

2012 FULBRIGHT AMERICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE

**“Contested Visions: The United States in 2012”
September 16 – 30, 2012**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The German-American Fulbright Commission offers a two week seminar for young German academics entitled “Contested Visions: The United States in 2012”.

Program dates

The seminar will take place from September 16, through September 30, 2012 at the San Francisco State University in San Francisco, California. The program also includes a four-day-excursion to Washington, DC.

Program outline

In September 2012, the United States will be in the midst of a presidential election that seems likely to be the most highly charged in many years. During the seminar, the presidential election will be put in the foreground of the institute by having speakers look at the central issues facing American voters and also use the presidential election as background to explore other ways and other times in which the nation has been engaged in contests over different visions for its future. The theme of "Contested Visions" will be considered from a variety of perspectives, including politics, economics, history, literature, and the visual arts.

The following topics are planned for the American Studies Institute 2012:

- Patterns of political and policy change in American history, with a focus on the recent past
- Domestic policy issues (e.g., health care, the environment, the economy)
- Race, religion, and ethnicity in US politics
- The US in world affairs since 2000
- Art, music, literature and politics, past and present
- The Tea Party and Occupy movements; conservatism and the vanishing left
- The media and politics

The presentations will usually take place at the campus of San Francisco State University at San Francisco, California. We envisage that two-thirds of the Institute will be conducted on-campus through classroom sessions and opportunities for individual research into specific aspects of the program theme. One-third of the program will be devoted to field trips, offering the scholars direct focus-related experiences with the host community, with hallmarks of American culture and society, and personal insights into daily life in the U.S. The field trips currently planned include:

- public murals in San Francisco, some from the 1930s and some more recent
- a day at City Hall meeting with city and state officials
- in Washington, DC, tours of the White House, Capitol, Library of Congress, and National Museum of American History.

Accommodation and visa regulations

Accommodation in San Francisco, California, will be in a hotel in single rooms close to the university campus. Accommodation in Washington, DC, will be in a hotel in double rooms. There is no formal exchange visa required for participation in this program. Participants will travel to the US under the visa waiver program for tourists.

Grant benefits

The Fulbright Commission will cover program-related costs such as accommodation, transatlantic travel roundtrip as well as domestic flight to Washington, DC, (group flight) and health insurance for the duration of the stay.