

## Courses in English Course Description

<b>Department</b>	13 General and Interdisciplinary Studies
<b>Course title</b>	<b>The American Language – History and Culture</b>
<b>Hours per week (SWS)</b>	2
<b>Number of ECTS credits</b>	2
<b>Course objective</b>	This course will explore the connection between language, history and society. In addition, it will enable students to improve their knowledge of English and expand their school English (mostly based on British English) to embrace the Western Hemisphere.
<b>Prerequisites</b>	
<b>Recommended reading</b>	Historical and cultural analysis through the comparative study of languages. A course book with review questions and references to the scientific literature will be provided at the beginning of the semester.
<b>Teaching methods</b>	Lecture with questions and classroom discussion.
<b>Assessment methods</b>	
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English
<b>Name of lecturer</b>	Prof. Dr. Russell Block
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:block@hm.edu">block@hm.edu</a>
<b>Link</b>	
<b>Course content</b>	<p>This was the title of the classic study (1936) by the American journalist H.L. Mencken, in which he attempted to capture the spirit of American speech. In this lecture, we will use Mencken and other more modern sources in order to get an overview of the American language.</p> <p>We will discuss a number of topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The origins of the American Language</li><li>•Why all American dictionaries are called “Websters”</li><li>•The differences between American and British English – pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar</li><li>•Language and society in Great Britain and the USA</li><li>•Black English</li><li>•American dialects</li><li>•Other languages in America</li><li>•Feminism and the American language</li></ul>
<b>Remarks</b>	Regular attendance at the lectures is essential.