



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. Please note that if you plan to do the year abroad in your third year, you should start the lecture series in the second semester.

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. Michael Butter or Prof. Astrid Franke.

Oral Exam:

The module is completed with an oral exam of 45 minutes. While attending the third and final part of the lecture series, you can approach one of the professors for an exam date.

In preparation for the exam, you will select two broad “issues” from each of the three lectures; an issue usually comprises several sessions of the lecture. Thus the exam will cover 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 a thesis statement for each of the six issues. 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 per thesis statement. You will be expected to critically discuss your thesis statements within the broader context of the lecture sessions, so your lecture notes (and slides) will be important for your preparation.

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