

Module Handbook
M.A. North American Studies
As of 2015-09-24

Module Item	G1.1 Literary Studies: History
Credit Points	12 Credit Points
Compulsory/Required Elective	Compulsory Module in MA <i>North American Studies Program</i> ; Elective for the MA Fine Arts – Artistic Conceptions (FB 09)
Level	Basic Module
Content and Qualification Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building upon principles acquired in the Bachelor's studies, this module strengthens the techniques of literary analysis as well as the independent study of the interdependency of texts and their contexts. The module serves to put national literatures of the USA and Canada in relation to each other from a historic comparative, integrative, and contrastive perspective, and to critically examine concepts of nation, culture, ethnicity, social class, and gender. • Examining American literary history serves as a literary and cultural-historical basis for the student, so that over the further course of study, the student can position him/herself in historical, theoretical, and methodical (interdisciplinary) contexts. • The lecture (VL) provides an introductory overview of the varying literary genres, eras, and authors. In the advanced seminar (HS), the student learns the eras, methods, and theories of North American Studies by means of working with literary examples. Exercise Classes (UE/PS) are research-oriented and further develop the student's research and writing capabilities.
Teaching and Learning Methods, Course Types	VL North American Literature (Lecture) HS Epochs / Genres / Theories (Advanced Seminar) UE Academic Writing for MA-Students (Exercise Class)
Teaching and Testing Language	English
Requirements for Participation	No Prerequisites
Requirements for Receiving Credit Points	Study Credit (Pass/Fail; "Studienleistung"): Lecture (VL): Final Exam (90 min.) Advanced Seminar (HS) and Exercise Class (UE/PS) (Overlapping): Presentation or Project or Portfolio Module Examination: Advanced Seminar (HS): Oral exam (30 min.)
Grades	The final grade is the result of the module examination, according to § 28 General Regulations.
Class availability	Every Winter Semester
Workload	<p>The courses entail 6 hours of class per week: 2 hrs lecture (VL), 2 hrs exercise class (UE), 2 hrs advanced seminar (HS). The total workload amounts to 360 hours, consisting of:</p> <p>Mediation and acquisition of knowledge: 150 hours Readings: 120 hours Preparation for the oral exam : 90 hours</p>
Module Duration	1 semester

Module Item	G1.2 Literary Studies: Application
Credit Points	12 Credit Points
Compulsory/Required Elective	Compulsory Module in MA <i>North American Studies Program</i>
Level	Advanced Module
Content and Qualification Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two advanced seminars (HS) serve to further immerse students in literary studies. (1) By means of diverse and varied literary and cultural examples, a critical look at the literary canon will be a theme, whereby the student learns to scrutinize concepts such as nation, culture, ethnicity, social class, and gender. (2) The student will study several historical, theoretical, and methodical approaches to literature and put them into practice and application. • Students will analyze texts on their own and apply the learned concepts and methods of cultural studies. Furthermore, students practice to independently use the available resources for research, and to formulate your own questions and thoughts relevant to the research. Students are also expected to present scholarly research content in a formal and appealing way. • Students experience their learning group as a research group, and, as a team, draw from relevant theories to work out interpretation and research approaches to the material.
Teaching and Learning Methods, Course Types	HS Authors and Issues in North American Literatures (Advanced Seminar) HS Approaches to Literature (Advanced Seminar)
Teaching and Testing Language	English
Participant Requirements	No Prerequisites
Requirements for Assignments Receiving Credit Points	<p>Study Credit (Pass/Fail; “Studienleistung”): In each advanced seminar (HS): Presentation or Project or Portfolio or Protocol</p> <p>Module Examination: For the advanced seminar (HS) of your choice: Term Paper (6,000-7,000 words)</p>
Grades	The final grade is the result of the module examination, according to § 28 General Regulations.
Class availability	Every Summer Semester
Workload	<p>The courses entail 4 hours of class per week: 2 hrs advanced seminar (HS), 2 hrs advanced seminar (HS). The total workload amounts to 360 hours, consisting of:</p> <p>Mediation and acquisition of knowledge: 150 hours Readings: 120 hours Term Paper: 90 hours</p>
Module Duration	1 semester

Module Item	G2.1 Cultural Studies: Pluralities
Credit Points	12 Credit Points
Compulsory/Required Elective	Compulsory Module in MA <i>North American Studies</i> ; Elective for the MA Fine Arts – Artistic Conceptions (FB 09) and the MA Media und Cultural Practice: History, Aesthetics, Theory“ (FB 09)
Level	Basic Module
Content and Qualification Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Besides introductory methods for the observation and analysis of various cultural phenomena (e.g., film, art, music, architecture), students learn to recognize, describe, and analyze the interrelatedness and effects of culture and literature. • This module will address basic principles of scholarly work in the field of <i>North American Studies</i>. Methods of cultural studies in a North American context, with regards to observation and analysis of varying cultural phenomena and artistic genres and their interrelatedness and effects will be imparted to students. An emphasis will be on popular culture, whose phenomena will be analyzed and discussed from an ethnic, gendered, and social point of view. • Students are to become acquainted with the plurality of ethnic cultures in North America, and discuss critically their cultural production and contribution to society. Popular culture elements should be perceived as expressions of a pluralistic society. • Students practice how to conduct individual research and how to develop a relevant thesis for that research, as well as be able to present their research in an academic and interesting manner. Drawing from relevant theories, students should work in teams to analyze and work on cultural concepts and phenomena.
Teaching and Learning Methods, Course Types	HS Plurality of Cultures in North America (Advanced Seminar) UE North American Popular Cultures (Exercise Class)
Teaching and Testing Language	English
Participant Requirements	No Prerequisites
Requirements for Assignments Receiving Credit Points	<p>Study Credit (Pass/Fail; “Studienleistung”): Advanced Seminar (HS): Presentation or Project or Portfolio or Protocol Exercise Class (UE): Presentation or Project or Portfolio or Protocol</p> <p>Module Examination: Advanced Seminar (HS) or Exercise Class (UE): Term Paper (6,000-7,000 words)</p>
Grades	The final grade is the result of the module examination, according to § 28 General Regulations.
Class availability	Every Winter Semester
Workload	<p>The courses entail 4 hours of class per week: (2 hrs advanced seminar (HS), 2 hrs exercise class (UE)). The total workload amounts to 360 hours, consisting of:</p> <p>Mediation and acquisition of knowledge: 150 hours Readings: 120 hours Term Paper: 90 hours</p>
Module Duration	1 semester

Module Items	G2.2 Cultural Studies: Perspectives
Credit Points	12 Credit Points
Compulsory/Required Elective	Compulsory Module in MA <i>North American Studies</i> ; Elective for MA Peace and Conflict Studies
Level	Advanced Module
Content and Qualification Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are to consider the central phenomena and concepts of North American society and history from a historical perspective, as well as recognize their present-day relevance. The perspectives of minorities in society should be perceived within their cultural and political involvements. Cultural practices are analyzed by their artistic, cultural, and political dimensions. Chosen aspects of North American culture and their development are central concepts and theories of North American culture and will be assigned and individually researched. Students practice to conduct their research individually and with the resources made available to them. An important part of the module is how to improve the formulation of a student's independent thesis at an academic level. The emphasis is on group work, in which individual interpretations and approaches to research by means of important theories can be developed.
Teaching and Learning Methods, Course Types	VL Cultural History of North America (Lecture) HS Key Concepts in North American Studies (Advanced Seminar)
Teaching and Testing Language	English
Participant Requirements	No Prerequisites
Requirements for Assignments Receiving Credit Points	Study Credit (Pass/Fail; "Studienleistung"): Lecture (VL): Final Exam (90 min.) Advanced Seminar (HS): Presentation or Project or Portfolio or Protocol Module Examination: Advanced Seminar (HS): Term Paper (6,000-7,000 words)
Grades	The final grade is the result of the module examination, according to § 28 General Regulations.
Class Availability	Every Summer Semester
Workload	The courses entail 4 hours of class per week: 2 hrs lecture (VL), 2 hrs advanced seminar (HS). The total workload amounts to 360 hours, consisting of: Mediation and acquisition of knowledge: 150 hours Readings: 120 hours Term Paper: 90 hours
Module Duration	1 semester

Module Item	G3.1 Interdisciplinary Studies: Theory and History
Credit Points	6 Credit Points
Compulsory/Required Elective	Required Elective Module in MA <i>North American Studies</i> ; Elective for MA Fine Arts – Artistic Conceptions
Level	Basic Module
Content and Qualification Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students obtain an overview of British literature and its influence on and interrelatedness with North American literature. The student should also become acquainted with interdisciplinary methods and theories and learn to use these techniques him/herself. • Students gain insight into the disciplines (besides literature and cultural studies) that have shaped the <i>North American Studies</i> field of research (e.g. <i>media studies, gender studies</i>). • Students develop an awareness of the complexity of scholarly questions and learn that their multidimensional nature can be examined through trans- and interdisciplinary work. • Students become aware that the field of <i>North American Studies</i> has been interdisciplinary since its beginnings. • Furthermore, students practice to independently use the available resources for research, and to formulate their own questions and thoughts relevant to the research. Students should also be able to present scholarly research content in a formal and appealing way. • The learning group is to be regarded as a research group. Students are expected to draw from relevant theories and to work out interpretation and research approaches to the material.
Teaching and Learning Methods, Course Types	VL British Literature and Culture (Lecture) UE Theories and Disciplines (Exercise Class)
Teaching and Testing Language	English
Participant Requirements	Successful Completion of G1.1 und G2.1
Requirements for Assignments Receiving Credit Points	Study Credit (Pass/Fail; “Studienleistung”): Exercise Class (UE): Presentation or Project Lecture (VL): Final Exam (90 min.) Module Examination: Exercise Class (UE): Portfolio
Grades	The final grade is the result of the module examination, according to § 28 General Regulations.
Class Availability	Every Winter Semester
Workload	<p>The courses entail 4 hours of class per week: 2 hrs lecture (VL), 2 hrs exercise class (UE). The total workload amounts to 180 hours, consisting of:</p> <p>Mediation and acquisition of knowledge: 60 hours Readings: 60 hours Portfolio: 60 hours</p>
Module Duration	1 semester

Module Items	G3.2 Interdisciplinary Studies: Theory and Application
Credit Points	12 Credit Points
Compulsory/Required Elective	Required Elective Module in MA <i>North American Studies</i>
Level	Advanced Module
Content and Qualification Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students get to know the interdisciplinary nature of the field of North American Studies actively, further develop an awareness that scholarly questions are complex, and that their multidimensional nature can be considered from trans- and interdisciplinary views. • Students learn to independently develop scholarly, interdisciplinary questions that are relevant to the field of <i>North American Studies</i>. Furthermore, their research itself should engage various disciplines and be interdisciplinary in nature. • Through direct contact with representatives of other disciplines with an emphasis on North America, students learn assess, apply and experience interdisciplinary work. • Students should actively produce research-relevant results in the area of North American Studies, work on relevant theories, and apply them critically.
Teaching and Learning Methods, Course Types	HS Interdisciplinary Studies (Advanced Seminar)
Teaching and Testing Language	English
Participant Requirements	Successful Completion of G1.1 und G2.1
Requirements for Assignments Receiving Credit Points	<p>Study Credit (Pass/Fail; “Studienleistung”): Advanced Seminar (HS): Presentation or Project or Portfolio or Protocol</p> <p>Module Examination: Advanced Seminar (HS): Term Paper (6,000-7,000 words)</p>
Grades	The final grade is the result of the module examination, according to § 28 General Regulations.
Class Availability	Every Winter Semester
Workload	<p>The courses entail 2 hours of class per week: 2 hrs advanced seminar (HS). The total workload amounts to 360 hours, consisting of:</p> <p>Mediation and acquisition of knowledge: 150 hours Readings: 120 hours Term Paper: 90 hours</p>
Module Duration	1 semester

Module Item	G4 Academic Skills
Credit Points	12 Credit Points
Compulsory/Required Elective	Compulsory Module in MA <i>North American Studies</i>
Level	Practical Skills
Content and Qualification Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the instruction of teachers as well as in independent study, students are to obtain practical experience in academic work. They should become acquainted with academic practice and organization and learn to practice it independently. • Furthermore, students learn to independently use the available resources for research, and to formulate their own relevant questions and thoughts. Students should also be able to present scholarly research content in a formal and appealing way. • Students should gain experience in academic organization, and be able to present results from individual research, not just to the rest of the class but also at an academic conference. Organizing academic conferences and participation in conferences of scholarly associations will also be topics.
Teaching and Learning Methods, Course Types	UE Colloquium in North American Studies (Exercise Class) HS Academic Organization (Advanced Seminar)
Teaching and Testing Language	English
Participant Requirements	No Prerequisites
Requirements for Assignments Receiving Credit Points	<p>Study Credit (Pass/Fail; “Studienleistung”): Exercise Class (UE): Presentation Advanced Seminar (HS): Presentation or Project or Protocol</p> <p>Module Examination: Advanced Seminar (HS): Portfolio (pass/fail)</p>
Grades	As an exception to § 28 Clause 2 General Regulations, this module is graded pass/fail rather than in points.
Class Availability	Every Winter Semester
Workload	<p>The courses entail 4 hours of class per week: 2 hrs exercise class (UE), 2 hrs advanced seminar (HS). The total workload amounts to 360 hours, consisting of:</p> <p>Mediation and acquisition of knowledge: 150 hours Oral presentation preparation: 90 hours Project Organization: 120 hours</p>
Module Duration	1 semester

Module Item	S1 Gender Studies
Credit Points	12 Credit Points
Compulsory/Required Elective	Required Elective Module in MA <i>North American Studies</i> ; Elective for MA Fine Arts– Artistic Conceptions
Level	Specialization Module
Content and Qualification Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students learn to pay attention to their perception of gender-specific hierarchical societal structures as well as their corresponding norms, symbols, and regulations in social reality. • Students gain insight into the function and construction methods of gender and gender roles as a central integration mechanism for society, culture, and individual identity from a historical and contemporary perspective. Students should also train their critical ability to analyze gender stereotypes in regards to their hierarchical systems and patterns of construction. • Students learn to understand gender research as a differentiation process, which occurs as a reaction to the dynamics of societal developments and which is reflected in the contexts of various academic disciplines. • Students should receive an overview of the development of gender studies, the current position in gender theory, as well as methods and history of women's studies and gender policies. • Students learn to comprehend the intersecting relationships between race, class, and gender, and their significance for the field of North American Studies.
Teaching and Learning Methods, Course Types	UE Gender and Society (Exercise Class) UE Theories, Methods, Histories (Exercise Class)
Teaching and Testing Language	English and/or German
Participant Requirements	No Prerequisites
Requirements for Assignments Receiving Credit Points	Study Credit (Pass/Fail; “Studienleistung”): Exercise Class (UE): Presentation or Project or Portfolio Exercise Class (UE): Presentation or Project or Portfolio Module Examination: Exercise Class (UE) (of your choice): Term Paper (6,000-7,000 words) or Project
Grades	The final grade is the result of the module examination, according to § 28 General Regulations.
Class Availability	Every Winter and Summer Semester
Workload	<p>The courses entail 4 hours of class per week: 2 hrs exercise class (UE), 2 hrs exercise class (UE). The total workload amounts to 360 hours, consisting of:</p> <p>Mediation and acquisition of knowledge: 150 hours Readings: 120 hours Term Paper or Project: 90 hours</p>
Module Duration	2 semesters

Module Item	S2 Media Studies
Credit Points	12 Credit Points
Compulsory/Required Elective	Required Elective Module in MA <i>North American Studies</i> ; Elective for MA Fine Arts – Artistic Conceptions
Level	Specialization Module
Content and Qualification Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media studies and its methods will complement the thus-far explored literary- and cultural studies approaches to North America. In doing so, regard should be given especially to the significance of the diversity of the media in North America and the media's relevance in North America's historical, cultural, social and political development. • Students experience and practice <i>North American Studies</i> from the perspective of media studies. • Students become aware of the cultural significance of the media, and scrutinize its traditional and new forms both in their historical and theoretical contexts. The goal is to develop a media-critical awareness in the area of <i>North American Studies</i>. • Students discuss media culture as both an essential factor in North American public discourse and also as the destination and platform for scholarly discussion and examination. • Students learn to analyze the interrelation between North American media culture and topics like Americanization, globalization, and localization.
Teaching and Learning Methods, Course Types	UE American Media (Exercise Class) UE New Media (Exercise Class)
Teaching and Testing Language	English and/or German
Participant Requirements	No Prerequisites
Requirements for Assignments Receiving Credit Points	<p>Study Credit (Pass/Fail; "Studienleistung"): UE: Presentation or Project or Portfolio UE: Presentation or Project or Portfolio</p> <p>Module Examination: Exercise Class (UE) (of your choice): Term Paper (6,000-7,000 words) or Project</p>
Grades	The final grade is the result of the module examination, according to § 28 General Regulations.
Class Availability	Every Winter and Summer Semester
Workload	<p>The courses entail 4 hours of class per week: 2 hrs exercise class (UE), 2 hrs exercise class (UE). The total workload amounts to 360 hours, consisting of:</p> <p>Mediation und acquisition of knowledge: 150 hours Readings: 120 hours Term Paper or Project: 90 hours</p>
Module Duration	2 semesters

Module Item	MA Thesis
Credit Points	30 Credit Points
Content and Qualification Objectives	<p>The Master's Thesis (24 Credit Points) is a written independent research project in which students demonstrate their ability to work academically and independently on a topic that falls within the scope of the MA North American Studies discourse within a fixed period of time. Each student and a supervising professor agree upon the specific topic. The thesis is designed to have theoretical aspects that can be applied to concrete cases.</p> <p>Oral Exam (6 Credit Points) after the completion of the Master's Thesis.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods, Course Types	Independently develop and elaborate on a specific, overarching question in the MA NAS field, presenting it as an academic thesis in the Master's Thesis.
Teaching and Testing Language	English
Participant Requirements	The students must have completed at least 60 credit points.
Requirements for Assignments Receiving Credit Points	<p>Module Examination Components:</p> <p>Master's Thesis (24 Credit Points): 25,000-30,000 words (60-70 Pages)</p> <p>Oral Exam (6 Credit Points): 60 min.</p>
Grades	The awarding of grades is determined on the basis of § 16 General Regulations. The module grades consist of the Master's thesis and the oral exam, whose individual grades are weighed accordingly.
Class Availability	Every winter and summer semester
Workload	<p>No classes or attendance are necessary for this module. The total workload amounts to 900 hours, consisting of:</p> <p>Master's Thesis: 720 hours Oral Exam: 180 hours</p>
Module Duration	1 semester