



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

**Master of Arts in American Studies**  
**Module Handbook**

## **Overview: Master of Arts (MA) in American Studies**

### **Launch Date**

Winter semester 2004/05 (non-consecutive)

Winter semester 2018/19 (consecutive)

### **Disciplinary categories**

American Studies, geography, history, literature and cultural studies, political science, religious history, economics

### **Location**

Heidelberg Center for American Studies

### **Normal study length**

4 semesters

### **Number of ECTS credits**

120 ECTS credits

### **Module**

Main module, research module, flexibility module, methodology module, interdisciplinary module, comprehensive perspectives, mobility window, examination module

### **Maximum number of students admitted**

20

### **Target audience**

German and international students with very good English skills and either a three-year university degree or an academic degree with 180 ECTS credits in American Studies, geography, history, literature, cultural studies, political science, theology, economics, or another related field, (see admission regulations).

### **Course load**

Full time or part time

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## 1. Preamble — Learning objectives of Heidelberg University

In line with its guiding principles and constitution, Heidelberg University's study programs aim at academic, interdisciplinary, and career-oriented results by providing students with a comprehensive academic education and professional development. The profile of competencies that flows from this mission is valid for all disciplines. It is replicated in the separate module handbooks and implemented through the specific qualification objectives of each study program, their respective curricula and individual modules.:

- Developing professional skills, with a strong emphasis on research
- Developing competency in interdisciplinary dialogue
- Fostering practical problem-solving abilities
- Developing interpersonal and social skills
- Promoting social responsibility through the use of these skills

## 2. Preliminary remarks

For the foreseeable future, the United States of America will remain the dominant political, economic, and cultural power in the world. Nowhere in the world is it possible for substantial political conflicts to be resolved without the involvement of the United States. The US economy is larger than those of Japan, Germany, and the United Kingdom combined. The American cultural industry still dominates the world market. The country's military spending comprises one third of defense expenditures worldwide.

At the same time, however, the gap between America's importance in the world and the world's understanding of the United States is widening perilously. In order to counteract this discrepancy, we sorely need science-based efforts to enable future generations to sharpen and refine their assessment of the US, and thus guard against both an unthinking adulation or antagonism.

In addition, a broad engagement with North America will help provide students with critical skills for orienting themselves in an increasingly complex world and make them competitive candidates on the global job market. In the context of globalization processes, precise knowledge of local, regional, as well as transnational and transcultural relations, is becoming increasingly important. The insights that area studies provide are helpful in this regard in that they draw on the tools and methods of several different disciplines and provide concrete knowledge about specific geographical spaces and cultures.

## 3. Profile

In just a few years, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) has succeeded in establishing itself as one of the most important European centers of expertise for research-intensive and practice-oriented American Studies. It provides students from all over the world with relevant knowledge of the US, conducts interdisciplinary research projects with international partners, promotes the formation of transatlantic networks, and maintains a lively dialogue with the public.

The HCA's Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) program is a four-semester, multidisciplinary degree taught in English that offers in-depth cultural knowledge of the United States and its place in the world. Every winter

semester, the MAS program admits up to 20 international and German students. In terms of its thematic breadth, the MAS is unique in Germany. The program is offered by the HCA in cooperation with the English, geography, history, and political science departments, the Alfred Weber Institute for Economics, and the theology department. In particular, the inclusion of geography and religious history in the curriculum makes the program exceptional even beyond Germany and Europe.

Students of the master's program can choose from disciplines domiciled in the humanities or social sciences. This allows students to set their priorities from the very beginning of their studies and specialize in their chosen areas. Our students acquire extensive empirical knowledge about North America, thorough methodological skills in their chosen disciplines, interdisciplinary competence, intensive English language immersion in close connection with the subject matter, and comprehensive skills for lifelong learning. The program prepares its graduates for a wide range of professional activities as well as for an academic career.

Students of the MAS program are encouraged to spend a semester abroad at a North American university or a recognized English language American Studies program at a university outside of North America. Heidelberg University maintains exchange programs with approximately 100 North American universities and colleges. There are also many partnerships with individual schools and departments. Both the HCA and the individual departments participating in the MAS program are available to advise and support students in applying for an academic exchange and/or internship abroad.

Students benefit from the extraordinarily stimulating environment of an internationally renowned research university that offers excellent conditions for an American Studies program. In addition to departmental libraries, students have access to relevant resources at the Schurman Library for American History, the library of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (a United Nations Depository Library), and at Germany's oldest university library with well over 100,000 academic full-text e-journals and more than 4,700 online databases.

#### **4. Course contents and qualification goals**

The subject matter of the master's program in American Studies is the politics, culture, society, and geography of the USA as well as its ethnic diversity and unique religious character across place and time, ranging from the early colonial period to the twenty-first century. The program aims to impart in-depth knowledge of the history, culture, and society of the US in order to prepare students for either further academic advancement within doctoral programs or for an internationally oriented professional career.

American Studies at Heidelberg is designed as a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary program so as to better address the complexity of its subject matter: the USA. Disciplines offered at the HCA include geography, history, cultural studies, literature, political science, religious history, and economics. Further specialization opportunities within the chosen subjects provide students with in-depth knowledge that they can use to tailor their studies to a professional career or ongoing academic education.

The MAS program concentrates on the advancement of a manageable number of highly-qualified and motivated students. It is designed to admit up to 20 students annually, emphasizing both academic advice and personal responsibility within a research-oriented curriculum.

#### **4.1 Subject-specific qualification goals**

By the end of the program, graduates will have acquired in-depth expertise in their specific fields. They will be able to independently work on, explain, and analyze issues from the various disciplines within American Studies. They will be able to identify key issues in their field and develop research questions relevant to the United States. Graduates will be able to analyze America-related phenomena, as well as their causes and consequences, through the application of pertinent research frameworks. They will have knowledge of and be able to employ the relevant academic and empirical methods of specific fields and sub-disciplines.

Graduates of the program will be able to accurately and articulately describe American phenomena in both written and spoken English. They will be able to analyze these phenomena using both empirical evidence and secondary literature and concisely present their findings in a manner appropriate to their subject and research question.

Graduates will develop a multi- and interdisciplinary self-understanding. In this manner, they will be able to bring America-related insights, interests, research strategies, and academic methodology into an interdisciplinary dialogue. They will thus become aware of the perspectives of various disciplines seeking to explain the United States and will appreciate the importance of bridging such differences.

#### **4.2 Non-disciplinary qualification goals**

The subject-specific competences acquired by graduates of the master's degree program in the process of learning and reflecting on multidisciplinary content and applying multidisciplinary methods are relevant in several ways above and beyond particular academic disciplines:

Students will learn to be self-directed and efficient in structuring their learning and work processes, both in terms of time management and handling content. Building on skills and knowledge that they acquired during their BA degrees, they will further deepen and specialize their expertise in their chosen fields. They will gain the ability to quickly and purposefully familiarize themselves with wide-ranging subject matter and different disciplinary cultures. They will also be able to make use of appropriate research methods and strategies in order to analyze and comprehend primary sources and secondary literature in English.

Graduates will be able to select information relevant to their subject and specific research question, organize it in a structured manner, and then present it as a compelling argument, suitably tailored to their target audience, whether in oral or written form. In the process, they will learn to apply the conventions of good academic practice (transparency and verifiability) and to use appropriate media in order to achieve lasting success. They will be qualified to write a longer academic work and apply for a doctoral program.

Graduates will be equipped to contribute their own findings to and discuss them in disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and non-disciplinary debates. They will, moreover, be ready to undertake academic work on their own and to develop appropriate research questions. They will become well practiced in questioning their own and others' ideas and arguments, and in critically reflecting and interlinking issues. In addition, examining social issues and problems (particularly those of the US) will enhance the ability of graduates to expertly navigate foreign cultures and move flexibly in an intercultural environment. Not least of all, the MAS will present students with the opportunity to experience both the benefits and challenges of cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity, and to reflect on "the other within us."

## 5. Structure and contents of the program

Students enroll in the program each winter semester. The standard duration of study, including the writing of the Master's thesis, is four semesters. The M.A. in American Studies (MAS) program (100%) includes the academic disciplines of geography, history, literature and cultural studies, political science, and religious history. At the start of the program, students will choose two of those as their core disciplines. One of these two core disciplines will receive further emphasis in the research module, which is meant to prepare students for the writing of their M.A. thesis. The flexibility module gives students the opportunity either to take American Studies courses outside their core disciplines in order to broaden their understanding of the comprehensive field of American Studies, or to attend additional classes in one of their two core disciplines for a deeper engagement with their primary fields of interest. The interdisciplinary module is designed to bring the perspectives and methods of the various disciplines into dialogue with one another.

These subject modules are supplemented by a methodology module meant to impart both theoretical proficiency and empirical methods, as well as practical skills; and a module on cross-cutting perspectives, which—in the spirit of a traditional *studium generale*—affords students an opportunity to venture outside of the field of American Studies. There will also be a chance during the “mobility window,” usually slated for the third semester, to study abroad on an exchange, accept an internship, etc. The MAS program concludes with an examination module.

### 5.1 Modules and courses

By dividing the program into various modules, the HCA pursues three goals for its students:

- (1) To acquire and enlarge upon the latest subject-specific knowledge and research methods of the individual disciplines.
- (2) To implement multi- and interdisciplinary approaches, and to demonstrate the synergistic potential of such approaches.
- (3) To apply methodological and practical skills in order to make graduates competitive in both the academic and the non-academic international job market.

The M.A. program “American Studies” is comprised of:

- A study plan (Kernfach)
- An examination module

The study plan encompasses:

- A subject-specific component
- A section on building “comprehensive competencies”

The subject-specific component of the program is divided into four parts:

- (1) **Main modules:** Students choose two of the fields offered at the HCA as core disciplines in which they will develop and deepen their subject-specific knowledge and skills. Main modules in the chosen disciplines come with a minimum of one seminar that will be exclusively available to M.A. students, as well as an additional course (in either lecture or seminar format). Students can select their core disciplines freely. They

may combine two fields from the humanities or from the social sciences, or they may choose to traverse branches of learning. All combinations are possible.

- (2) **Research module:** After finishing the main modules, students complete a research module in order to immerse themselves more fully in one of their two core disciplines. For the research module, students will participate in a seminar offered exclusively to M.A. students. In an "Independent Study" format, students will autonomously work through and discuss with their professor an assigned reading list. This will usually serve as preparation for writing the M.A. thesis.
- (3) **Flexibility module:** In the flexibility module, students may choose 12 credits worth of courses from any discipline offered in the program. For these elective credits, any combination of courses is allowed. Students can either choose to broaden their understanding of American Studies with classes outside of their core disciplines, or they can choose to focus more closely on their primary areas of interest.
- (4) **Interdisciplinary module:** The interdisciplinary module serves to promote an interdisciplinary approach to scholarship and demonstrate the synergistic potential of such an approach. Students will take part in an interdisciplinary seminar offered by instructors from two different disciplines, as well as a two-semester interdisciplinary colloquium in which variegated topics and approaches from the field of American Studies will be discussed.

The section of the program on "comprehensive competencies" is divided into the following three parts:

- (1) **Methodology module:** In this module, students will enlarge upon their knowledge of the theoretical and empirical methods of American Studies, as well as develop their academic writing skills.
- (2) **Cross-cutting perspectives:** In this module, students will take courses outside of the area of American Studies. These courses may either be related to or independent from the disciplines featuring in the program. Language course credits also count toward this module.
- (3) **Mobility window:** The mobility window provides students with the opportunity to explore a practical utilization or possible field of application for their academic training. Students may complete an internship in a relevant field, or choose to study abroad in order to either immerse themselves more deeply in American civilization or strengthen their intercultural competencies. For students interested in pursuing an academic career, completion of a teaching assignment can also be counted toward this module, provided the assignment does not concern a constituent curricular component of the HCA's B.A. or M.A. programs.

The program concludes with the examination module:

**Examination module:** With the completion of a Master's thesis in the same area as their research module, students will demonstrate that they have acquired specialized knowledge in that particular area of American Studies and that they are capable to independently research a topic using academic methods. The particulars of the M.A. thesis are described in section 7.11 of the *Modulhandbuch*. Completion of the thesis takes four months during which students will present an outline of the thesis to their peers at a research colloquium. After completing the thesis, students will take a 60-minute oral final exam. Additional details about the exam are covered in the exam regulations.



## 5.2 Sample course of study

<p><b>First Semester (28 credits)</b></p> <p><b>Methodology module</b> Course: Theory &amp; Methods (4 credits) Course: Academic Writing (4 credits)</p> <p><b>Main module I</b> M.A. seminar: Core discipline I (10 credits) Lecture: Core discipline I (4 credits)</p> <p><b>Main module II</b> Lecture: Core discipline II (4 credits)</p> <p><b>Interdisciplinary module</b> MAS Colloquium I (2 credits)</p>	<p><b>Second Semester (30 credits)</b></p> <p><b>Main module II</b> M.A. seminar: Core discipline II (10 credits)</p> <p><b>Research module</b> M.A. seminar: Core discipline I (10 credits)</p> <p><b>Flexibility module</b> Discussion group: Discipline III (4 credits) Lecture: Discipline IV (4 credits)</p> <p><b>Interdisciplinary module</b> MAS Colloquium II (2 credits)</p>
<p><b>Third Semester (28 credits)</b></p> <p><b>Research module</b> Independent study: Core discipline I (4 credits)</p> <p><b>Interdisciplinary module</b> Interdisciplinary seminar (6 credits)</p> <p><b>Flexibility module</b> Lecture: Core discipline I</p> <p><b>Cross-cutting perspectives</b> 2 courses outside of American Studies (8 credits)</p> <p><b>Mobility window</b> Internship (four weeks) (6 credits)</p>	<p><b>Fourth Semester (34 credits)</b></p> <p><b>Examination module</b> Research colloquium (2 credits) M.A. thesis (24 credits) Oral final exam (8 credits)</p>

### 5.3 Module overview

Sem	Modules		
4	<b>Cross-Cutting Perspectives (∑ 8 CP)</b> 2 courses outside of the area of American Studies	<b>Examination Module (∑ 34 CP)</b> Research colloquium (2 CP) M.A. thesis (24 CP) Oral final exam (8 CP)	
3		<b>Mobility Window (∑ 6 CP)</b> Study abroad, internship or teaching assignment	
2		<b>Subject-Specific Classes (∑ 54 CP)</b>	
2		<b>Research Module (14 CP)</b> Core discipline I or II  1 M.A. seminar 1 Independent Study	<b>Flexibility Module (12 CP)</b>  12 CP worth of classes from any discipline in the program
1	<b>Methodology Module (∑ 8 CP)</b> Theory & Methods (4 CP) Academic Writing (4 CP)	<b>Main Module I (14 CP)</b> Core discipline I  1 M.A. seminar 1 lecture	<b>Main Module II (14 CP)</b> Core discipline II  1 M.A. seminar 1 lecture
		<b>Interdisciplinary Module (∑ 10 CP)</b> 1 Interdisciplinary seminar (6 CP) 2 MAS Colloquium (2 x 2CP)	

## **6. Professional fields feasible for graduates of the program**

Graduates of the "M.A. in American Studies" (MAS) program have acquired the capacity for independent academic work and possess an extensive knowledge of the culture, history, and society of one of the most influential cultural regions in the world. They bring their academic know-how, their factual expertise, their methodological arsenal, their practical skills, and the active mind acquired during their studies to the private sector, public administration, and academia, in particular in the following fields:

- Foreign service and international organizations
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Media and public relations
- Publishing
- Cultural institutions
- Cultural exchange
- Politics and political consulting
- Private enterprise and business consulting
- City, regional, or state planning
- Market research, production site analysis, and project development
- Adult and continuing education
- Universities and independent academic institutions

The MAS qualifies graduates for doctoral programs in Germany and abroad in American Studies and in most of the individual disciplines included in the program. For some of the occupations mentioned, further qualifications may be necessary, such as a doctoral degree. Students should bear these additional requirements in mind when planning their course of study during the program.

## 7. Modules of the M.A. in American Studies

### 7.1 Geography

#### Main module Geography

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Department of Geography				
<b>Status:</b> elective		<b>Frequency:</b> every semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 1 and 2 / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b></p> <p>The main module in geography offers a variety of formats ranging from lectures and seminars to applied skills classes and excursions. The module introduces different perspectives on geography, specific research topics (such as cities, the economy, and population of the USA), and a broad range of methodologies (including analysis of the literature, statistical analysis, geodata analysis, and the collection of empirical data). In all of this, the US as a region occupies center stage.</p> <p>The different learning activities derive from different course formats: lecture classes are structured around lectures by the instructor, complemented by interactive exercises and assignments. Seminar classes emphasize active participation and discussion by the students, which they prepare for by completing the required readings and bring forth in the form of group discussions and presentations, or as discussion leaders. For the practical exercises, working in small groups is of central importance, sometimes with computers or in the field. This also applies to excursions, which are offered at irregular intervals, but are also actively designed in conjunction with the students (who choose an excursion site, give presentations, and conduct analysis and research).</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b></p> <p>Upon completion of the main module in geography, students will be able to identify and work with the basics in North American human geography. These include aspects of (current and historical) urban development, economic geography, and population geography as well as the social diversity of the country and its people. They will be able to understand the complexity of the conditions in which the US developed and to analyze and discuss them from the perspective of human geography.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>Geography</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Previous courses in the discipline from prior studies or completion of the basic module of the corresponding discipline in the B.A. program				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> Weighted grade point average of the corresponding courses (Lecture 8/14, Seminar/Applied Skills 6/14)				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Lecture "North American City" + Tutorial</i>	2	8	1	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (3 CP), written exam (90 min) or oral exam (30 min) (3 CP), regular and active participation in tutorials (2 CP)
<i>Seminar or excursion, including preparatory seminar for M.A. students</i>	2	6	2	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), presentation (1 CP), and written assignment (approx. 15 pages) (3 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	14		

## Research module Geography

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Department of Geography				
<b>Status:</b> elective module			<b>Frequency:</b> every second semester	
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 3 and 4/ 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b>          In this research module, students take up more specific questions of human geography in North America and deepen their understanding with the help of a range of methods and perspectives used by geographers. These include issues of social mobility, urban inequality, global transportation, food geography, and cultural geography. This material is conveyed through seminars, applied skills classes, and internships, which emphasize interactions between students and teachers and allows the formulation of independent research questions.          As above, the methodological spectrum is broad and is connected to different teaching formats. The seminar class focuses on independently working through topics with the help of secondary literature, as well as conducting primary source analysis. In addition to working with texts, students will independently analyze preexisting data sets (for example, US Census, OSM). During the independent study component of the module, students should carry out surveys in the context of applied skills classes, colloquia, or seminars. These will take place either in small groups or individually under the ongoing supervision of the instructor. "On site" surveys are also encouraged. At the end, students will give a presentation, which can be given in various formats (for example, using posters, film, slide presentation, public lecture).</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b>          After completing this module, students will be able to independently explore and analyze the deeper issues of American society, culture, and geography. After finishing the seminars/applied skills classes, the students will be able to exchange, discuss, and methodically apply what they have learned (surveys, statistical evaluations, film analysis, etc.) in order to make their own contribution to scholarship. At the end, students will have made significant progress in acquiring knowledge about a specific question of his or her choosing.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>Geography</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the main module in geography				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> grade from the seminar				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Advanced seminar for M.A. students</i>	2	6	3	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), oral presentation (1 CP), written assignment/paper (3 CP)
<i>Independent Study (realization of a survey, standalone or as part of a small group)</i>	2	8	4	Several progress reports (4 CP), final presentation as term paper, poster, film or public lecture (4 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14</b>		

## 7.2 History

### Main module History

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA), History Department				
<b>Status:</b> elective		<b>Frequency:</b> every semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 1 and 2 / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b></p> <p>The module presents students with the current state of research on selected problems of American history and gives them the opportunity to independently conduct research-oriented historical work. It consists of an advanced seminar as well as a lecture (or applied skills class) in American history. Building on previous knowledge acquired from undergraduate studies, the course provides in-depth knowledge of a particular topic area within the discipline. Selected historical phenomena will be explored and discussed in the context of current historiographical approaches and research debates. In the advanced seminar, relevant scholarly techniques and methods of the discipline are applied to primary sources. The seminar places a special emphasis on detailed and self-developed expositions and discussions of historical issues and their interpretation. The lecture covers a broader topic and presents students with the results of historical source analysis through the application of historical methodology and relevant research strategies. If an applied skills class is chosen instead of the lecture, the focus will be on testing and consolidating core historical skills and methods by applying them to case studies.</p> <p>Course formats: Lectures, seminar discussions, collaborative source interpretation, compact or expanded presentations, seminar discussions, group work, e-learning, individual supervision; self-directed preparation and post-processing (including in written form), independent study and reading, composition of a longer research paper, not exceeding 46,000 characters (at 6 characters per word, this corresponds to about 7,670 words and about 20 pages at 2,300 characters per page), including footnotes, but excluding spaces, appendices (images, maps, etc.) and bibliography. Shorter term papers for applied skills classes should run to 6-8 pages.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b></p> <p>Upon successful completion of the module, the students – supported by their instructor(s) – will be equipped to develop historical research questions, identify relevant primary and secondary sources for their particular subject and inquiry, and will be able to analyze, critically evaluate, and interpret these sources using applying the historian’s toolbox. They will also be able to join together the results of their historical analyses in a concise narrative. If the lecture is chosen as the second component of this module, the students will also be able to appreciate the depiction of a historical era as the result of a combination of primary source analysis and relevant analytical approaches, and will thus be able to reflect on such depictions in light of their own readings and to reproduce them in a structured manner.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>History</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Previous courses in the discipline from prior studies or completion of the basic module of the corresponding discipline in the B.A. program				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> Weighted grade point average of the corresponding courses (Seminar 10/14, Lecture/ Applied Skills 4/14)				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Advanced seminar for M.A. students</i>	2	10	1-2	Regular and active participation incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), term paper (app. 20 pages) (6 CP)

<i>Lecture</i>	2	4	1-2	Regular and active participation incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), obligatory reading list (1 CP), oral exam (app. 15min.) <i>or</i> written exam (120min.) (1 CP)
<i>or</i> <i>Applied Skills</i>	2	4	1-2	Regular and active participation incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), oral and/or written contribution (1 CP), oral exam (app. 15 min) <i>or</i> written exam (120 min.) <i>or</i> term paper (app. 6-8 pp.) (1 CP)
				The lecture or applied skills class will be graded.
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14</b>		

### Research module History

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies, History Department	
<b>Status:</b> elective	<b>Frequency:</b> every second semester
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 2 or 3 / 2 semesters	
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b></p> <p>The module presents the current state of research on selected problems in American history and gives students the opportunity to work independently, doing research-centered historical work. It consists of an advanced seminar as well as a further course that, while supervised by the instructor, will foster strong, independent scholarship among students. Building on knowledge acquired during an undergraduate degree, the courses provide in-depth knowledge and exemplify historical methods. In them, selected historical phenomena are explored and discussed through the lens of current approaches to history and debates within the field. In the seminar, relevant techniques and methods of history are applied to primary sources. A special focus is placed on the independent and detailed presentation of historical facts and interpretations, in both oral and written format, as well as to in-class discussions. The module also includes supervised independent study, supervised teaching (e.g. tutorials, work groups), or supervised practical tasks (e.g. the preparation of a source corpus).</p> <p>Lectures, seminar discussions, collaborative source interpretation, compact or expanded presentations, seminar discussions, group work, e-learning, individual supervision; self-directed preparation and post-processing (including in written form), independent study and reading, composition of a longer research paper, not exceeding 46,000 characters (at 6 characters per word, this corresponds to about 7,670 words and about 20 pages at 2,300 characters per page), including footnotes, but excluding spaces, appendices (images, maps, etc.) and bibliography.</p> <p>Supervised independent-study/supervised instruction/supervised development of practical skills.</p>	
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b></p> <p>Upon successful completion of the module, the students – supported by their instructor(s) – will be equipped to develop historical research questions, identify relevant primary and secondary sources for their particular subject and inquiry, and will be able to analyze, critically evaluate, and interpret these sources using applying the historian’s toolbox. They will also be able to join together the results of their historical analyses in a concise narrative and position their findings within the current scholarship. They will be able to relate their work both to larger research areas and to neighboring disciplines.</p>	
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies/History	
<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the main module in history	
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> grade from the seminar	

<b>Courses</b>	<b>H/W/S</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Recommended semester</b>	<b>Course work and exams</b>
Advanced seminar for M.A. students	2	10	2-3	Regular and active participation incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), term paper (app. 20 pages) (6 CP) The seminar will be graded.
Independent Study (directed reading and research / supervised teaching / historical practice)	2	4	2-3	advanced research or reading project / tutorial or mentoring / specialized practical activities (2 CP) shorter oral or written contribution (2 CP) (pass/fail)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14</b>		



## 7.3 Literature and Culture

### Main module Literature and Culture

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies, English Department				
<b>Status:</b> elective		<b>Frequency:</b> every semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 1-3 / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b> Seminar discussions; lectures; group-based and/or individual instruction for writing academic papers, preparing research reports and annotated bibliographies, and giving poster presentations and oral presentations. The students will acquire expert knowledge of American literature and culture in an advanced seminar and in a further class, which can take the form of either an applied skills class or another lecture. In addition to learning and practicing interpretive approaches and receiving a historical contextualization of the subject matter, students will gain knowledge of the theoretical foundations of literary studies. This includes institutional-aesthetic, genre-specific theoretical approaches to literature, as well as issues within cultural studies. In working with texts from specific genres or eras, students will acquire a deeper understanding of literary methods and approaches. Students will be able to draw upon this knowledge and discuss it with a particular emphasis on literary paradigms and scholarly issues.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b> Upon successful completion of the main module "American Literature and Culture" students will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possess knowledge of at least one subject area in American literature and/or culture and the state of current research on it (choice of theoretical, historiographical, or motivic emphasis)</li> <li>• possess the competence to deal critically with academic methods</li> <li>• be able to work with advanced academic material (in written and oral form and with highly complex contents)</li> </ul>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>American Literature and Culture</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Previous courses in the discipline from prior studies or completion of the basic module of the corresponding discipline in the B.A. program				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> grade from the seminar				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Advanced seminar for M.A. students</i>	2	10	1-3	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (3 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), term paper (app. 18 pages) (5 CP)
<i>Lecture or applied skills class</i>	2	4	1-3	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), oral presentation <i>or</i> poster <i>or</i> response paper (2 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	14		

## Research module Literature and Culture

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies, English Department				
<b>Status:</b> elective		<b>Frequency:</b> every semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 2 and 3 / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b> Seminar discussions; lectures; group-based and/or individual instruction for writing academic papers, preparing research reports and annotated bibliographies, and giving poster presentations and oral presentations. The research module involves a further advanced seminar and an independent study project. In addition to expanding specialized knowledge, the research module aims to deepen methodological competences. Methodological knowledge is imparted relating to conducting independent academic research, including identifying research gaps, the reception of relevant earlier research, the methodologically sound practice of literary scholarship, and the critically-aware discussion of one's own findings.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b> After completing the research module, students will be able to independently develop and work on a literary studies topic. They will be able to identify, cite, critically assess, and contextualize relevant literature and studies in the field. In addition, they will be able to evaluate literature on the subject on an abstract level and formulate theses that reflect the current state of research in the discipline.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>Literature and Culture</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the main module in <i>Literature and Culture</i>				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> grade from the seminar				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Advanced seminar for M.A. students</i>	2	8	2-3	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), term paper (app. 15 pages) (4 CP)
<i>Independent Study</i>	2	6	3	Portfolio <i>or</i> annotated bibliography <i>or</i> presentation (2 CP), term paper (4 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	14		

## 7.4 Political Science

### Main Module Political Science

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Institute for Political Science				
<b>Status:</b> elective		<b>Frequency:</b> every semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 1 and 2 / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b> Lectures, discussions in the plenary session, longer and shorter presentations, group work, individual supervision, seminar talks, independent preparation and after class reflection (also in written form), individual study and reading, writing a term paper, writing research reports, writing annotated bibliographies, and e-learning.</p> <p>The students will acquire expert knowledge in American political science in an advanced seminar and in another class that may either be applied skills class or a lecture. Besides learning and applying various analytical approaches and placing the material in a historical contextualization, students will expand their knowledge about the theoretical foundations of political science. Students will apply this knowledge in their own analyses, differentiations, and assessments. Topics include the theory and practice of international relations, foreign and domestic policy, US governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, as well as comparative systems analysis. Various problems and issues in American politics will be tackled with the relevant methodology and current developments in political science in mind.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b></p> <p>Upon successful completion of the main module in political science, students will have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge of at least one subject area of political science with reference to the United States and of the state of current research surrounding it (choice of theoretical, historiographical, or thematic emphasis)</li> <li>• the competence to deal critically with academic methods</li> <li>• academic communication skills (both orally and in writing, on an advanced level, and with regard to highly complex issues)</li> </ul>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>Political Science</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Previous courses in the discipline from prior studies or completion of the basic module of the corresponding discipline in the B.A. program				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> grade from the seminar				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Advanced seminar for M.A. students</i>	2	10	1-2	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), term paper (app. 20 pages) (6 CP)
<i>Lecture</i>	2	4	1-2	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), oral exam (2 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14</b>		

**Research module Political Science**

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Institute for Political Science				
<b>Status:</b> elective		<b>Frequency:</b> every second semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 2-4 / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b> Lectures, discussions in the plenary session, longer and shorter presentations, group work, individual supervision, seminar talks, independent preparation and after class reflection (also in written form), individual study and reading, writing a term paper, writing research reports, writing annotated bibliographies, and e-learning. In the research module, students will attend another advanced seminar and will develop an independent study project. In addition to expanding specialized knowledge, the research module aims to deepen methodological competences. Methodological knowledge is imparted relating to conducting independent academic research, including identifying research gaps, the reception of relevant earlier research, the methodologically clean execution of political science research, and a critically-aware discussion of one's own findings. Another central goal is the presentation of concepts from political theory, providing historical context, and analyzing and applying these.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b> After completing the research module, students will be able to independently develop and work on a political science topic. They will be able to identify, cite, critically assess, and contextualize relevant literature and studies in the field. In addition, they will be able to evaluate literature on the subject on an abstract level and formulate theses that reflect the current state of research in the discipline.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>Political Science</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the main module in Political Science				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> grade from the seminar				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Advanced seminar for M.A. students</i>	2	10	2-4	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), term paper (app. 20 pages) (6 CP)
<i>Independent Study</i>	2	4	2-4	advanced research or reading project, tutorial, specialized practical activity, shorter oral <i>or</i> written contribution (4 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14</b>		

## 7.5 Religion and Culture

### Main module Religion and Culture

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies; Faculty of Theology				
<b>Status:</b> elective		<b>Frequency:</b> every second semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 1 and 2 / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b> Lectures, seminar discussions, group source analysis, longer and shorter presentations, plenary discussions, small group work, e-learning, individual supervision, independent preparation and after class reflection (also in written form), individual study/reading, writing a more extensive paper: The length of the paper for the advanced seminar should not be longer than (including footnotes, but excluding spaces, attachments [images, maps, etc.] and bibliography) 57,000 characters (this corresponds to about 9,580 words at 6 characters per word, and about 25 pages at 2,300 characters per page). In the case of an applied skills class: The length of the paper is slightly shorter and should not exceed (including footnotes, but excluding spaces, attachments [images, maps, etc.] and bibliography) 46,000 characters (this corresponds to about 7,670 words at 6 characters per word, and about 20 pages at 2,300 characters per page). The main module outlines the current state of research on selected problems in the history of American religion and is intended to give students the opportunity for independent, research-oriented work within a given thematic framework. Building on knowledge acquired during an undergraduate degree, the courses provide in-depth knowledge and exemplify historical methods. In them, selected historical phenomena are explored and discussed through the lens of current approaches to history and debates within the field. In the advanced seminar, relevant techniques and methods of history are applied to primary sources. A special focus is placed on the independent and detailed presentation of historical and theological facts and their meanings, in both oral and written format, as well as to in-class discussions. The lectures each cover a broader topic and present students with the results of historical source analysis through the application of historical and cultural studies methodology and relevant research strategies. If an applied skills class is chosen instead of the lecture, the focus will be placed on experimentation with and in-depth application of the central working techniques and methods of the discipline.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b> With the successful completion of the module, students have broadened and deepened their knowledge of American religious history through an intensive examination of the selected content. They will be able to outline complex academic questions and to critically evaluate historical approaches and research results as well as to carry out independent analyses and representations of historical topics using academic methods. Furthermore, they will have learned the ability to apply and implement these skills in a teaching context and/or another subject-related practical activity. They will have acquired the skills to present their own research results in English and to discuss complex academic topics. In addition, they will be able to critically approach English-language sources.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>Religion and Culture</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Previous courses in the discipline from prior studies or completion of the basic module of the corresponding discipline in the B.A. program				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> grade from the seminar				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Advanced seminar for M.A. students</i>	2-3	12	1-2	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (3 CP), oral presentation or shorter paper (2 CP), term paper (app. 25 pages) (6 CP)

<i>Lecture</i> or <i>Applied skills class</i>	2  (2)	2  (2)	1-2	Regular and active participation , incl. preparation and reflection, short oral or written exam (2 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4-5	<b>14</b>		

## Research module Religion and Culture

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies; Faculty of Theology				
<b>Status:</b> elective		<b>Frequency:</b> every second semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 2-4 / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b> Lectures, seminar discussions, group source analysis, longer and shorter presentations, plenary discussions, small group work, e-learning, individual supervision, independent preparation and after class reflection (also in written form), individual study/reading, writing a more extensive paper: The length of the paper should not exceed (including footnotes, but excluding spaces, attachments [images, maps, etc.] and bibliography) 46,000 characters (this corresponds to about 7,670 words at 6 characters per word, and about 20 pages at 2,300 characters per page). Independent reading, assessment, and critical discussion of selected secondary literature. The research module will broaden and deepen students' knowledge of American religious history in several different ways. In the advanced seminar, relevant theories and methods from the discipline will be discussed and applied to primary sources. In the "Independent Studies" section, the students, in conjunction with the instructor, will select a reading list of 4-6 monographs on a chosen research topic. The students will then prepare a critical reading report and meet with the instructor to discuss their findings.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b> Upon successful completion of the module, students will have acquired the ability to critically engage with theoretical approaches and research paradigms in the field of American religious history. In the "Independent Studies" section, they will have acquired the ability to develop their own research questions and approaches and place it in the context of the relevant secondary literature. This module also serves as preparation for writing the M.A. thesis.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>Religion and Culture</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the main module in <i>Religion and Culture</i>				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> grade from the seminar				
<b>Courses</b>	<b>H/W/S</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Recommended semester</b>	<b>Course work and exams</b>
<i>Advanced seminar for M.A. or PhD students</i>	2-3	10	2-4	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (3 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), term paper with a theoretical or historiographical emphasis (15-20 pages) (5 CP)
<i>Independent Study</i>	2	4	2-4	advanced reading project (4-6 books) (4 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4-5	<b>14</b>		

## 7.6 Methodology module

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory		<b>Frequency:</b> each winter term		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 1 / 1 semester				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b>          The module consists of a course on "Theory and Methods" and a course for academic writing. The "Theory and Methods" class introduces students to historical development of American Studies, as well as the research debates and the various interdisciplinary approaches that Americanists have produced in their more than fifty-year history. Special attention is also paid to theories of gender, and to national and ethnic identities as central aspects of American culture and society. The writing skills course is intended to teach the basic rules of good academic writing in English and to familiarize students with English-language academic terminology. The students will be introduced to the various forms of text they will be required to write (book reviews, literature reviews, term papers). They will develop their skills in formulating and discussing academic issues and will learn the formal requirements of academic writing.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b>          The competences students will acquire include the ability to develop complex academic questions in the field of American Studies, critically assess current research debates and scholarship, as well as conduct independent analysis and application of theories in the humanities. Students are able to present complex facts and their own research results verbally and in writing in English. Students will be able to present complex facts and their own research results in English, both verbally and in writing. At least for non-native speakers, this also brings with it a substantial increase in foreign language skills for non-academic occupational fields.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Pertinent courses from prior studies or completion of Theories and Methods I + II from the B.A. program's Introductory Module (Einführungsmodul)				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> Weighted grade point average of the corresponding courses (1/2 and 1/2)				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Seminar „Theory and Methods“</i>	2	4	1	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP) obligatory reading list (1 CP) shorter oral <i>or</i> written contribution (1 CP)
<i>Applied Skills „Academic Writing“</i>	2	4	1	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP) obligatory reading list (1 CP) shorter oral <i>or</i> written contribution (1 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	8		

## 7.7 Interdisciplinary module

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory		<b>Frequency:</b> every semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 1-3 / 3 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b>          The module consists of an interdisciplinary seminar and two interdisciplinary colloquia. The interdisciplinary seminar is typically taught by representatives of two different disciplines. A crucial component of this seminar is introducing students to interdisciplinary scholarship, teaching them multi- or interdisciplinary approaches, and illustrating the synergistic potential of such approaches. The interdisciplinary colloquium serves to introduce students to topics and subject areas that are not otherwise covered in the curriculum of the respective year. This is also intended to help students sharpen their understanding of the trends in multidisciplinary research in the field American Studies. Additionally, the colloquium also demonstrates the relevance and applicability of American Studies beyond the study program. For this purpose, prominent guest speakers from the various sub-disciplines of American Studies, as well as representatives from politics, business, and the media will be invited to discuss topics relevant to the USA with the students. Students will also visit various cultural and economic institutions with transatlantic connections.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b>          Upon successful completion of the module, students will be able to apply the methods of various disciplines in an academic context, compare multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, and evaluate them in the context of their research questions. They will be able to recognize the problems in different disciplines and will have learned to reflect on and discuss them. This will also foster competence in transdisciplinary dialog. In addition to facilitating network building and discussion, the colloquium will particularly encourage intellectual flexibility by emphasizing the practical implementation of acquired knowledge both within academia and outside of it.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Enrolment in the main module of at least one of the represented disciplines				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> grade from the seminar				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Interdisciplinary seminar</i>	2	6	3	Regular and active participation, incl. preparation and reflection (2 CP); obligatory reading list (1 CP), shorter oral <i>or</i> written contribution (1 CP), term paper (app. 12 pages) (2 CP)
<i>Interdisciplinary Colloquium I</i>	2	2	1	Regular and active participation (2 CP)
<i>Interdisciplinary Colloquium II</i>	2	2	2	Regular and active participation (2 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>		



## 7.8 Flexibility module

<b>Offered by:</b> English Department, Institute for Political Science, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, History Department, Institute for Geography, Faculty of Theology				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory		<b>Frequency:</b> every semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 2-3 / 2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b>          For this module, students can select courses from any of the disciplines offered at the HCA. In the various class formats (e.g. seminars, lectures, and applied skills classes), students will have the opportunity to acquire and deepen their specialized knowledge of a sub-discipline and apply and expand their discussion, presentation, and general academic skills. The module aims to provide students with the opportunity to further focus on particular areas of specialization within American Studies, but also to provide them with a broader view of the field.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b>          Upon successful completion of the module, students will have broadened their knowledge in the field of American Studies and acquired a better understanding of its range and interdisciplinary nature.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> Weighted grade point average of the corresponding courses (1/3, 1/3, 1/3)				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Lecture/seminars/applied skills class</i>	2	4	2	See requirements in the module handbooks of the respective institute or department
<i>Lecture/seminars/applied skills class</i>	2	4	2	See requirements in the module handbooks of the respective institute or department
<i>Lecture/seminars/applied skills class</i>	2	4	3	See requirements in the module handbooks of the respective institute or department
<b>Total:</b>	6	12		

## 7.9 Cross-cutting perspectives

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg University				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory		<b>Frequency:</b> every semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 2-4 / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b> Students select two courses from outside of the field of American Studies. Courses from any of the faculties at Heidelberg University can be selected.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b> This module is intended to broaden the students' academic profile by allowing them to select courses from the entire range of subjects offered by the university. Especially with regards to possible future occupations, students will acquire a more well-rounded professional profile and expand their areas of expertise.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> None				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> Weighted grade point average of the corresponding courses (1/2 and 1/2)				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
facultative	2	4	3	See requirements in the module handbooks of the respective institute or department
facultative	2	4	3	See requirements in the module handbooks of the respective institute or department
<b>Total:</b>	4	8		

## 7.10 Mobility window

<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg University or other institutions				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory		<b>Frequency:</b> every semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 3 / 1 semester				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b>          The mobility window gives students the opportunity to add an intensive practical and applicable component to their degree in American Studies. For this purpose, students can complete a 4-week internship in a relevant professional field or study abroad. If students are interested in pursuing an academic career, teaching tutorials or similar classes outside of the normal BA and MA curriculum can also be counted toward this module.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b>          Depending on their choice of mobility component, students will be provided with a chance to deepen their cultural knowledge, expanded their language skills, and strengthen their intercultural competence. They will acquire firsthand and real world experience, and will have taken concrete steps toward establishing their future careers.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> not graded				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Internship/ study abroad/ teaching experience</i>	n/a	6	3	Internship/ study abroad/ teaching experience
<b>Total:</b>		<b>6</b>		

## 7.11 Examination module

<b>Offered by:</b> English Department, Institute for Political Science, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, History Department, Institute for Geography, Faculty of Theology				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory		<b>Frequency:</b> every semester		
<b>Recommended semester/duration of module:</b> semester 4 / 1 semester				
<p><b>Course format and contents:</b>          The module consists of the writing of an academic thesis on a selected topic in the same area as the research module, participating in an ungraded research colloquium, and completing an oral final exam. As a rule, the master's thesis (including footnotes, but excluding spaces, appendices, and bibliography) should not exceed 25,000 words (this corresponds to approximately 60 pages). Students will have four months to complete the work. The oral exam lasts 60 minutes.</p>				
<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b>          By completing the master's thesis, students demonstrate that they possess specialized and up-to-date knowledge in a selected area of American Studies and that they are able to incorporate this knowledge into their work. They will have also demonstrated that they have the ability to independently produce and edit a substantial work on a complex topic within a set time frame. They will have honed their ability to manage their time and independently engage in scholarly work. In particular, they will have acquired the following basic techniques and methods: identifying relevant primary and secondary literature; developing a research question; method-oriented analysis, interpretation, and discussion of primary and secondary sources; mentally organizing their interpretations and analysis in order to form a coherent argument; and conveying their thoughts in written form in line with the standards of academic scholarship. In the research colloquium, the students will show that they can present their own project, address and incorporate criticisms of their own work, and constructively criticize other projects. In the oral examination, the students will demonstrate that they have intensively dealt with themes from their chosen research module and have not merely reproduced them, but also dealt critically with them.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the module:</b> M.A. American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> See <i>Examination Rules and Regulations</i> § 13.				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> See <i>Examination Rules and Regulations</i> § 12 sec. 3.				
Requirements	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Requirements
<i>M.A. thesis</i>	n/a	24	4	M.A. thesis (app. 60 pages)
<i>Research colloquium</i>	2	2	4	Regular and active participation as well as an oral presentation about the topic of the M.A. thesis (20 min), not graded
<i>Oral exam</i>	n/a	8	4	Oral exam (60 min.) about specific topic areas in the discipline of the research module
<b>Total:</b>		<b>34</b>		