

Würzburg, 2 October 2025

**Dear students of English and American Studies** at JMU Würzburg,

It is my great pleasure to **welcome you** back to our university this winter semester 2025/26! To those of you joining us for the first time, I'd like to extend a **warm welcome** on behalf of all colleagues. We hope that you will soon feel at home at JMU and actively engage in our **community of readers, researchers, writers, and learners**. The building may look like a construction site from the outside (it is...), but we hope you will find some warmth and inspiration inside – in our classes, lectures, seminars, and other activities.

In this letter, I'd like to share some **general information** with you and reiterate how important it is to be critical thinkers and life-long learners at this time and age. Over the summer, I read Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's new novel ***Dream Count*** (2025), which reminded me of the author's famous **TED talk on *The Danger of a Single Story***, in which Adichie states:

The consequence of the single story is this: It robs people of dignity. It makes our recognition of our equal humanity difficult. It emphasizes how we are different rather than how we are similar. (Adichie, *The Danger of a Single Story*)<sup>1</sup>

**In 2025**, we need to remember the dangers of a single story more than ever. No matter which classes you take – Linguistics, Teaching English as a Foreign Language, American or English Literature and Culture – we all have the opportunity to **critically engage** with other stories, other worldviews and other fields of learning and thinking. As lecturers and researchers, we are equally interested in your perspectives and thoughts. So please, be an **active participant in our classes** at this institution of teaching, learning and research!

Finally, some highlights (and reminders):

- The **registration period for classes** has been brought forward in response to the student survey last year. Thanks again to all students who participated in the survey!
- **Regular attendance** is part of an active learning process. Please attend all classes.
- If your semester plans change – and only then – please **deregister from WueStudy**. This gives other students a chance to take up your place.
- Use your **university email address** for all university-related communication.
- Remember to **register for exams** if you would like to receive credit points.
- Write term papers, presentations and all other assignments yourselves! All forms of **plagiarism and AI-generated papers** will result in **failure** (see: [https://www.neuphil.uni-wuerzburg.de/fileadmin/04110100/2024/Selbstaendigkeitserklaerung\\_AngAm\\_25-6-24.pdf](https://www.neuphil.uni-wuerzburg.de/fileadmin/04110100/2024/Selbstaendigkeitserklaerung_AngAm_25-6-24.pdf))
- If you would like to get **advice on academic writing**, the 'Schreibzentrum' offers courses: <https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/schreibzentrum/>
- Our **Erasmus programme** offers excellent opportunities to go abroad every year, e.g., to Cambridge, Liverpool or Warwick. Check out: <https://www.neuphil.uni-wuerzburg.de/anglistik/study-programmes/auslandsaufenthalt/>

I wish you – and all of us – a **successful and inspiring start** into the new semester!

Kind regards,



Prof. Dr. Kirsten Sandrock  
(Chair of the English Department)

<sup>1</sup> Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *The Danger of a Single Story*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9lhs241zeg>