

Appendix: Course-specific information for the Master's programme  
AMERICAN STUDIES  
at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main

Part I: Subject and Learning objectives; Entry requirements and entry date;  
Academic advisors

## I.1 Subject

### I.1.1 Programme description

The Master's programme AMERICAN STUDIES is taught in English. It is based on the principle of the interconnection of research and teaching/learning. Students who have obtained their BA degree will, through research-based teaching, acquire specialized knowledge of North American literature, culture and history, and they will be encouraged to do self-directed research. The Master's programme AMERICAN STUDIES focuses on three major areas:

#### American Literature and Literary Studies

Specific objects of study are:

- Understanding and interpreting texts and reflection on questions of hermeneutics and problems of reception that this involves
- Texts as communication of experience, as symbolic constructions of reality with regard to their validity, their discursive function, and their historicity
- Key phases in the development and shaping of American literature – as literary history, as national literature, as literary tradition – in the context of social change
- Questions of literary history and aesthetics with reference to American literature and the history of American literary criticism
- Work in/with literary archives

#### American culture and cultural studies

Specific objects of study are:

- Structures, effects and functions of the public sphere as a socially determined context of communication
- The emergence, functions and transformations of cultural, social and aesthetic codes
- Problems, conditions and methods of the interpretation of texts and other symbolic objects and media in cultural studies
- Interpretation of non-literary symbolic objects and the hermeneutic questions of cultural signification and reception that this involves
- American cultural criticism and social theory – their possibilities and their foundations in culture, epistemology, history of learning and academic organisation

#### American History and Society

Specific objects of study are:

- Social and political movements, crises and changes in American society
- The history of ideas with particular attention to the interaction of ideological, material and institutional factors in social change

- The emergence, functions and variability of social, political and ideological norms, codes and traditions
- The structure, determinants and functioning of political processes and decision making in the US and of the present socio-political situation in America.

The language of instruction on the MA programme American Studies is English.

#### I.1.2 Learning objectives and skills

The MA programme American Studies enables students, on the basis of a critical understanding of the theories and methods of the subject, to gain well-founded analytical insights. It is designed to provide comprehensive theory-based knowledge and to encourage students to do independent research in the areas of literary, cultural and media studies as well as history. Students learn to do advanced scholarly work and to present the results of their research in a systematic manner. Key skills promoted in this course on a professional level are: textual and cultural competence in the area of North American studies; bibliographic and research skills and the ability to acquire, process and order information in both German and English; competence in preparing material in English, both orally and in writing, for academic publication; abstract thinking, critical reasoning and the ability to engage in academic discourse; confidence in the use of IT and media-supported presentation; organising and monitoring subject-related collaborative work; development of personal research networks.

#### I.1.3 Career Perspectives

The Master's course in American Studies prepares students for careers in areas such as

- academic teaching and research
- archiving, documentation
- adult education
- journalism
- literary and cultural management
- media
- museums
- non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- PR, marketing
- politics
- theatre
- tourism
- translating
- publishing
- industry

### I.2 Entry requirements, entry date, academic advisors

#### I.2.1 Entry requirements

Required qualifications for the MA programme are

- a BA from the University of Frankfurt with American Studies as major or one of the minor subjects or

- a degree from a German university that is at least equivalent to a BA and that was obtained after a minimum of six semesters in a similar or related field (major or one of the minor subjects) with relevance North America or
- a degree from a university outside Germany that is at least equivalent to a BA and that was obtained in a similar or related subject (six semesters minimum)

Paragraph 4, section 2 of the basic regulations concerning Master's programmes at the University of Frankfurt (Rahmenordnung) remains unaffected.

Students who did not acquire any knowledge in literary or cultural studies in the course of their BA studies can be admitted to the MA Programme American Studies, provided they satisfactorily complete the following modules in the BA programme American Studies: BAAS 1: Introduction to American Literature and Literary Studies and BAAS 2: Introduction to American Culture and Cultural Studies. These courses and the grades obtained do not count towards the finals in the MA programme. If the above obligations have not been fulfilled by the end of the second semester, the admission to the MA finals will be revoked.

### I.2.2 Language skills

On application for the enrolment in the MA programme, but not later than the actual enrolment (Immatrikulation), evidence has to be provided of a knowledge of English that corresponds to Level C1 of the European Framework of Reference. This is to ensure that applicants possess the necessary language skills to pursue the study of this subject. They need to be able to understand spoken or written statements in English that are relevant to their studies, to work with English texts and to write such texts themselves. This includes in particular

- the ability to understand facts, opinions and intentions presented in English, to respond to these, and to formulate in English their own arguments in a precise and target-oriented manner
- a command of English vocabulary, syntax, textual structures and idiomatic elements that is adequate for academic purposes

Unless the BA degree was predicated on C1, a standardised test in English has to be passed which provides evidence that Level C1 has been attained. Alternatively, a TOEFL can be taken. In this case, Level C1 corresponds to the following TOEFL points: Internet based 110, Computer based 270, Paper based 637. For further details about proof of proficiency in English, definition of levels and points, see the website of the Institut für England- und Amerikastudien. It is not possible to embark on the MA programme American Studies unless Level C1 has been attained.

### I.2.3 Entry date

The MA programme American Studies begins in the winter semester only.

### I.2.4 Academic advisors

Before taking up their studies, applicants are strongly recommended to seek advice from an academic advisor (Studienberater/in) at the Institut für England- und Amerikastudien and to attend the general introduction to studies (Orientierungsveranstaltungen) at the beginning of the semester. For more details about support and advice for students, see the Institut's website.

## PART II: PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND FEATURES, ASSESSMENT

### II.1 Programme structure, modules, credit points

### II.1.1 Programme structure

The MA programme *American Studies* begins in the first semester with the prescribed core module *American Studies: Literature, Culture, History, and Theory* (15 CP) which aims to offer students with different BA degrees a common theoretical and methodological basis. On completion of this module, students choose two out of three possible areas of specialised study and enrol in each of these in an introductory module (15 CP each). If “American Literature and Literary Studies” is one of the areas of choice, the introductory module *American Literature* has to be selected. If “American History and Society” is one of the areas of choice, the introductory module *American History* has to be selected. At the end of the introductory phase the students will have become acquainted with the areas of research covered by American Studies in Frankfurt so that they can decide on their own areas of interest and research. In the concentration phase that now follows, the main fields of study become areas of research. Students choose two out of three modules (15 CP each) with a thematic focus that reflects their specialised interests. If “American Literature and Literary Studies” is one of the areas of choice, the Profile-Building Module *American Literature and Culture* is selected. If “American Culture and Cultural Theory” is one of the areas of choice, the Profile-Building Module *American Media Studies & Cultural Theory* is selected. If “American History and Society” is one of the areas of choice, the Profile-Building Module *American Social and Cultural History* will be selected. The IEAS homepage gives information about which courses can be attributed to which module. Some courses have a wide thematic scope and may therefore be eligible for more than one module. Credit Points awarded in such a course can count towards one module only.

The module *Academic Training* (15 CP) is designed to broaden the scope of students’ core competences in doing research.

The programme concludes with the module *Dissertation* (30 CP). The Master’s dissertation (30,000 to 35,000 words) is a piece of work in which the student demonstrates his or her ability to do independent, well-founded research into a complex topic that makes a significant contribution to existing work in the field.

### II.1.2 Credit Points (CP)

The MA programme *American Studies* is successfully completed when a total of 120 CP has been achieved.

### II.1.3 Number of prescribed and elective modules

The MA programme *American Studies* comprises five prescribed modules (core module, two Profile-Building Modules, *Academic Training*, *Dissertation*) and two elective modules (two Orientation Modules).

### II.1.4 Summary of Credit Points

Basic Module	15 CP
2 Orientation Modules	30 CP
2 Profile-Building Modules	30 CP
Academic Training	15 CP
<u>Dissertation</u>	<u>30 CP</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>120 CP</b>

## II.2 Teaching/learning methods and strategies, course work and assessment

### II.2.1 Teaching/learning methods and strategies

**Academic Training:** The purpose of this module is to introduce students to a variety of academic work and discourse. It comprises a colloquium (5 CP), a practical language course (5 CP) and various academic activities, the choice and combination of which is at the discretion of the individual student, subject to prior discussion with the module coordinator (max. 5 CP). Possible activities are:

Academic activity	Guidelines for CP
Attendance of guest lectures	1 CP, four lectures / written summary of one page for each
Attendance of conferences, symposiums, workshops	2 CP per day of event (final report of 3-5 pages obligatory)
Paper delivered at conference, symposium, workshop	3 CP
Publication in learned journal	5 CP
Subject-related study abroad (summer school, research in archive or library, field trip)	ECTS points according to duration (example: 5 CP for 5 days / 6 working hours per day)
Significant work in academic body or official students' representation (e.g. appointments committee, <i>Fachschaft</i> , ASTA)	1-2 CP per semester (written confirmation)
Preparation of a <i>Tutorium</i> (student-taught class)	3-5 CP
Other academic activities	Subject to approval of module coordinator

In none of the areas listed above is it possible to acquire more than 10 CP. The contributions made by students to these extra-curricular activities have to be accredited by staff members who were in charge of these events (course, guest lecture, etc.). The completion of this module will be certified by the module coordinator.

**Student Project:** The purpose of *Student Projects* is to go beyond the topics studied in profile-building seminars, and to develop research skills. Under the guidance of faculty staff, students learn on the one hand to reflect on and to present the results of their studies and on the other hand to organise individually or in teams the kind of work groups that are common in academic work. *Student Projects* can take the form of student conferences, (online) exhibitions, digital archiving, text editing, etc.

**Independent Study:** In consultation with staff members, students prepare a survey of existing research on a specific topic, based on extensive reading. The main purpose of this kind of *Independent Study* is to develop a critical understanding of academic publications. The reading load should amount to approximately 90 hours.

**Practical Language Courses:** These courses serve to expand the knowledge of and skills in the use of English, particularly the ability to handle spoken and written modes of academic discourse.

### II.2.3 Assessment and Assignments

**Essay (*Hausarbeit*):** An essay is a thematically coherent piece of extended written work in which a question chosen by the student is discussed methodically. Students

expound their views on the subject and in so doing demonstrate their familiarity with the relevant research. Academic publications on which the essay is based must be clearly cited. For conventions of citation, see the style sheets available from the appropriate sections of the IEAS. Essays have a length of 7000 to 8000 words (5 CP)

**Written test (*Klausur*):** In the Basic Module, course assessment takes the form of a written test. It requires a comprehensive and detailed understanding of the methods and approaches applied in American Studies today and in the past. Tests are written under supervision; the duration is 90 minutes. (5 CP)

**Documentation in a Student Project:** These documentations serve to encourage critical thinking about the contents of a student project and the skills that were acquired (length ca. 1000 words). (1 CP)

**Independent Study Essay:** In an *Independent Study Essay* students engage critically with current discourses and debates in their area of studies (length ca. 3000 words). (2 CP)

**Presentation of Concept:** In the Colloquium, students will orally outline the concept of their dissertation, i.e. the broader research context, the problems under discussion and the results of their Master's dissertation. Duration ca. 20 minutes, followed by discussion. (2 CP)

**Master's Dissertation:** The application to begin work on the final dissertation can be submitted if a minimum of 75 CP have been acquired. The dissertation, which must be written in English, has a length of ca. 70 standard pages (30,000 words). It has to be completed within six months. (30 CP)

### **PART III: MASTER'S EXAMINATION**

#### III.1 Admission to the final examination

To register for the final examination, the student has to be in possession of the documents specified in Part IV, para. 13 of the Rahmenordnung.

#### III.2 Parts of the examination

The Master's examination consists of the following elements:

- a. examination (graded work) in the Basic Module
- b. examinations (graded work) in two of the elective modules of the Orientation Phase, namely,
  - the Orientation Module *American Literature* if „American Literature and Literary Studies“ was the chosen main field of study
  - the Orientation Module *American Culture* if „American Culture and Cultural Studies“ was the chosen main field of study
  - the Orientation Module *American History* if „American History and Society“ was the chosen main field of study.
- c. examinations (graded work) in two of the prescribed modules of the Profile-Building Phase, namely,

the Profile-Building Module *American Literature and Culture* if „American Literature and Literary Studies“ was the chosen main field of study,

the Profile-Building Module *Media Studies and Cultural Theory* if „American Culture and Cultural Studies“ was the chosen main field of study,

the Profile-Building Module *American Social and Cultural History* if „American History and Society“ was the chosen main field of study.

d. Master's dissertation

### III.3 Final grade

The final grade for the Master's degree is the average over the grade for the dissertation, which is worth double grades, and the best three grades gained in the modular assessments of the Orientation and the Profile-Building Phases.

## **PART IV: DESCRIPTION OF THE MODULES**

The following descriptions specify for each module: prerequisites, contents and learning objectives, availability of the module during the academic year, duration, courses attributed to each module, form of teaching, working hours per week, work load in Credit Points, criteria for the acquisition of CP, and forms of assessment.

#### IV.1 Basic Module

<b>Basic Module: American Studies: Literature, Culture, History, and Theory Module</b>				
<b>Hours of attendance: 60 Hours of independent study: 390</b>				
<p><b>Contents:</b> The <i>lecture course (Major Concepts in American Studies)</i> aims to familiarise students who bring different academic backgrounds to this MA programme with the fundamental methods and approaches applied in American Studies today and in the past. The lectures give an introduction to the history of the subject, offer a survey of past and present discourses and debates and discuss current developments in <i>American Studies</i>. Subsequent modules in this MA programme will build on this foundation. The <i>seminar course</i> introduces students to the principle of research-based teaching and learning by giving them insights into the on-going research work of faculty members.</p>				
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b> At the end of this module students will be able to discuss competently literary, cultural and media objects, using professional terminology and methods adequately. They will be able to understand and assess recent developments in the subject's theory and methodology. This will enable them to make informed choices of their main fields of study in the Orientation and the Profile-Building Phase and to develop ideas and hypotheses for their own research.</p>				
<b>Suitability:</b> MA American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none				
<b>Availability:</b> Winter semester only				
<b>Duration:</b> One semester				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> see course book (KVV)				
<b>Assessment:</b> Written test at the end of the lecture course (5 CP)				
<b>Requirements for CP:</b> Active participation in the seminar course (see paragraph 8 section 4 of the MA Rahmenordnung), written test				
<b>Form of teaching</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>hrs/week</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>semester</b>
1 Lecture course	V	2	10	1
2 Seminar course	S	2	5	1



## IV.2 ORIENTATION MODULES

During the Orientation Phase students select two out of three possible main fields of study, in which they extend and deepen by independent study the knowledge and skills acquired in the seminar courses.

<b>OM American Literature</b>		<b>Elective module</b>		
<b>Hours of attendance:</b> 30 <b>Hours of independent study:</b> 420				
<p><b>Contents:</b> This module is designed to expand the knowledge of literatures in the US with a view to, for instance, inner-American and global interconnections, as well as ethnic and gender-specific forms of expression and inter-media relations. Attention is also given to trends and periods in literary history and their cultural and socio-historical contexts. Students will learn to apply advanced methods of textual analysis and interpretation. The module component <i>Independent Study</i> serves, generally speaking, to deepen and supplement the knowledge acquired in the seminar course through extensive reading under the guidance of the lecturer in charge.</p>				
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b> At the end of this module students will be able to analyse and critically examine literary texts in regard to their historical and inter-medial effectiveness, drawing on a wide variety of theories and approaches. Their theoretical groundwork will enable them to formulate critical questions of their own and to pursue self-directed work. More generally, students will acquire the knowledge of methods that enable them to decode artistic forms of expression.</p>				
<b>Suitability:</b> MA American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none				
<b>Availability:</b> Summer or winter semester				
<b>Duration:</b> One or two semesters				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> see course book (KVV)				
<b>Assessment:</b> Essay submitted in seminar course (5 CP)				
<b>Requirements for CP:</b> Essay in IS; active participation in the seminar course (see paragraph 8 section 4 of the MA Rahmenordnung); essay in seminar course				
<b>Form of teaching</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>hrs/week</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>semester</b>
1 Seminar course	S	2	10	1-2
2 Independent Study	IS		5	1-2

<b>OM American Culture</b>		<b>Elective Module</b>		
<b>Hours of attendance:</b> 30 <b>Hours of independent study:</b> 420				
<p><b>Contents:</b> Students will acquire a profound and differentiated understanding of cultural and media studies as applied to American Studies. Among the relevant approaches are the full range of theories and methods of Cultural Studies and of American Studies. A further objective is to move students to a higher level of understanding of how communication and its symbolic transmission are socially conditioned. The focus will be on selected aspects of the cultural history of various media (film, photography, painting, music, etc.) including their grounding in a wider social context. Seminar work will also look at aspects of the history of ideas, which may include the discussion of transnational or comparative issues. The module component <i>Independent Study</i> serves, generally speaking, to deepen and expand the knowledge acquired in the seminar course through extensive reading under the guidance of the lecturer in charge.</p>				
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b> At the end of this module students will be able use a framework of cultural theory and of cultural and media history in order to analyse individual cultural phenomena and to understand and discuss them as systems of cultural signification. They will have developed the theoretical knowledge that enables them to understand the evolution of cultural formations and the strategies and practices of their agents, deploying concepts of social history and the history of ideas. On the basis of their theoretical competence they can identify issues for further exploration and organise their research autonomously.</p>				
<b>Suitability:</b> MA American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none				
<b>Availability:</b> Summer or winter semester				
<b>Duration:</b> One or two semesters				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> see course book (KVV)				
<b>Assessment:</b> Essay submitted in seminar course (5 CP)				
<b>Requirements for CP:</b> Essay in IS; active participation in the seminar course (see paragraph 8 section 4 of the MA Rahmenordnung); essay in seminar course				
<b>Form of teaching</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>hrs/week</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>semester</b>
1 Seminar course	S	2	10	1-2
2 Independent Study	IS		5	1-2

<b>OM American History</b>	<b>Elective Module</b>			
<b>Hours of attendance:</b> 30 <b>Hours of independent study:</b> 420				
<p><b>Contents:</b> The module aims to acquaint its students with the history and methodology of American historiography on the basis of selected case studies. In seminar groups, specific approaches and theoretical tools of social and cultural history and of the history of ideas are outlined and discussed and then applied to source material. In addition, the seminars serve to build a solid foundation of knowledge which will enable students to describe and critically reflect crucial developments in the history of American society, politics and ideas as well as in the history of gender and ethnic minorities. The module component <i>Independent Study</i> serves to deepen and expand the knowledge acquired in the seminar course through extensive reading under the guidance of the lecturer in charge.</p> <p><b>Learning objectives:</b> At the end of this module students will be able to analyse primary source material and to relate it to its period of origin. They will have developed the ability to apply cutting-edge methods of American historiography and to evaluate them critically.</p>				
<b>Suitability:</b> MA American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none				
<b>Availability:</b> Summer or winter semester				
<b>Duration:</b> One or two semesters				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> see course book (KVV)				
<b>Assessment:</b> Essay submitted in seminar course (5 CP)				
<b>Requirements for CP:</b> Essay in IS; active participation in the seminar course (see paragraph 8 section 4 of the MA Rahmenordnung); essay in seminar course				
<b>Form of teaching</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>hrs/week</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>semester</b>
1 Seminar course	S	2	10	1-2
2 Independent Study	IS		5	1-2

## IV.2 Profile-Building Modules

When students reach the Profile-Building Phase they begin to develop a distinctive academic profile. What were main fields of study now become areas of research. As in the preceding Orientation Phase, students complete two out of three possible modules. At this stage of the programme, students in cooperation with teaching staff and fellow students work on *Student Projects* which are directly related to the seminar course. The planning and implementation of such projects can be carried out by individuals or by teams.

<b>PM American Literature and Culture</b>		<b>Prescribed Module</b>		
<b>Hours of attendance:</b> 60		<b>Hours of independent study:</b> 390		
<p><b>Contents:</b> The purpose of this module is to encourage students to undertake research in the field of American literary studies, setting their own goals and strategies. Students learn to position and critically assess issues of American literary studies and history in their cultural context, and to work with cultural studies strategies and methods and apply them judiciously to literary analysis. The module aims to promote the ability to understand the inter-relationship between the parameters of practical textual analysis and systematic theory in dealing with complex research problems posed by the study of American culture and society. The <i>Student Project</i> promotes practice in research-based learning. Dealing with a specific project, students learn to do research at a sophisticated level. While their work is self-directed, they remain in close contact with teaching staff.</p>				
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b> At the end of the module students can investigate and assess complex research problems of American literary studies within the parameters of practical textual analysis and systematic theory. They will also possess the necessary skills to effectively structure and communicate their ideas in a variety of written and oral formats.</p>				
<b>Suitability:</b> MA American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Completion of the Basic Module				
<b>Availability:</b> Summer or winter semester				
<b>Duration:</b> One or two semesters				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> see course book (KVV)				
<b>Assessment:</b> Essay submitted in seminar course (5 CP)				
<b>Requirements for CP:</b> Documentation of work in Student Project, active participation in the seminar course (see paragraph 8 section 4 of the MA Rahmenordnung); essay in seminar course				
<b>Form of teaching</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>hrs/week</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>semester</b>
1 Seminar course	S	2	10	2-4
2 Student Project	SP		5	2-4

<b>PM Media Studies &amp; Cultural Theory</b>		<b>Prescribed Module</b>		
<b>Hours of attendance:</b> 60 <b>Hours of independent study:</b> 390				
<p><b>Contents:</b> This module expands the scope of teaching about North America by including specific media and theory-related areas, such as media studies, film studies, sound studies, visual culture studies, gender theory, trans-nationalism and ecocriticism. Interdisciplinary in its orientation, the module serves to apply theories and methodologies to the study of selected audiovisual media and cultural contexts. The aim is to provide in-depth insights into Media Studies and Cultural Theory in relation to North America and to trial relevant interdisciplinary theories and methods. Students will explore independently, critically and in close contact with research the practical value of Media Studies theory and methods. Equally, they will learn to analyse aesthetic phenomena, their different forms, effects and functions. The <i>Student Project</i> promotes practice in research-based learning. Dealing with a specific project, students learn to do research at a sophisticated level. While their work is self-directed, they remain in close contact with teaching staff.</p>				
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b> At the end of the module students can investigate and assess complex research problems of Media and Cultural Studies within the parameters of relevant interdisciplinary theories. They will also possess the necessary skills to effectively structure and communicate their ideas in a variety of written and oral formats.</p>				
<b>Suitability:</b> MA American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Completion of the Basic Module				
<b>Availability:</b> Summer or winter semester				
<b>Duration:</b> One or two semesters				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> see course book (KVV)				
<b>Assessment:</b> Essay submitted in seminar course (5 CP)				
<b>Requirements for CP:</b> Documentation of work in Student Project, active participation in the seminar course (see paragraph 8 section 4 of the MA Rahmenordnung); essay in seminar course				
<b>Form of teaching</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>hrs/week</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>semester</b>
1 Seminar course	S	2	10	2-4
2 Student Project	SP		5	2-4

<b>PM American Social and Cultural History</b>		<b>Prescribed Module</b>		
<b>Hours of attendance:</b> 60 <b>Hours of independent study:</b> 390				
<p><b>Contents:</b> The module further develops and extends the range of skills acquired in the Orientation Module. It enables students to do research-led work on topics of their own choice and to locate these in the context of American social and cultural historiography. Seminar discussions focus on specific issues under debate in American historiography, looking at them in the light of recent paradigms of social and cultural history. The purpose of these seminar discussions is to define research projects of a feasible scope based on primary sources, that are expected to make a contribution to ongoing academic debates or to critically review the results of previous research. The <i>Student Project</i> promotes practice in research-based learning. Dealing with a specific project, students learn to do research at a sophisticated level. While their work is self-directed, they remain in close contact with teaching staff.</p>				
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b> At the end of this module students will have developed the ability to plan and carry out historiographic research projects, potentially preparing the results for publication in a learned journal. Also, they will possess the necessary skills to effectively structure and communicate ideas in a variety of written and oral formats.</p>				
<b>Suitability:</b> MA American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Completion of the Basic Module				
<b>Availability:</b> Summer or winter semester				
<b>Duration:</b> One or two semesters				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> see course book (KVV)				
<b>Assessment:</b> Essay submitted in seminar course (5 CP)				
<b>Requirements for CP:</b> Documentation of work in Student Project, active participation in the seminar course (see paragraph 8 section 4 of the MA Rahmenordnung); essay in seminar course				
<b>Form of teaching</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>hrs/week</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>semester</b>
1 Seminar course	S	2	10	2-4
2 Student Project	SP		5	2-4

### IV.3 Academic Training

<b>Academic Training</b>	<b>Prescribed Module</b>			
<b>Hours of attendance:</b> 90 <b>Hours of independent study:</b> 360				
<p><b>Contents:</b> This module familiarises students with modes of research work and with formats of academic interaction. The <i>Colloquium</i> component offers students the opportunity to practise the presentation and critique of research issues, problems and research results. In this way it promotes the ability to present ideas effectively and to respond to the ideas of others constructively. The module component <i>Practical Language Work</i> serves to practise advanced literacy and communication skills (oral and written) and the ability to apply these for specific contexts, especially for key areas of academic discourse. The module component <i>Academic Activities</i> is intended to familiarize students with the practical dimensions of academic research, teaching and discourse (see II.2.1).</p>				
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b> At the end of this module students will have acquired skills in self-determined research work and in academic networking. They will be able to address themselves appropriately to a larger group of peers as well as to established academics and to communicate research results professionally in speech and writing. Over and beyond their work in seminars they will have gained experience in diverse academic practices and environments.</p>				
<b>Suitability:</b> MA American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none				
<b>Availability:</b> Summer or winter semester				
<b>Duration:</b> One or two semesters				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> see course book (KVV)				
<b>Assessment:</b> none				
<p><b>Requirements for CP:</b> Active participation (see paragraph 8 section 4 of the MA Rahmenordnung); attestation of academic activities (see II.2.1) and presentation of a dissertation concept in the Colloquium. The successful completion of the module is accredited by the module coordinator.</p>				
<b>Form of teaching</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>hrs/week</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>semester</b>
1 Colloquium	KQ	2	5	2-4
2 Practical language course Level III	SPrax	2	5	2-4
3 Academic Activity			5	2-4

#### IV.4 Master's Dissertation Module

<b>Master's Dissertation</b>	<b>Prescribed Module 30 CP</b>
<b>Hours of independent study:</b> 900	
<b>Contents:</b> The dissertation is a piece of independent research written in English that focuses on a subject from one of the student's two main fields of study. It must be completed within six months. Its length is approximately 30,000 words (70 standard pages). A summary in German has to be appended to the dissertation.	
<b>Learning objectives:</b> The dissertation brings to bear the skills and perspectives acquired throughout the MA course, especially the ability to follow research procedures in the discussion of a complex topic. It critically reflects recently published research on the subject and may make a contribution of its own to the current debate in the field.	
<b>Suitability:</b> MA American Studies	
<b>Prerequisites:</b> A minimum of 75 CP	
<b>Availability:</b> Summer or winter semester	
<b>Duration:</b> one semester	
<b>Module coordinator:</b> see course book (KVV)	
<b>Assessment:</b> MA dissertation (30 CP)	
<b>Requirements for CP:</b> at least pass grade for the dissertation	



PART V: STUDY PLAN (EXAMPLE)

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
<b>BM (15 CP)</b> Lecture course (WS), seminar course (WS), written test at end of lecture course			
<b>OM1 of 2 (15 CP)</b> Seminar course, independent study, essay in seminar course	<b>OM2 of 2 (15 CP)</b> Seminar course, independent study, essay in seminar course		
	<b>PM1 of 2 (15 CP)</b> Seminar course, student project, essay in seminar course	<b>PM2 of 2 (15 CP)</b> Seminar course, student project, essay in seminar course	
	<b>Module Academic Training (15 CP)</b> Colloquium Practical language course Academic activity		<b>Module Master's Dissertation (30CP)</b>
30 CP/ 8 hrs/week	30-35 CP / 8 hrs/week	25-30 CP / 8 hrs/week	30 CP / 0 hrs/week