

From **March 7-14, 2024,**

GCSU's Department of World Languages and Cultures will be hosting

**Dr. Laurenz Volkmann** as the **Provost's Visiting Scholar.**



Dr. Volkmann is Professor of Teaching English as a Foreign Language and Chair of the Institute of English and American Studies at **Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany.** He has published widely on teaching literature, media, and global issues in EFL, from Shakespeare to Gender Studies and inter- and transcultural learning. His many publications include the standard textbook, *The Global Village: Progress or Disaster?* (4th ed. 2013), as well as the co-edited volumes *Teaching English* (2015, 2nd ed. 2021); *Pragmatic Perspectives on Postcolonial Discourse* (2016); and *Local Natures, Global Responsibilities: Ecocritical Perspectives on the New English Literatures* (2010).

Dr. Volkmann will give two public lectures during his visit to the GCSU campus. All students and faculty are welcome.

**March 8, 2024, at 3:30 pm – “The Uses of Literature in Education: An Intercultural Perspective.”** This lecture and discussion will take place in room 274 of the Arts & Sciences building.

Dr. Volkmann's presentation will examine the similarities between reader/viewer-response theories, constructivism, and theories of interculturality/intercultural learning. All of these theories share the fundamental concept that sense-making is influenced by an individual's mindset, which is in turn shaped by their cultural background. The presentation will include excerpts from two American short stories to illustrate the strategies used by European students when attempting to comprehend texts from a different culture. I would like to discuss the potential for learning by examining the cultural differences that readers perceive when dealing with literary texts, including those in a different language.

**March 11, 2024, at 5:30 pm – “Teaching the Climate Crisis in a Transatlantic Online Course: Creating a Dialogue between Different Disciplines and Across Cultures.”**

Co-presenters Dr. Volkmann and Dr. Fraunhofer (Professor of French and German at GCSU) will discuss their ongoing teaching and research collaboration and **give students a glimpse of the new GC Border-Free online course taught this coming summer with students from GCSU and the FSU Jena (Germany) (MFLG 4950).** This lecture and discussion will be held in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room.