

V.271

Unterrichtsmagazin

“Cancel culture” – Über das aktuelle Phänomen diskutieren (S II)

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Cancel culture und *Wokeness* haben in den USA bereits weitreichende gesellschaftliche Konsequenzen. Auch in Deutschland sind die Begriffe mittlerweile in der öffentlichen Debatte angekommen. Mit Zeitungsartikeln, Sachbuchauszügen und Kurzvideos werden die Lernenden mit der Thematik vertraut gemacht und sollen so in die Lage versetzt werden, sich ein eigenes Bild von den gesellschaftlichen Implikationen dieser Bewegung zu machen.

KOMPETENZPROFIL

Klassenstufe: 11/12 (G8) bzw. 11–13 (G9)

Dauer: 8 Unterrichtsstunden

Inhalt: *Cancel culture*, *Woke movement*, aktuelle Debatte

Kompetenzen: 1. Lesekompetenz: Sachtexte verstehen; 2. Gesprächskompetenz: sich über kulturelle Besonderheiten austauschen; 3. Medienkompetenz: einen *Instagram-Account* analysieren; 4. Hör-Seh-Kompetenz: Kurzvideos zentrale Informationen entnehmen

Material: Auszüge aus einem Sachbuch, Zeitungsartikel, *Instagram*-Nachricht

Auf einen Blick

1. Stunde

Thema: What is cancel culture? An introduction

M 1 **Free speech or hate speech?** / Durchführen eines Experiments; Lesen und Einordnen von Fallbeispielen



Benötigt: Tafel/Whiteboard
 Für alle Stunden (optional): ZM 1

2./3. Stunde

Thema: A critical approach to cancel culture

M 2 **Who is Alan Dershowitz? What is cancel culture?** / Lesen von Auszügen aus dem Sachbuch, *Merriam-Webster* und *Cambridge Dictionary*

M 3 **Is cancel culture a threat to democracy?** / Erarbeiten eines Sachbuchauszugs



Benötigt: Tafel/Whiteboard
 Für alle Stunden (optional): ZM 1

4. Stunde

Thema: Who is being cancelled and why?

M 4 **Cancel culture – a modern day witch hunt?** / Erarbeiten eines *Instagram*-Beitrags

Homework: Do you think cancel culture is dangerous? Write a comment.



Benötigt: Tafel/Whiteboard/Smartphones
 Für alle Stunden (optional): ZM 1

5./6. Stunde

Thema: Where do we go from here?

M 5 **A single standard of outrage and a historical perspective** / Erarbeiten eines Sachbuchauszugs als Vorschlag zur Neubewertung von *Cancel culture*



Benötigt: Tafel/Whiteboard/Smartphones/internetfähige Endgeräte
 Für alle Stunden (optional): ZM 1

7./8. Stunde

Thema: Leaders with clay feet / Should 'heroes' be cancelled, too?

M 6–M 8

Can cancel culture be applied equally? Malcolm X / Martin Luther King / Mahatma Gandhi / Erarbeiten von Textauszügen und Ausschnitten aus Zeitungsartikeln und Evaluation (Auswertung durch Rückgriff auf **M 1**)

Benötigt:

- Tafel/Whiteboard/ggf. Abspielmöglichkeit für Video (Zusatzaufgabe)
- Für alle Stunden (optional): ZM 1



Minimalplan

Werden aus Zeitgründen nur einzelne Teile der Einheit behandelt, dann sollten **M 1**, **M 2** und **M 3** erarbeitet werden, um das grundsätzliche Verständnis zu gewährleisten. Für weniger leistungsstarke Lerngruppen bieten es sich an, darauf aufbauend **M 4** sowie die audiovisuellen Medien zu behandeln.

Die Textarbeit und das Unterrichtsgespräch samt Sicherung sollten immer erfolgen. Zusatzaufgaben (z. B. *comment*) können in die Hausaufgabe gegeben werden.

VORSCHAU

M 1 Free speech or hate speech?

How would you decide?



Tasks

1. An experiment
 - a) Work in small groups and discuss the questions below. Make notes.
 - Who is against censorship?
 - Who thinks neo-Nazis should not be allowed to march through a town?
 - Who thinks the Ku Klux Klan should not be allowed to hold a rally?
 - Who believes a Holocaust denier should not be allowed to speak publicly?
 - Who believes porn should be banned?
 - b) Share your group's findings with the entire class.
2. Which of these examples should be covered by the principle of free speech, which should be considered hate speech? Discuss.
 - A town council of a medium-sized town decides they would like to erect a statue of a person associated with the Third Reich, i.e., Joseph Goebbels, in the marketplace. Should this be covered by freedom of speech?
 - A person has the wording that can be found above the entrance gate of Auschwitz concentration camp ("Arbeit macht frei") tattooed on their back and goes to a public swimming pool. Should a tattoo like this covered by freedom of speech?
 - During the football world cup of 2006 fans travelling to Germany from England were carrying, among other items, flags displaying svastikas which they wanted to use to support their team during the matches against the German team. The authorities at the airports eventually put up signs informing travellers that it was illegal to carry these items into Germany, much less display them in a football stadium. Should fans be allowed to display these symbols during a sporting event?
 - Teenagers have compared themselves to Anne Frank because schools were closed because of COVID. Should this be covered by free speech?
 - People opposed to COVID vaccines wear the Star of David on their clothes. Should this be covered by free speech?



M 2 Who is Alan Dershowitz? What is cancel culture?

Tasks

1. Mark the information you can find in the text about Alan Dershowitz's professional achievements in general (one colour), the legal cases he worked on and the famous people he defended (another colour), his political affiliation (a third colour) as well as his opinion on cancel culture and the possible consequences (a fourth colour).
2. In your own words, what is *cancel culture*? Write down one sentence.
3. In your own words, what does *woke* mean? Write down one sentence.
4. Discuss your results in class.



M 3



Is cancel culture a threat to democracy?

Read what former Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz says in his latest book.

No society, even the most democratic, has ever allowed total and unrestricted freedom of speech. There are always some limits. Nor has any society, even the least democratic, ever succeeded in totally restricting this freedom. [...] Though all rights are inevitably matters of degree, it is not difficult to distinguish among governments that are essentially democratic and those that are essentially repressive. Canada does not extend its freedom of speech to certain types of "hate" advocacy. I personally disagree with that limitation, but I would never suggest that Canada is anything but an open, free democracy whose citizens have basic liberties. China, on the other hand may have some limited freedom of speech and some due process, but few would deny that it is essentially repressive. In the middle, there are countries such as Singapore, which severely restricts – but doesn't eliminate – both freedom of speech and due process for dissent, but its average citizens live decent lives with some degree of liberty. All this is by way of introduction to the main thesis of this short book: namely, that the new cancel culture in the United States (and other Western democracies) poses a great danger to at least two of our most cherished and important rights: freedom of speech and due process. Even more significant, this danger comes not from evil tyrants but rather from people who consider themselves "woke", "do-gooders", and "progressives." [...] Many of the current zealots are young students and faculty – men and women alike – who may well become our future leaders. For the first time in my lifetime, academic "justifications" have been offered by hard-left American professors for restrictions on free speech and due process, labeling these fundamental rights as weapons of "privilege" deployed against the unprivileged. (In Europe, there were Fascist and Communist professors who made these arguments in defense of Hitler and Stalin, but not in America until now.) And many radical students are buying into these anti-liberal arguments in the name of cancelling those who they believe are abusing privilege.

Source: Dershowitz, Alan: *Cancel Culture. The Latest Attack on Free Speech and Due Process*. Hot Books (kindle edition) 2020, pp. 19f.

Task

Are these statements true (t) or false (f)?

1) There are no limits to freedom of speech.	t/f
2) All rights are always matters of degree.	t/f
3) It is difficult to distinguish among democratic and undemocratic governments.	t/f
4) The main thesis of this book is that cancel culture poses a great threat to at least two important rights in Western democracies.	t/f
5) Freedom of speech and due process of law are basic rights all over the world.	t/f
6) Some professors in the USA have advocated for restrictions of free speech.	t/f
7) Some professors in the USA consider free speech and due process of law "weapons of privilege".	t/f
8) On university campuses, the right to free speech is currently taken away from those who are considered to be privileged.	t/f

