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Handbook
M.A. American Studies

Winter Semester 2015/2016

FACULTY of HUMANITIES
English Department



Contents

1. Objectives of the Program	3
2. Course of Studies	4
2.1 Overview: Modules.....	4
2.2 Overview: Course of Studies.....	4
3. Module Descriptions.....	5
3.1 Core Curriculum	5
3.2 Interdisciplinary Profile	10
3.3 Research.....	11
3.4 Professional Experience	13

1. Objectives of the Program

The M.A. in American Studies is a consecutive and research-oriented program of study following up on B.A. degrees in English and American studies or other disciplines in literary or cultural studies. It is also geared at graduates of programs in history and the social sciences who have focused on North American politics and societies during their B.A. The M.A. in American Studies allows for a focus on American Literary and Cultural Studies as well as on interdisciplinary approaches to the U.S.A. and Canada. Students learn to recognize central issues, conflicts, and structures that are deemed important in the different areas of studies. The program prepares students to work independently on questions and problems related to North America and to present results in written and/or oral forms. They are able to choose from a wide range of studies and can shape their individual profile which either might be more research-oriented, leading to a PhD in American Studies, or emphasize transfer into a variety of professions. Outside of academia, a Master's degree in American Studies prepares students for jobs predominantly (but not exclusively) in the areas of public relations, adult education, intercultural communication, and similar career fields where a strong background in communicative and intercultural skills, in addition to excellent foreign language skills, plays a crucial role.

Graduates of the program are thus qualified for professional careers outside and inside academia. They have gained a profound understanding of American literature, culture and history from the colonial period to the present. They are able to critically reflect on and evaluate cultural phenomena and the scholarly discourses devoted to it. Furthermore, they may have gained practical experience and know how the skills they have acquired can be made use of outside of academia. The language proficiency of graduates has developed beyond the C 1 level in the area of academic discourse, such as listening and reading for information, orientation, and argument; understanding and discussing scholarly presentations by others, and producing written and oral presentations of original research according to academic conventions of their field.

2. Course of Studies

2.1 Overview: Modules

(corresponds to the overview of modules included in the study and examination regulations)

Module number	Obligatory/ Elective	Module Title	Recommended Semester	CP
AMS-MA 01	O	American Literature and Culture	01	12
AMS-MA 02	O	American Literature/Culture before the Civil War	01	12
AMS-MA 03	O	American Literature/Culture and Theory	02	12
AMS-MA 04	O	American Literature/Culture after the Civil War	02	12
AMS-MA 05	O	Interdisciplinary Profile	01 and 02	12
AMS-MA 06	O	Research I: Methodology	03	12
AMS-MA 07	O	Research II: Academic Writing	03	6
AMS-MA 08	O	Professional Experience	03	12
AMS-MA 09	O	Master Thesis and Oral Exam	04	30

2.2 Overview: Course of Studies

Semester	CP	Core Curriculum		Interdisciplinary Profile	Research		Professional Experience
1	30	AMS-MA 01 (12 CP)	AMS-MA 02 (12 CP)	AMS-MA 05 (6 CP)	---		---
2	30	AMS-MA 03 (12 CP)	AMS-MA 04 (12 CP)	AMS-MA 05 (6 CP)	---		---
3	30	---		---	AMS-MA 06 (12 CP)	AMS-MA 07 (6 CP)	AMS-MA 08 (12 CP)
4	30	AMS-MA 09 (30 CP)		---	---		---

3. Module Descriptions

3.1 Core Curriculum

Number: AMS-MA 01	Module Title: American Literature and Culture				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP*	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h				
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of - Class - Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture - Seminar - Coursework for the seminar (e.g. presentations, group work, reading commentaries) is at the discretion of the instructor. - Normally, the oral exam covering both the lecture and the seminar is conducted by the instructor of the seminar. 								
Content	The students attend a seminar that focuses on a specific aspect of American literature and culture, and a lecture that addresses larger developments in American literary and/or cultural history. The module provides an in-depth analysis of individual authors, genres, media, periods, and/or regions against the background of larger social, cultural and political developments and different scholarly positions assessing them.								
Objectives	The students possess detailed knowledge about a specific aspect of American literature and culture, and are familiar with the scholarly discussion of this aspect. They are able to analyze and contextualize literary or cultural texts related to this aspect. They are also familiar with some of the larger developments in American literature and culture, and are able to draw connections and/or see differences to the specific aspect they have focused on. They are also able to critically evaluate positions in secondary literature on the aspect they have focused on.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar on American Literature and Culture</i>	S	O	2	9	OE	30	g	100
	<i>Lecture on American Literature and Culture</i>	L	O	2	3				
Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prerequisite for AMS-MA 06 and AMS-MA-09 - Modules 01-04: M.A. English Literatures and Cultures - Components of this module can be used in the following programs: M.A. Internationale Literaturen, M.A. Literatur- und Kulturtheorie 								
Requirements for Participation	None								

Number: AMS-MA 02	Module Title: American Literature/Culture before the Civil War		Type of Module: Obligatory						
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 30 h / 2 CH	Self-Study: 330 h						
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class - Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar with workgroup - Coursework for the seminar (e.g. presentations, group work, reading commentaries) is at the discretion of the instructor. - In the workgroups, small groups of students, under the supervision of the instructor, explore different dimensions of the topic of the class in further detail. - Workgroups are completed with a collective form of coursework such as a website, an exhibition, a map, or an annotated bibliography. 								
Content	The module focuses on a specific aspect of American literature or culture before the Civil War. It provides an in-depth analysis of pre-Civil War authors, genres, media, periods, and/or regions and introduces students to the range of scholarly debates on them.								
Objectives	The students possess detailed knowledge about a specific aspect of American literature and culture before the Civil War, and are familiar with the scholarly discussion of this aspect. They are able to analyze and contextualize literary or cultural texts related to this aspect. They are also able to critically evaluate some of the existing secondary literature. In their workgroup, they have explored one dimension of the class in further detail. They are capable of relating the results of their workgroup to the overall topic of the class, and to present them in an appropriate and accessible fashion.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar on American Literature/Culture before the Civil War</i>	S	O	2	9	TP	n/a	g	100
	<i>Workgroup Accompanying the Seminar</i>	WG	O	n/a	3				
Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prerequisite for AMS-MA 06 and AMS-MA-09 - Modules 01-04: M.A. English Literatures and Cultures - Components of this module can be used in the following programs: M.A. Internationale Literaturen, M.A. Literatur- und Kulturtheorie 								
Requirements for Participation	None								

Number: AMS-MA 03	Module Title: American Literature/Culture and Theory				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h			Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH		Self-Study: 300 h			
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of - Class - Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture - Seminar - Coursework for the seminar (e.g. presentations, group work, reading commentaries) is at the discretion of the instructor. - Normally, the oral exam, covering both the lecture and the seminar, is conducted by the instructor of the seminar. 								
Content	The students attend a seminar that uses a specific aspect of American literature or culture to discuss and test different theoretical approaches, and a lecture that addresses larger developments in literary and/or cultural theory.								
Objectives	The students possess detailed knowledge about a specific aspect of American literature and culture. They are also familiar with different theoretical approaches. They can identify them in scholarly texts and are capable of critically discussing their pros and cons. They are also able to apply them to new texts.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar on American Literature/Culture and Theory</i>	S	O	2	9	OE	30	g	100
	<i>Lecture on American Literature/Culture and Theory</i>	L	O	2	3				
Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prerequisite for AMS-MA 06 and AMS-MA-09 - Modules 01-04: M.A. English Literatures and Cultures - Components of this module can be used in the following programs: M.A. Internationale Literaturen, M.A. Literatur- und Kulturtheorie 								
Requirements for Participation	None								

Number: AMS-MA 04	Module Title: American Literature/Culture after the Civil War				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h			Class Time: 30 h / 2 CH		Self-Study: 330 h			
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of - Class - Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar with workgroup - Coursework for the seminar (e.g. presentations, group work, reading commentaries) is at the discretion of the instructor. - In the workgroups, small groups of students, under the supervision of the instructor, explore different dimensions of the topic of the class in further detail. - Workgroups are completed with a collective form of coursework such as a website, an exhibition, a map, or an annotated bibliography. 								
Content	The students attend a seminar that focuses on a specific aspect of American literature or culture after the Civil War. The class provides an in-depth analysis of post-Civil War authors, genres, media, periods, and/or regions against the background of larger social, cultural and political developments. It also discusses different scholarly positions on the chosen aspect.								
Objectives	The students possess detailed knowledge about a specific aspect of American literature and culture after the Civil War, and are familiar with the scholarly discussion of this aspect. They are able to analyze and contextualize literary or cultural texts related to this aspect. They are also able to critically evaluate the existing secondary literature. In their workgroup, they have explored one dimension of the class in further detail. They are capable of relating the results of their workgroup to the overall topic of the class, and to present them in an appropriate and accessible fashion.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>HWS</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar on American Literature/Culture after the Civil War</i>	S	O	2	9	TP	n/a	g	100
	<i>Workgroup Accompanying the Seminar</i>	WG	O	n/a	3				
Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prerequisite for AMS-MA 06 and AMS-MA-09 - Modules 01-04: M.A. English Literatures and Cultures - Components of this module can be used in the following programs: M.A. Internationale Literaturen, M.A. Literatur- und Kulturtheorie 								
Requirements for Participation	None								

Number: AMS-MA 09	Module Title: Master Thesis and Oral Exam				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	30								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 900 h	Class Time: 0 h / 0 CH			Self-Study: 900 h				
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of - Class - Learning Methods	- M.A. thesis - oral exam								
Content	The students write a thesis of c. 80 pages in which they explore a specific aspect of American literature and/or culture in detail. In the oral exam they engage in a critical discussion of three selected aspects of American literature and culture.								
Objectives	The students are able to conduct a larger research project and to present the results in an appropriate and accessible fashion. They analyze a body of primary material independently, albeit under the supervision of an adviser. They critically evaluate secondary sources and situate their project within current scholarly discourses. They are also capable of presenting their knowledge as well as specific arguments on chosen topics in American Literature and Culture in a structured manner, responding to questions and engaging in discussions. They possess both specific expertise as well as the ability to place the specific into larger contexts.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade (Weighted)	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Thesis</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>WE</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>Oral Exam</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>OE</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>10</i>
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation*	Successful completion of AMS-MA 01-04, 06 and 07.								

3.2 Interdisciplinary Profile

Number: AMS-MA 05	Module Title: Interdisciplinary Profile				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h				
Duration	2 semesters								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of - Class - Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two seminars from other disciplines - If they so choose, students can replace one of the seminars with two lectures. - If they have not done them before, either Translation II or Written Communication II can constitute one of the two seminars - Required coursework is at the discretion of the instructors of the seminars/lectures. 								
Content	The students attend classes (seminars or lectures) on American culture, history or society or on theoretical considerations relevant for the program offered by other institutes or departments, e.g. History, Art History, Ethnology.								
Objectives	The students are familiar with approaches to American culture, history and society outside of literary and cultural studies and the knowledge they generate. They know the theories and methods employed by other disciplines and can apply them to new topics. They are also able to discuss and evaluate different disciplinary approaches.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar Outside the Core Curriculum</i>	S	O	2	6	n/a	n/a	ne	0
	<i>Seminar Outside the Core Curriculum</i>	S	O	2	6				
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	None								

3.3 Research

Number: AMS-MA 06	Module Title: Research I: Methodology				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h			Class Time: 30 h / 2 CH		Self-Study: 330 h			
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of - Class - Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research colloquium - Research project - Coursework: reading assignments, presentation of the project 								
Content	The students attend a research colloquium where they assess and discuss different forms of academic texts, such as research proposals, drafts of talks and articles, chapters of dissertations or books, etc. They then formulate their own written research proposal for their thesis, which they present to and discuss with the members of the research colloquium.								
Objectives	The students are able to develop a research project and situate it within current scholarly debates. They are capable of presenting the project in an appropriate manner and to react appropriately to the feedback of peers and faculty. They are also able to understand and provide feedback on other students' projects.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Research Colloquium</i>	S	O	2	6	n/a	n/a	ne	0
	<i>Research Project</i>	n/a	O	0	6	n/a	n/a	ne	0
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	Successful completion of two of the modules AMS-MA 01-04								

Number: AMS-MA 07	Module Title: Research II: Academic Writing				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	6								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 180 h			Class Time: 30 h / 2 CH		Self-Study: 150 h			
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of - Class - Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special M.A. course on academic writing - Coursework: completion of numerous practical exercises (e.g. essays, reviews, proposals, bibliographies, response paper) 								
Content	The students attend a practical class on academic writing in English. They analyze examples of literary and cultural criticism as well as linguistics and perform a variety of writing exercises.								
Objectives	The students know the conventions of scholarly writing. They recognize different writing strategies and styles and are capable of identifying the different elements of scholarly texts. They can also design and structure their own texts according to scholarly conventions.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Academic Writing</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>ne</i>	<i>0</i>
Transfer	M.A. English Literatures and Cultures, M.A. English Linguistics								
Requirements for Participation	Successful completion of two of the modules AMS-MA 01 to AMS-MA 04								

3.4 Professional Experience

Number: AMS-MA 08	Module Title: Professional Experience		Type of Module: Obligatory						
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 0 h / 0 CH	Self-Study: 360 h						
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of - Class - Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internship of at least six weeks - Students can also teach a tutorial or work in the Research & Writing Center for one semester instead if they so choose and are found suitable by the faculty. - If they choose to teach a tutorial, they also attend a class in teaching skills. - Coursework: report of at least 1,500 words 								
Content	The students gain practical experience by doing an internship with a company or institution. Students who consider an academic career and who are considered suitable by the faculty can decide to teach a tutorial for B.A. students instead or work in the research and writing center.								
Objectives	Students who did an internship know how the skills they have acquired during their studies can be transferred to fields outside academia and which skills they may still lack. They have a better idea which line of work they might want to pursue after graduation. Students who taught a tutorial have gained pedagogical skills. They have learned to present knowledge in an accessible fashion.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Internship/Tutorial</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>ne</i>	<i>0</i>
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	None								