### Friedrich-Alexander-Universität

Philosophische Fakultät und Fachbereich Theologie

### **MA North American Studies: Culture and Literature**



Application Period: February 15, 2025 – July 15, 2025 (for the winter term 2025/26)

In the interest of learning more about your intellectual aspirations, the North American Studies Admissions Committee asks that you write a response to one of the following questions. Please write a concise, sharply focused, well-crafted essay of **1000—1500 words**. (Note: This essay serves as your writing sample. No alternative topics are permitted.)

## **Question A: Cultural Studies**

Critically discuss the significance of Frederick Jackson Turner's notion of the frontier for a contemporary understanding of US national identity.

# **Question B: Literary Studies**

Analyze and interpret the following poem (2024) by Percival Everett

# Knock, bang, clang against the retentive stillness of the wood. The shapes fall away from the core, the thing becomes a thing. What comes so often never comes as something new, the mind perceiving only what it conceives, the mind always behind itself, as I am behind you. Beven the plants die only after death, brittleness and brown clinging to that former condition. The trees are now black, yet water finds the ground at those roots, still good, but too late.