



## **B.A. Interdisciplinary American Studies:**

### **Lecture Series “Issues in American Literary and Cultural Studies”**

**(18 ECTS)**

#### **Format and Scheduling:**

This lecture series consists of four consecutive parts: lecture I (colonial times), lecture II (Am. Rev. to Civil War), lecture III (CW to WWI), lecture IV (WWI to the present). Within the Module Lecture Series “Issues in...” you must attend three out of these four lecture courses—you choose which; you may start with any of them and you may omit one along the way. It is recommended to complete the basic modules in the core curriculum before you attend your first lecture course.

While this lecture series provides you with a frame of reference and discusses selected examples in some detail, you will need to further explore the individual issues on your own. The considerable time spent on this kind of self-study is what the 18 credit points for this module are based on.

The oral exam on the lecture series module aims at an overview and in a sense completes your studies in the entire core curriculum. Therefore, you should schedule it for the third (if you choose the mobility option, for the fourth) year of your studies.

You can take the exam with Prof. Franke, Prof. Butter or Prof. Tonn.

#### **Oral Exam:**

The module is completed with an oral exam of 45 minutes based on three different parts of the lecture series (I, II, III, or IV). While attending the last lecture you approach one of the professors in charge of the lecture series for an exam date.

You select two “issues” from each lecture course; an issue usually comprises more than one session. Thus the exam will be on six issues altogether.

During the exam, you may expect to spend an average of about 7-8 minutes on a single issue. Sometimes time is too short to cover all six issues—don’t be sad.

You need to prepare for each issue one thesis statement. You also need to compile a list of texts / material as well as scholarly work related to your thesis statement. This list must comprise at least four entries.

In preparation for the exam, you should read the texts/material of the respective sessions closely. Furthermore, you should gain an overview and acquire some background knowledge in order to contextualize your material in and correlate it with the individual issues. Start from and further explore what has been discussed and touched upon in the selected sessions.

For the preparation of the oral exam, it is strongly recommended to form study groups with your fellow students.