expanding its **Human Rights Education** program with the DAI through engaging workshops tied to key dates on the international Human Rights calendar. Each workshop gives students hands-on, curriculum-aligned learning that connects history with the pressing issues shaping our world today - inviting reflection on enduring civic ideals as the nation approaches the **America250** milestone.

Designed to deepen civic understanding, build global awareness, and spark meaningful classroom discussions, these workshops also come with [free teaching materials](#) to make integrating human-rights lessons easier than ever.

Empower your students to explore, discuss, and act on human rights—right from your classroom!

While the workshops highlight key dates on the international human rights calendar, they will be offered year-round to give schools flexible opportunities to engage students in human rights learning.

To book any workshops, please email **Kristina Opitz** at programm@dai-nuernberg.de.

JANUARY: MLK Jr. Day



Human Rights Defenders: Their History and Their Impact

January's workshop, offered as an extension of **MLK Jr.'s birthday on the 19th**, explores how individuals and movements push history forward. While we highlight MLK's work, the session goes beyond a single figure to examine human rights defenders across time—from the **Suffragettes** and **Rosa Parks** to **Malala**, and many others students may or may not yet know.

Through these stories, students analyze strategies that challenged injustice and connect them to today's **fight**s for **equality, expression, and inclusion**. The workshop builds moral reasoning and demonstrates how individual courage fuels democratic change, showing that history is made by ordinary people taking extraordinary action.



**FEBRUARY: African-American History
Month**



**Modern-Day Discrimination &
the Black Lives Matter
Movement**

This workshop provides a space for students to confront how discrimination persists and understand why justice movements matter. Through case studies and reflection, they explore race, identity, activism, and the civic responsibilities essential for building more inclusive democracies. Figures such as **Harriet Tubman** and **Frederick Douglass**, featured in the US history unit of the English curriculum, illustrate pivotal moments in African American history, helping students connect these lessons to **African American History Month** and to the broader story of 250 years of the United States, highlighting how struggles for equality have shaped the nation's democratic ideals.

**MARCH: International Women's
Month**



Female Empowerment

This workshop explores the global fight for gender equality, human rights, and social rights, past and present. Students examine the history and evolution of women's rights, from **Malala Yousafzai** to **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, assess global progress toward equality, and discuss the barriers that persist today.

Through discussion and reflection, students explore what advances or restricts **women's rights**, examine leadership and **empowerment** across cultures, and consider what genuine equality looks like today. The workshop supports curriculum goals in ethical reasoning, intercultural competence, and democratic participation, helping students connect these lessons to the broader arc of U.S. history and the nation's ongoing journey toward inclusion and equality over the past 250 years.



Stay tuned - More America250 programs and events for your classroom are coming soon!



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