

MODULE GUIDE

for the

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM "NORTH AMERICAN STUDIES: CULTURE AND LITERATURE"

**at Friedrich-Alexander-University
Erlangen-Nürnberg**

PROGRAM ADVISORS:

PROF. DR. ANTJE KLEY

PROF. DR. HEIKE PAUL

(Last Updated: 12.10.2023 CH)

Master Module Nr. 1

1	Module Name	Master Module 1 Basic Module Cultural Studies	10 ECTS
2	Courses	Introductory seminar “North American Cultural Studies” (2 SWS) Master seminar “North American Cultural Studies” (2 SWS)	5+5 ECTS
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Heike Paul Dr. Katharina Gerund	

4	Module Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Heike Paul
5	Contents	Module 1 consists of an introductory seminar and an accompanying master seminar. The introductory seminar familiarizes students with an overview of the history, basic concepts, and methods as well as important theories of North American cultural studies as a multidisciplinary field of studies. The master seminar trains students in applying key instruments and approaches of current cultural studies analyses. Reading and discussing important texts in American cultural studies enhances methodological and theoretical abilities and imparts knowledge of the history of the discipline and of core American Studies issues relating to Canada, the U.S., and the Caribbean.
6	Learning Outcomes and Skills	In the introductory seminar, students develop an overview of North American Studies as cultural studies including the development of specific approaches and methodologies (<i>myth and symbol-school, New Americanists</i> among others). In the Master seminar, students acquaint themselves with foundational texts in American cultural studies and cultural theory and practice the critical use of respective categories and approaches; they also learn to interact and critically discuss these matters with each other in the seminar room.
7	Prerequisites	none
8	Integration in Curriculum	First Semester
9	Module Compatibility	MA <i>English Studies</i> ; MA <i>Literaturstudien intermedial und interkulturell</i> ; MA <i>The Americas / Las Americas</i> .
10	Method of Examination	Oral exam (20 minutes)

11	Grading Procedure	Oral exam (100%)
12	Module Frequency	Once a year (Winter term)
13	Workload	Total workload: 300 hrs Hours of in-class course work: 60 Hours of self-study: 240
14	Module Duration	1 semester
15	Teaching and Examination Language	English
16	Recommended Reading	A reading list is provided.
17	Number of Repeats Permitted	2

Master Module 2

1	Module Name	Master Module 2 Basic Module Literary Studies	10 ECTS
2	Courses	Introductory seminar “North American Literary Studies” (2 SWS) Master seminar “North American Literary Studies” (2 SWS)	5+5 ECTS
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley PD Dr. Harald Zapf	

4	Module Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley	
5	Contents	<p>Module 2 consists of an introductory seminar and an accompanying master seminar. The introductory seminar familiarizes students with the history, concepts, and objectives of North American literary studies from the 19th century to the present. Methodology and theoretical approaches of the discipline are developed both historically and systematically with regard to central paradigms of literary studies (author, reader, text, context).</p> <p>Reading and discussing key texts in the history of literary studies in the master seminar, students gain insight into the development of the theoretical and methodological engagement with imaginative literary writing in North America from the 19th century to the present.</p>	
6	Learning Outcomes and Skills	<p>Students develop a basic overview of North American literary studies and the historic evolution of approaches and methodologies specific to the discipline. They familiarize themselves with central canonical works of American literary studies and literary theory and begin to build a methodological repertoire. They practice reading and grappling with the academic discourse of the field in presentations and discussions which also train their oral communicative skills. Students develop critical uses of the categories and approaches they encounter and are thus enabled to reflect and work toward revising their own as well as other students' positions.</p>	
7	Prerequisites	none	
8	Integration in Curriculum	First semester	
9	Module Compatibility	MA <i>English Studies</i> ; MA <i>Literaturstudien intermedial und interkulturell</i> ; MA <i>The Americas / Las Americas</i> .	
10	Method of Examination	Oral exam (20 minutes)	

11	Grading Procedure	Oral exam (100%)
12	Module Frequency	Once a year (Winter term)
13	Workload	Total workload: 300 hrs Hours of in-class course work: 60 Hours of self-study: 240
14	Module Duration	1 Semester
15	Language	English
16	Recommended Reading	A reading list is provided.
17	Number of Repeats Permitted	2

Master Module 3

1	Module Name	Master Module 3 Academic Language Skills	10 ECTS
2	Courses	<p>Students choose 2 courses from a pool of 4:</p> <p>Discourse Structure (2 contact hours / SWS, 5 credits / ECTS)</p> <p>Academic Discourse (2 contact hours / SWS, 5 credits / ECTS)</p> <p>Translation German-English (2 contact hours / SWS, 5 credits / ECTS)</p> <p>Advanced Grammar (2 contact hours / SWS, 5 credits / ECTS)</p>	5+5 ECTS
3	Lecturers	Dr. Ingrid Fandrych Jennifer Meister	

4	Module coordinator	Dr. Ingrid Fandrych	
5	Contents	<p>This module covers a range of stand-alone but interrelated academic skills. Students combine two courses to form a module. They choose those courses which best meet their individual needs.</p> <p>Topics covered by the various courses can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourse Structure: academic reading skills, critical appraisal of academic texts, information structure, abstracts, literature reviews, presentation skills. • Academic Discourse: academic style, research proposals, dealing with data, argumentative strategies, visual literacy, discussions and debates, conference skills. • Translation (German-English): translation of texts from a range of different genres, such as newspaper articles, business correspondence, literary texts, academic texts, project proposals and reports. • Advanced Grammar: in-depth discussion of selected grammar topics and their analysis in text-based exercises, with a focus on explanatory grammar and vocabulary in context. <p>For further details, candidates should consult the relevant course descriptions on campo. Students can combine any two courses, provided that these are not part of other modules in their programs.</p>	

6	Learning Outcomes and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of appropriate academic presentation, reading and writing skills. • Development of critical and stylistically appropriate academic communication skills and competencies. • Academic translation skills and the production of correct and stylistically adequate texts in English. • Explanatory grammar skills including the relevant meta-language and terminology. <p>Teaching and learning methods include class discussions, group work, class presentations, group and class projects, individual coaching, peer reviews, blended learning.</p>
7	Prerequisites	none
8	Integration in curriculum	first and/or second semester
9	Module compatibility	MA <i>English Studies</i> ; MA <i>Literaturstudien intermedial und interkulturell</i> ; MA <i>The Americas / Las Americas</i> .
10	Method of examination	Translation (German-English): three written tasks (60 min. each) All other courses: presentation (10-20 min.) and written task (2-4 pages)
11	Grading procedure	Translation (German-English): three written tasks 100% All other courses: presentation 50%; written task 50%
12	Module frequency	Each course is offered at least once per year.
13	Resit examinations	Failed or missed exams can be retaken twice.
14	Workload	Total Workload: 300 hrs Hours of in-class course work: 30 per course Hours of self-study: 120 per course
15	Module duration	1 to 2 semesters (students may do two courses concurrently)
16	Teaching and examination language	English

Master Module 4

1	Module Name	Master Module 4 Intermediary Module Cultural Studies	10 ECTS
2	Courses	Advanced thematic seminar in Cultural Studies (2 SWS) Master seminar "Readings in Cultural Studies" (1 SWS)	7+3 ECTS
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Heike Paul Prof. Dr. Antje Kley PD Dr. Karin Hoepker Dr. Katharina Gerund	

4	Module Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Heike Paul
5	Contents	The advanced thematic seminar introduces students to a central field of American cultural studies; it builds on systematic theoretical and historical knowledge acquired in module 1. The students apply previously acquired approaches and methods to exemplary case studies. The seminar addresses a variety of materials and cultural media (text, image, film); central topics include cultures of memory, national identity, identity, and difference (race, class, gender). The master seminar accompanies and complements the coursework of the seminar and deepens and expands students' competence in contextualizing and evaluating cultural practices and material productions.
6	Learning Outcomes and Skills	Students develop disciplinary competence in a selected thematic field of North American cultural studies with a focus on U.S., Canadian, or Caribbean culture. They gain exemplary insight into forms and functions of cultural practices and productions from both a diachronic and a synchronic perspective. They develop their abilities for independent, critical academic work and research suited to their advanced master's level. Students enhance their research skills and their abilities of self-organization. They practice presenting, defending, questioning, and modifying perspectives in historically, theoretically and methodologically informed arguments.
7	Prerequisites	Successful completion of basic modules 1 and 2 is recommended.
8	Integration in Curriculum	Second semester

9	Module Compatibility	MA <i>English Studies</i> ; MA <i>Literaturstudien intermedial und interkulturell</i> ; MA <i>The Americas / Las Americas</i> .
10	Method of Examination	Seminar paper (15-20 pages / 22.500-30.000 characters) with thesis paper (2 pages / 3.000 characters)
11	Grading Procedure	Seminar paper 70% Thesis paper 30%
12	Module Frequency	Once a year (Summer term)
13	Workload	Total workload: 300 hrs Hours of in-class course work: 45 Hours of self-study: 255
14	Module Duration	1 semester
15	Teaching and Examination Language	English
16	Recommended Reading	A reading list will be provided.
17	Number of Repeats Permitted	2

Master Module 5

1	Module Name	Master Module 5 Intermediary Module Literary Studies	10 ECTS
2	Courses	Advanced thematic seminar in Literary Studies (2 SWS) Master seminar "Readings in Literary Studies" (1 SWS)	7+3 ECTS
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley PD Dr. Karin Hoepker Dr. Katharina Gerund PD Dr. Harald Zapf	

4	Module Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley	
5	Contents	<p>The advanced thematic seminar introduces students to a central field of American literary studies, addressing e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literary discourse viewed through the lens of theoretical approaches, • the history of genre, • literary rewritings and spinoffs, • cultural evaluation and reception of literary texts as well as processes of canonization, • intermediality and the impact of medial transformations on modes of writing, • ethics and aesthetics, • literature and the sciences, • registers of knowledge production, • cultures of memory, • identity constructions across various differences (ethnicity, race, class, gender and sexual orientation) and processes of transculturation. <p>The master seminar accompanies and complements the thematic seminar, deepening and expanding students' methodological competence. The module builds on systematic methodological competences and historical contextual knowledge acquired in module 2 and applies them in close readings of specific writing practices in historical and systematic context from the colonial period to the present.</p>	
6	Learning Outcomes and Skills	<p>Students develop disciplinary competence in a selected thematic field of North American literary studies with a focus on U.S., Canadian, or Caribbean culture. They gain exemplary insight into forms and functions of literary practices and productions from both diachronic and synchronic perspectives. They practice close reading skills from theoretically and historically informed perspectives as well as identifying and</p>	

		contextualizing various modes of literary and non-literary writing. Deepening their analytic understanding of the specific textures, qualities, contexts and communicative powers of different modes of writing, students develop their abilities for independent, critical academic work and research in literary studies suited to their advanced master's level. Students practice articulating, presenting, defending, questioning, and modifying perspectives in historically, theoretically, and methodologically informed arguments. They train self-reflexive competences and develop productive feedback practices.
7	Prerequisites	Successful completion of basic modules 1 and 2 is recommended.
8	Integration in Curriculum	Second semester
9	Module Compatibility	<i>MA English Studies; MA Literaturstudien intermedial und interkulturell; MA The Americas / Las Americas.</i>
10	Method of Examination	Seminar paper (15-20 pages / 22.500-30.000 characters) with thesis paper (2 pages / 3.000 characters)
11	Grading Procedure	Seminar paper 70% Thesis paper 30 %
12	Module Frequency	Once a year (Summer term)
13	Workload	Total workload: 300 hrs Hours of in-class course work: 45 Hours of self-study: 255
14	Module Duration	1 semester
15	Teaching and Examination Language	English
16	Recommended Reading	A reading list will be provided.
17	Number of Repeats Permitted	2

Master Module 6

1	Module Name	Master Module 6 Survey Module	10 ECTS
2	Courses	Lecture (2 SWS) with Independent Study	7+3 ECTS
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Heike Paul Prof. Dr. Antje Kley PD Dr. Harald Zapf	

4	Module Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Heike Paul Prof. Dr. Antje Kley	
5	Contents	<p>The lecture provides an overview of cultural and literary history and covers North American culture and literature from its beginnings to the present, i.e. from Puritanism to Postmodernity. The topics of the lecture alternate; either one may be attended: One spans the period from the early 17th century (first settlements, Puritanism) to the <i>Reconstruction</i> after the American Civil War and discusses early North American writing, as well as Romanticism and early Realism; the other covers the most important developments in the cultural history of the late 19th, 20th, and 21st century (including both World Wars, Cold War, protest movements etc.), as well as the literary periods of Realism, Naturalism, Modernism, and Postmodernism. The lecture may also cover literary and cultural developments in Canada and the Anglophone Caribbean.</p> <p>Independent Study accompanies the lecture and adds a substantial and intensive supplementary course of reading. Students discuss their insights and progress with their peers and critically reflect their reading in response papers.</p>	
6	Learning Outcomes and Skills	Students develop a systematic and comprehensive understanding in cultural and literary history and familiarize themselves with important developments in culture, literature, and criticism by expanding their canon. The module enables them to categorize and contextualize literary texts and cultural phenomena and to actively interconnect knowledge and competences acquired so far.	
7	Prerequisites	Successful completion of basic modules 1 and 2 is recommended.	
8	Integration in Curriculum	Second semester	
9	Module Compatibility	MA English Studies; MA <i>Literaturstudien intermedial und interkulturell</i> ; MA <i>The Americas / Las Americas</i> .	
10	Method of	Oral exam (20 minutes) based on a reading response file	

	Examination	(Consisting of 3 response papers, covering 5 texts each, 5 pages each)
11	Grading Procedure	Oral exam based on reading response file 100 %
12	Module Frequency	Once a year (Summer term)
13	Workload	Hours of in-class coursework: 30 Hours of self-study: 270
14	Module Duration	1 semester
15	Teaching and Examination Language	English
16	Recommended Reading	A reading list will be provided.
17	Number of Repeats Permitted	2

Master Module 7

1	Module Name	Master Module 7 Advanced Module Cultural Studies	10 ECTS
2	Courses	Advanced thematic seminar in Cultural Studies (2 SWS) with Independent Study	7+3 ECTS
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley Prof Dr. Heike Paul	

4	Module Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Heike Paul	
5	Contents	<p>The advanced thematic seminar addresses key questions of American cultural studies by studying exemplary cultural phenomena.</p> <p>Possible fields of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North American concepts of identity and alterity (categories of difference such as class, gender, ethnicity, nationality, age, or sexuality) • Processes of stereotyping • Popular culture and cultural practices generating hierarchies • The spatial and temporal dimension of culture; constructions of space and place; memorial cultures of North America • Transculturation, creolization, hybridization in North American cultures 	
6	Learning Outcomes and Skills	<p>Students further enhance their disciplinary competence in a second thematic field of current American cultural studies (recent research agendas); they practice their analytical skills in doing independent academic work: they write (and deliver) a short scholarly presentation and a final seminar paper. Further practicing their skills in close reading, contextualizing, evaluating, and discussing literary sources, they arrive at a deeper understanding of the subject matter. In Independent Study, students gain academic proficiency and train their synthetic and evaluative skills for working on their master's thesis. They present their research progress in an academic presentation.</p>	
7	Prerequisites	Successful completion of intermediary modules 4 and 5 is recommended.	
8	Integration in Curriculum	Third semester	

9	Module Compatibility	MA <i>English Studies</i> ; MA <i>Literaturstudien intermedial und interkulturell</i> ; MA <i>The Americas / Las Americas</i> .
10	Method of Examination	Seminar paper (15-20 pages / 22.500-30.000 characters); Academic presentation (20 minutes)
11	Grading Procedure	Seminar paper 70 % Academic presentation 30 %
12	Module Frequency	Once a year (Winter term)
13	Workload	Hours of in-class coursework: 30 Hours of self-study: 270
14	Module Duration	1 semester
15	Teaching and Examination Language	English
16	Recommended Reading	A reading list will be provided.
17	Number of Repeats Permitted	2

Master Module 8

1	Module Name	Master Module 8 Advanced Module Literary Studies	10 ECTS
2	Courses	Advanced thematic seminar in Literary Studies (2 SWS) with Independent Study	7+3 ECTS
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley Prof Dr. Heike Paul PD Dr. Karin Hoepker	

4	Module Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley	
5	Contents	<p>The advanced thematic seminar introduces students to a second exemplary field of American literary studies, addressing e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literary discourse viewed through the lens of theoretical approaches, • the history of genre, • literary rewritings and spinoffs, • cultural evaluation and reception of literary texts as well as processes of canonization, • intermediality and the impact of medial transformations on modes of writing, • ethics and aesthetics, • literature and the sciences, • registers of knowledge production, • cultures of memory, • identity constructions across various differences (ethnicity, race, class, gender and sexual orientation) and processes of transculturation. <p>Accompanied by independent study resulting in the oral presentation of a short academic paper, Module 8 strengthens students' increasingly self-directed research in American Studies.</p>	
6	Learning Outcomes and Skills	<p>Students further enhance their disciplinary competence in a second thematic field within American literary studies relevant to recent research. Further practicing their skills in close reading, contextualizing, evaluating and discussing literary sources, they reach an analytic and synthetic understanding of scholarly discourse. On their way towards a master's thesis, students solidify their ability to assess and evaluate sources critically and independently in compliance with academic standards, both orally and in writing.</p>	
7	Prerequisites	<p>Successful completion of intermediary modules 4 and 5 is recommended.</p>	

8	Integration in Curriculum	Third semester
9	Module Compatibility	MA <i>English Studies</i> ; MA <i>Literaturstudien intermedial und interkulturell</i> ; MA <i>The Americas / Las Americas</i> .
10	Method of Examination	Seminar paper (15-20 pages / 22.500-30.000 characters); Academic presentation (20 minutes)
11	Grading Procedure	Seminar paper 70 % Academic presentation 30 %
12	Module Frequency	Once a year (Winter term)
13	Workload	Hours of in-class coursework: 30 Hours of self-study: 270
14	Module Duration	1 semester
15	Teaching and Examination Language	English
16	Recommended Reading	A reading list will be provided.
17	Number of Repeats Permitted	2

Master Module 9

1	Module Name	Master Module 9: Project Module	10 ECTS
2	Courses	Lecture series / conference (2 SWS) with Directed Study	
3	Lecturers	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley Prof. Dr. Heike Paul	

4	Module Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley Prof. Dr. Heike Paul
5	Contents	Module 9 stipulates that students, after speaking to their advisor, attend or participate in either a colloquium/lecture series, an academic conference concerned with current research agendas or an internship in an academically adjacent professional field. The project includes preparatory and follow-up work, documented in a concluding report that summarizes and critically reflects on the lecture series, conference, or internship.
6	Learning Outcomes and Skills	<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expand and deepen academic competences, both in relation to the field and methodologically, by addressing specific research questions in the field of American literary and cultural studies and reflecting on their applicability and transfer in public and professional spheres; • develop their own perspectives in methodological and theoretical engagement with these questions and controversies; • practice discussing their ideas and findings; • develop competence in organizing and mediating knowledge as well as in coordinating and participating in scholarly or professional events.
7	Prerequisites	Successful completion of intermediary modules is recommended.
8	Integration in Curriculum	Third semester
9	Module Compatibility	
10	Method of Examination	Report that includes a summary and a critical reflection (22.500-30.000 characters / 15-20 pages)

11	Grading Procedure	Seminar paper 100%
12	Module Frequency	Each semester
13	Workload	Hours of self-study: 300, 30 of which may be in class
14	Module Duration	1 semester
15	Teaching and Examination Language	English
16	Recommended Reading	Students compile a reading list.
17	Number of Repeats Permitted	2

Master Module 10

1	Module Name	Master Module 10 Masters' Thesis	30 ECTS
2	Courses	Self-directed study	
3	Advisors	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley Prof. Dr. Heike Paul	

4	Module Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Antje Kley Prof. Dr. Heike Paul
5	Contents	Module 10 demands of students that they perform largely self-directed study, research, and writing, counselled by a thesis advisor. In their Masters' thesis, students synthesize all the knowledge, competences, and skills they have developed throughout their course of study to situate, contextualize, assess and explain specific literary and cultural practices and productions.
6	Learning Outcomes and Skills	<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define a relevant research topic, put together a respective sample of literary and/or cultural products to be analyzed, and conduct comprehensive research elucidating both; • order, structure and present their thought in writing in an adequate academic register in English; • put to use an advanced analytic and synthetic understanding of primary and secondary sources • critically evaluate complex lines of argumentation and position themselves in relation to current research • exercise their power of trained judgement • conduct independent research in American Studies.
7	Prerequisites	60 ECTS and successful completion of at least two intermediary and/or advanced modules.
8	Integration in Curriculum	Fourth semester
9	Module Compatibility	
10	Method of Examination	Masters' thesis (120.000 characters / 80 pages)
11	Grading Procedure	Masters' thesis 100%, The grade results from a double review process (advisor and secondary reader).

12	Module Frequency	Each semester
13	Workload	Hours of self-study: 900
14	Module Duration	1 semester
15	Teaching and Examination Language	English
16	Recommended Reading	Students compile a reading list.
17	Number of Repeats Permitted	2