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SUBURBIA

The AMERICAN BEAUTY of LIVING

In this seminar we will look at the phenomenon of suburban life especially in the United States in its many appearances and developments.

In order to get an idea of the concept of SUBURBIA we will study fictional and non-fictional texts, architectural designs, the history of cities, the policies of city planning, social strata and lifestyles, the psychology of gated communities, and – last but not least – films about families in suburban areas.

We will have an architect giving us information about suburbs, also pay a visit to the Museum of Architecture of the Technical University of Munich in order to hear about the “Multiple City”.

Possible topics for a term paper:

- The Development of the Idea of Suburbia in the USA
- Family and Gender in the Making of Suburbia
- Exclusion in Recent Suburbia: The Gated Community
- Suburbia in American Film
- Architecture and Suburbia: From the English Villa to the American Dream House
- The Future of Suburbia: Economic and Ecological Trends

Of course, there is room for your own suggestions and ideas!
