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OFFICE OF THE DEAN



MODULE HANDBOOK

North American Studies

SINGLE-SUBJECT MASTER OF ARTS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXAMINATION REGULATIONS FOR MASTER'S DEGREES AT THE
FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

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List of Abbreviations

AM	Advanced Module
BA	Bachelor of Arts
BM	Basic Module
SM	Supplementary Module
CEF	Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
CH	Contact hours (=time spent in course (C))
C	Course
CP	Credit Points
MC	Mandatory Course
ER	Examination Regulations
IM	Immersion Module
SuSe	Summer Semester
SSt	Self-study
WLH	Weekly lecture hours
SI	Studium Integrale
TPF	Time required for Preparation and Follow-Up
WiSe	Winter Semester
EC	Elective Course
WL	Workload

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1 M.A. North American Studies

The North American Studies (NAS) program involves the interdisciplinary study of the history, culture, art, literature, language, film, philosophy, media theory, politics and society, economics and law, and international law of the North American region, i.e., Canada and the United States, as well as the Caribbean and Latin America. This geographical expansion results from the diverse political, historical, cultural, as well as economic interlocking of nation-states on the American continental shelf. At the same time, it follows the current trend to pursue North American Studies in a comparative and transnational perspective.

1.1 Content, Objectives, and Requirements

The study program is designed to provide in-depth academic and research-oriented training in the field of North American literatures and cultures on the basis of a related bachelor's degree. The basic knowledge and cultural competencies students acquired in their previous bachelor's degree programs will be expanded and intensified with regard to current research questions. The goals of the program are to train students in their ability to position themselves independently in science and to enrich ongoing research. To this end, the master's program is designed to enable them to develop the necessary analytical and methodological skills and to develop their own research strategies. Additionally, the elements of the study program related to cultural theory will endow students with qualifications for effective, target-oriented interdisciplinary cooperation with cultural scholars of other disciplines. Given the unity of research and teaching our university subscribes to, students will be integrated into ongoing research projects; they will also be enabled to use scientific theories and methods as well as interdisciplinary knowledge and cultural skills towards their own research projects and create a foundation for their later professional activities at the same time.

The NAS Master program aims at deepening cultural, intercultural, communication and media skills, competences which are of great relevance on the international labor market. The program's strong focus on research and specialization prepares the students for a future scholarly career in relevant research institutions or in a research-oriented sector of the labor market. Simultaneously the Internship Module provides students with an experience of the labor market already during their studies. In the past, the graduates have been employed in a broad range of application-oriented scientific organizations (in the area of science management, planning activities, international NGOs, etc.). A large percentage (>20%) of the graduates continues their scientific education by writing a dissertation.

Thanks to wide international networks of the Department of History, the Department of English, and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, students of the NAS Master program will be able to participate in and benefit from international research programs and cooperations.

Each module, except for the Internship Module, can be attended by students of History, English Studies or related fields of study (Studium Integrale) if they meet the requirements of the University of Cologne. However, this is not recommended for the seminar-like lectures ‘Introduction to North American History’ and ‘Introduction to Post-Colonial Theory’ (Advanced Modules 2 and 3). These lectures are linked to obligatory tutorials which students of History or English Studies usually do not attend.

The Department of English I and the Institute of North American History provide a majority of the courses in the program. They are primarily open to students of the NAS Master program, but students of other fields of study (History, English Studies, etc.) are allowed to attend seminars depending on availability and course type.

Admission Requirements and Study Qualifications:

To be admitted to the NAS Master program students must have successfully completed a Bachelor program or an equivalent study program in one of the following fields of study: English Studies, American Studies, History, Geography, Intercultural Communication, Philosophy, Political Studies, Legal Studies, Sociology, Theology, Translation Studies, Economics, or any other field of study related to North American Studies. As part of this first degree, at least 40 CP relevant to the cultures, history and literatures of the English-speaking world are required.

Additionally, we require competence in English equal to the level C1 (CEF) and competence in a second modern foreign language other than English. For non-native speakers of this language, the level should equal B1 (CEF). Language proficiency in this second modern language can be proven upon registration for the Master’s thesis.

The decision on admission is made by the admissions committee in cooperation with the responsible department representatives. Students can be admitted to the NAS Master program for the Summer Semester as well as for the Winter Semester. All courses are taught in English. In order to apply, please visit the application gateway Uni Assist: <https://www.uni-assist.de/en>. Further information is available here: <https://nag.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/en/programs-degrees/ma-north-american-studies>.

Application deadlines are January 15 for the Summer Semester and July 15 for the Winter Semester.

1.2 Structure of Program

The study program consists of four modules. Students have to attend all four advanced modules and the immersion module and pass the respective module examinations. The curriculum was developed in close cooperation with the North American Studies Program at the University of Bonn. Both universities in Cologne and Bonn entered a contract at university level, which requires both curricula to be congruent. The University of Bonn offers a range of courses in North American Studies which have no equivalent in the University of Cologne. As North American history is not part of the study program at the University of Bonn, the students from Bonn have the opportunity to attend the respective courses in Cologne.

The modules have to be completed according to the Sample Study Plan (see 3.1), because modules three and four build on modules one and two. However, deviations are possible, especially if the student holds a Bachelor degree in e.g. History or American Studies.

1.3 General Overview of Credit Points

General Overview of Credit Points	
Academic Studies	90 credit points
Master's Thesis	30 credit points
Total	120 credit points

1.4 Overview of Credit Points for Each Semester

Credit Points Overview				
Semester	Module	CH	TPF	CP
1.-2.	AM1 Literary and Cultural Studies	180	420	20
1.-2.	AM 2 History and Society	300	300	20
1.-2.	AM 3 Postcolonial Studies	300	300	20
1.-3.	AM 4 Research	270	330	20
1.-3.	IM 1 Internship		300	10
4.	Master's Thesis	0	900	30

1.5 Calculation of Core Grade

The core grade is composed of the module exams in the Advanced Modules each of which counts for 25% of the total grade.

2 Module Descriptions and Tables

Note: Pursuant to Section 15 (2) ‘academic achievements’ of the Examination Regulations, examinations are usually carried out in the following forms: electronic learning assessments, essays, exercises, homework assignments, short presentations, minutes, reviews, written exams, thesis papers, and similar forms.

Note: For all internships and excursions, the following applies in accordance with §9 Para. 4g: The obligation for verifiable regular participation in modules or courses results from the necessity of examining content-relevant objects and contexts in situations and the location- and situation-dependent acquisition of practice- or job-relevant skills and abilities with the inclusion of non-university learning locations.

2.1 Advanced Modules

There are four advanced modules to be attended.

Advanced Module 1: Literary and Cultural Studies					
Identification No.	Workload	Credit Points	Semester	Module Availability	Duration
4569NMFA01	600 hours	20 credit points	1 st -2 nd Semester	WiSe/SuSe	2 Terms
1	Courses		Contact hours	Self-study	
	a) Seminar: Aspects of North American Literature and Culture		60 h	120 h	
	b) Seminar: Reading Cultural Texts		30 h	60 h	
	c) Lecture: Aspects of North American Literature and Culture		30 h	60 h	
	d) Seminar: Tutorial in North American Literature and Culture		30 h	30 h	
	e) Seminar: Reading Cultural Texts		30 h	60 h	
	f) Module Examination			90 h	
2	Learning Objectives and Goals of Qualification				
	<p>The learning objective of this module is to acquire an advanced knowledge of North American literary and cultural history as well as to become acquainted with the relevant theories and research methods in literature, culture and media. Students are to acquire and practice the independent and critical approach to scientific research methods in literature, culture and media (as well as in art and philosophy, if applicable) using research-based methods. They should be capable of analyzing aesthetic phenomena as well as their forms, effects and functions. A further goal is to provide students with profound knowledge of central forms and developments in North American culture in the following fields: history of ideas, media history, as well as the history of local, ethnic and gender-specific subcultures. Approaches of cultural theory and the theories of North American culture provide a context for the interpretation of these cultural phenomena. As a result, students acquire the methodological skills in performing cultural analysis and will be qualified to engage independently in issues of cultural studies.</p>				

3	<p>Content of the Module</p> <p>The lecture “Aspects of American Literature and Culture” in connection with the obligatory tutorial presents aspects of the history of literature, culture and ideas of North America (in the fields of literature, film, music, philosophy, etc.) and provides opportunities for discussions on aesthetic and methodological strategies and lines of tradition. The focus is put on critical theory and media studies. The seminar is intended to apply the acquired methods of recognition of artistic and cultural practices with the help of selected texts and cultural contexts. The decidedly intermedial orientation of this module has been chosen to do justice to the diversity of the studied phenomena. The module focuses on the field of advanced literary, cultural and media theory, Film Studies, Queer and Gender Studies, the relation between natural and cultural sciences (Life Sciences) as well as on the study of aspects of Canadian and Caribbean literature and culture.</p>
4	<p>Teaching and Learning Methods</p> <p>Lecture, seminar</p>
5	<p>Requirements for Participation</p> <p>None</p>
6	<p>Type of Module Examination</p> <p>Written exam: Term paper (20-25 pages; 30.000 to 37.500 characters)</p>
7	<p>Prerequisites for Awarding of Credit Points</p> <p>Completion of course work; passing the module exam.</p>
8	<p>Status of the Module (in other Study Programs)</p> <p>Required module for the Master Program North American Studies</p>
9	<p>Bearing of Module Grade on Core Grade</p> <p>The module grade counts as 25% of the core grade.</p>
10	<p>Module Manager</p> <p>Chair of North American Literature and Culture</p>
11	<p>Further Information</p>

Advanced Module 2 History and Society					
Identification No.	Workload	Credit Points	Semester	Module Availability	Duration
4595NMFA02	600 hours	20 credit points	1 st -2 nd Semester	WiSe/SuSe	2 Terms
1	Courses		Contact hours	Self-study	
	a) Seminar: Introduction to North American History		60 h	120 h	
	b) Seminar: Tutorial in North American History		30 h	60 h	
	c) Seminar: Problems in North American History 1		30 h	60 h	
	d) Lecture: North American History in Time and Space		30 h	30 h	
	e) Seminar: Problems in North American History 2		30 h	60 h	
	f) Module Examination			90 h	
2	Learning Objectives and Goals of Qualification				
	The learning objective of the module 'History and Society' is to acquire further disciplinary knowledge and methodological skills as well as intercultural competence by the implicit comparison especially with the history of Europe. Students will be educated in models and patterns of social organization, political rules and cultural practices, as well as historically established connections and interdependencies between the United States of America; Canada, Latin America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Students acquire an understanding of the multidimensional historical processes, learn to master the historical methods and develop a comprehension of historiography as cultural and social science by dealing with theories and methods of cultural science and social history.				
3	Content of the Module				
	The lecture "Introduction to North American History" in connection with the obligatory tutorial in the first semester presents some of the specific aspects of history and society of North America with a focus on political history, social and economic history, gender history and the intellectual history of the USA and Canada. The goal of this course is to provide students with a generalized overview of North American history which allows them to obtain an overall picture for a first orientation in the field.				
	The lecture in the second semester explores in further details a selected (and alternating) issue of North American history. The seminar in the first term is intended for the application of the various historical methods of source study, source selection and their interpretation. The seminar in the second term introduces students to various methodologies and schools of thought in historiography. The students will have the opportunity to apply those in practice and discuss their different levels of efficiency.				
4	Teaching and Learning Methods				
	Lecture, seminar				
5	Requirements for Participation				
	None				
6	Type of Module Examination				
	Written exam: Term paper (20-25 pages; 30.000 to 37.5000 characters)				
7	Prerequisites for Awarding of Credit Points				
	Completion of course work; passing the module exam.				

8	Status of the Module (in other Study Programs) Required module for the Master Program North American Studies
9	Bearing of Module Grade on Core Grade The module grade counts as 25% of the core grade.
10	Module Manager Chair of North American History
11	Further Information

Advanced Module 3 Postcolonial Studies					
Identification No.	Workload	Credit Points	Semester	Module Availability	Duration
4595NMFA03	600 hours	20 credit points	2 nd -3 rd Semester	WiSe/SuSe	2 Terms
1	Courses		Contact hours	Self-study	
	a) Seminar: Introduction to Post-Colonial Theory		60 h	120 h	
	b) Seminar: Tutorial to Post-Colonial Theory		30 h	30 h	
	c) Lecture: Postcolonial Problems in North America and the Caribbean		30 h	60 h	
	d) Seminar: Postcolonial Studies: A Methodological Primer		30 h	60 h	
	e) Seminar: Applied Postcolonial Studies		30 h	60 h	
	f) Module Examination			90 h	
2	Learning Objectives and Goals of Qualification				
	<p>Students have in-depth knowledge of postcolonial studies as well as literary, cultural and historical theories and methods. They are able to apply these theoretical models independently. They have the ability to independently and critically use methods of Postcolonial Studies. They are capable of analyzing study projects in literary, cultural and historical studies.</p> <p>Students have the ability to give oral presentations and compose complex texts based on research. They are capable of incorporating historical knowledge.</p>				
3	Content of the Module				
	<p>The lecture develops an overview of colonial history and literature in relation to the United States, Canada and the Caribbean (with extensions to Central and South America) on the basis of theories of Postcolonial Studies. Moreover, it provides an overview of the developments of Postcolonial Studies as a field of knowledge and introduces students to an archive of standard texts and terms from the fields of history, politics literature, film, music, philosophy, etc.</p> <p>The lecture in the second semester deals in depth with a selected (and in each case changing) topic of Postcolonial Studies. The seminar in the first semester serves to explore the different topics of Postcolonial Studies. The second semester seminar introduces different methodologies and theoretical debates. Students apply them in practice and discuss their different applications.</p>				

4	<p>Teaching and Learning Methods Lecture, seminar</p>
5	<p>Requirements for Participation None</p>
6	<p>Type of Module Examination Oral exam (45 minutes)</p>
7	<p>Prerequisites for Awarding of Credit Points Completion of course work; passing the module exam.</p>
8	<p>Status of the Module (in other Study Programs) Required module for the Master Program North American Studies, can be replaced in toto with a module of the University of Bonn.</p>
9	<p>Bearing of Module Grade on Core Grade The module grade counts as 25% of the core grade.</p>
10	<p>Module Manager Chair of North American History</p>
11	<p>Further Information Required module for the Master Program North American Studies, can be replaced in toto with a module of the University of Bonn.</p>

Advanced Module 4 Research					
Identification No.	Workload	Credit Points	Semester	Module Availability	Duration
4595NMFA04	600 hours	20 credit points	2 nd -3 rd Semester	WiSe/SuSe	2 Terms
1	Courses		Contact hours	Self-study	
	a) Colloquium: Comparative Aspects of North American Studies I		30 h	60 h	
	b) Colloquium: Comparative Aspects of North American Studies II		30 h	60 h	
	c) Colloquium: Comparative Aspects of North American Studies III		30 h	60 h	
	d) Self-study			240 h	
	e) Module Examination			90 h	
2	Learning Objectives and Goals of Qualification				
	Students have the ability to apply their in-depth knowledge of North American history and culture. They are familiar with the relevant interdisciplinary theories and methods. They master research techniques and are able to work on research projects of their own choice.				
3	Content of the Module				
	<p>The Research Module consists of three colloquia in the compulsory areas of North American Studies (Literary and Cultural Studies, History and Society, Postcolonial Studies). All students in a semester are required to participate in the same colloquia, thus increasing the coherence of their respective cohorts and enhancing their understanding of interdisciplinary problems. In the final colloquium, an exposé is prepared and defended.</p> <p>Independent Study forms a second element of the module, a form of teaching that on the one hand is based on the independent elaboration of a self-selected research problem and requires the close cooperation of the students with a teacher of their choice on the other hand. Students complete their Independent Study with an exposé, which is comparable in scope to a term paper, but includes considerations for the planning of their Master's thesis. This is to ensure that, firstly, the students have a say in the selection of the topic for the master's thesis, and secondly, that the topic can be successfully worked on within the given time frame.</p>				
4	Teaching and Learning Methods				
	Lecture, seminar				
5	Requirements for Participation				
	None				
6	Type of Module Examination				
	Combined test: oral presentation with a written script (preparation of an exposé with subsequent discussion)				
7	Prerequisites for Awarding of Credit Points				
	Completion of course work; passing the module exam.				

8	Status of the Module (in other Study Programs) Required module for the Master Program North American Studies.
9	Bearing of Module Grade on Core Grade The module grade counts as 25% of the core grade.
10	Module Manager Chair of North American History
11	Further Information

2.2 Immersion Module

Immersion Module 1 Internship					
Identification No.	Workload	Credit Points	Semester	Module Availability	Duration
4595NMFS01	300 hours	10 credit points	1 st -4 th Semester	WiSe/SuSe	2 Terms
1	Courses		Contact hours	Self-study	envisaged
	a) Internship			240 h	Group Size
	b) Module Examination		60 h		
2	Learning Objectives and Goals of Qualification The students have in-depth experience in the independent organization of a longer activity. They acquire in-depth experience with application processes. They can better assess their own skills and interests and make their professional competencies productive in everyday work. They acquire practical experience and know about the importance of professional networks.				
3	Content of the Module The students complete an internship of at least six weeks in an area relevant to the course of study. The internship can be done during the lecture-free period or - if the schedule allows - during the semester. A final report serves as a reflection on one's own strengths and weaknesses, the daily work routine as well as possible occupational fields.				
4	Teaching and Learning Methods Internship				
5	Requirements for Participation None				
6	Type of Module Examination Written exam: Internship report (10-15 pages, 15.000 to 22.5000 characters)				
7	Prerequisites for Awarding of Credit Points Completion of a 6 weeks internship; passing the module exam.				

8	<p>Status of the Module (in other Study Programs) Required module for the Master Program North American Studies.</p>
9	<p>Bearing of Module Grade on Core Grade The module grade is not part of the core grade.</p>
10	<p>Module Manager Chair of North American History</p>
11	<p>Further Information In this module (and in all other modules of the program) credits from study abroad can be recognized.</p>

2.3 Master's Thesis

Module: Master's Thesis					
Identification No.	Workload	Credit Points	Semester	Module Availability	Duration
4595NMF1MA	900 hours	30 credit points	2 nd -4 th Semester	WiSe/SuSe	6 months
1	Courses		Self-study		
	a) Module examination: Master's Thesis		900 h		
2	Learning Objectives and Goals of Qualification The aim of the module is the successful completion of the master's thesis. It serves to prove that the examinee is able to scientifically work on and reflect on a thematically limited problem from the subject area of the degree program using the required methods within a specified period of time. Students acquire the competence to independently design and implement a clearly defined, manageable research project in the context of intensive consultation and supervision. They expand their methodological competencies and consolidate their subject-specific skills for the presentation of complex research content in line with requirements.				
3	Content of the Module The Master's thesis is written during the course of study. The master's thesis is awarded 30 LP and takes 26 weeks to complete; it is 60 pages in length. The subject-specific regulations govern which requirements must be met in order to register for the master's thesis. The topic of the Master's thesis is to be taken from the chosen course of study. In accordance with § 12 of the Master's Examination Regulations, the chairperson of the examination board appoints an examiner from one of the subject areas, whom the candidate can propose, to set the topic for the Master's thesis. The candidate has the right to propose the topic.				
4	Teaching and Learning Methods Self-study				
5	Requirements for Participation Completion of one of the advanced modules, proof of the language skills				
6	Type of Module Examination Written exam: Master's Thesis				
7	Prerequisites for Awarding of Credit Points Passing the module exam.				
8	Status of the Module (in other Study Programs) Required module for the Master Program North American Studies.				
9	Bearing of Module Grade on Final Grade The module grade counts as 30% of the final grade.				
10	Module Manager Chair of North American History				

11	<p>Further Information</p> <p>The Master's thesis must be written in English. In deviation from this, the chairperson of the examination committee may, upon application of the candidate and with the consent of the supervisor, allow the master's thesis to be written in another language, provided that the assessment is ensured.</p>
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3 Appendix

3.1 Sample Study Plan

Semester	Module				Σ CP
1. Sem.	<p>AM1 Literary and Cultural Studies</p> <p>Lecture: Aspects of North American Literature and Culture</p> <p>Seminar: Reading Cultural Texts</p> <p>Seminar: Aspects of North American Literature and Culture (+ Tutorial)</p>	<p>AM2 History and Society</p> <p>Seminar: Introduction to North American History (+ Tutorial)</p> <p>Lecture: North American History in Time and Space</p> <p>Seminar: Problems in North American History 1</p>			Ca. 28
2. Sem.	<p>Seminar: Reading Cultural Texts</p> <p>Final Examination of the Module</p> <p>20 CP</p>	<p>Seminar: Problems in North American History 2</p> <p>Final Examination of the Module</p> <p>20 CP</p>	<p>AM3 Postcolonial Studies</p> <p>Lecture: Postcolonial Problems in North America and the Caribbean</p> <p>Seminar: Introduction to Postcolonial Studies (+ Tutorial)</p> <p>Seminar: Applied Postcolonial Studies</p>	<p>AM4 Research</p> <p>Colloquium: Comparative Aspects of North American Studies I</p> <p>Colloquium: Comparative Aspects of North American Studies II</p>	Ca. 32
3. Sem.	<p>IM1 Internship</p> <p>Internship</p> <p>Final Examination of the Module</p> <p>10 LP</p>		<p>Seminar: Postcolonial Studies: A Methodological Primer</p> <p>Final Examination of the Module</p> <p>20 CP</p>	<p>Colloquium: Comparative Aspects of North American Studies III</p> <p>Self-study</p> <p>Final Examination of the Module</p> <p>20 CP</p>	Ca. 30
4. Sem.	<p>Master's Thesis</p> <p>30 CP</p>				30

3.2 Orientation Session

In order to be able to organize their master program and respective examinations, students have to participate in a scheduled orientation and study guidance session. This session (orientation meeting for incoming MA NAS students) takes place at the beginning of the first semester. It can also be performed in an interdisciplinary manner. We highly recommend students to make further individual appointments with the student advisory services.

3.3 Further Sources of Information and Advice

There are a number of resources available for new students with regards to organizational issues (such financing of studies, family issues, disabilities, studying with a child), for example the Kölner Studentenwerk (Cologne Student Service Organisation), the Dual Career & Family Support, as well as the AStA (General Students' Committee) of the University of Cologne. Students find further useful information here:

- www.gb.uni-koeln.de/uni_mit_kind/
- www.studentenwerk-koeln.de/
- www.asta.uni-koeln.de/
- verwaltung.uni-koeln.de/abteilung13/content/cfs/index_ger.html

Further resources for international students:

Incoming international NAS students may want to check out the service provided by the Center for International Relations (ZiB): <https://zib.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/en/>

Also, the University of Cologne's Welcome Center is a good place to turn to. It provides a wealth of relevant info regarding

- visa requirements and applications
- housing and accommodation
- opportunities for part-time jobs etc. in Cologne

Welcome Center Info (List of relevant topics from Accommodation to Religion to Visa etc.): <https://portal.uni-koeln.de/en/international/international-scholars/further-information-and-services>

Welcome Center Info for Prospective Master Students: <https://portal.uni-koeln.de/en/international/study-in-cologne/international-applications/master-students-prospective>

And for Enrolled International Master Students: <https://portal.uni-koeln.de/en/international/study-in-cologne/services-for-enrolled-international-students/master-students-enrolled>