



FRIEDRICH-
ALEXANDER
UNIVERSITÄT
ERLANGEN-
NÜRNBERG

PHILOSOPHISCHE
FAKULTÄT UND
FACHBEREICH
THEOLOGIE

MA North American Studies: Culture and Literature

Application Period: February 15, 2024 – July 15, 2024 (for the winter term 2024/25)

In the interest of learning more about your intellectual aspirations, the North American Studies Admissions Committee asks that you write a response to **one of the following questions**.

Please write a concise, sharply focused, well-crafted essay of 1000—1500 words.
(Note: This essay serves as your writing sample.)

Question A: Cultural Studies

“Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the Immigrants were American history.”

Discuss the statement by historian Oscar Handlin (1915-2011)!

Question B: Literary Studies

Analyze and interpret the following text by A. E. Stallings!

The Cloud

I used to think the Cloud was in the sky,
Something invisible, subtle, aloft:
We sent things up to it, or pulled things down
On silken ribbons, on backwards lightning zaps.
Our photographs, our songs, our avatars
Floated with rainbows, sunbeams, snowflakes, rain.
Thoughts crossed mid-air, and messages, all soft
And winking, in the night, like falling stars.

I know now it's a box, and acres wide,
A building, stories high. A parking lot
Besets it with baked asphalt on each side.
Within, whir tall machines, grey, running hot.
The Cloud is windowless. It squats on soil
Now shut to bees and clover, guzzling oil.

