



# MA AMERICAN STUDIES

The Modules. An Introduction



# The Module System

- In German universities, each course you take is part of a **module**.
- A module exists of **several courses that are connected through a topic**. Studying a module, you take all of its courses, either in one semester, or in the course of several semesters. At the end of the semester, your instructors will sign your course forms (if you have fulfilled the “Arbeitsleistungen”).
- Each module concludes with a **module exam** (Modulabschlussprüfung = MAP). There are no exams at the end of the courses per se. Don't forget to register for the MAP on Agnes!
- You receive a **grade** for your MAP, but not for your work in the courses.

# The Module System: MAP

- In most modules, you take several courses, but you take the MAP (Module exam) only in one course.
- In many modules, you can take the MAP even if you have only taken one of its courses, when this is the course that you want to write your term paper in (this goes especially for Modules 4-6 and 9/10). You then conclude the module with the missing seminars in the next semester.
- Don't forget to register for the MAP at the end of the semester! You will be reminded of the deadline by your instructors, and through the Newsletter.

# Module 1: American Studies: Literary and Cultural History and Theory

- SE Major Problems in American Literary and Cultural History
- SE Theories of American Studies: Queer America
- UE Sprachpraxis Oral Skills

This module introduces students to major questions of American Studies. The MAP for this Module is a **take home exam** that pertains to both seminars (Major Problems and Theories of American Studies).

# Module 2: Reading American Literature and Culture

- SE Reading American Literature and Culture: Vorbereitung zur Lehrübung (Preparation for the Teaching Exercise)
- LUE (=Lehrübung, Teaching Exercise) Teaching American Literature and Culture

In the seminar, you will read and discuss a canon of American literature, but you will also learn and develop methods of teaching these texts. Because in the next semester(s), you will be co-teaching this course to BA students of American Studies (that's the Lehrübung)! You will get plenty of support for this, so don't be scared – most students have valued this experience a lot!

The **MAP is an oral exam** which consists of a list of literary texts that you discuss and an evaluation of your teaching experience. Therefore, this exam will not take place at the end of this semester but after you've finished your teaching exercise.

# Module 3: Intercultural Relations

- UE/SE Sprachpraxis/Linguistics: Intercultural Competence/Writing
- SE International Student Conferences / Project
- SPJ Independent Preparation

The SE and the SPJ (=Studienprojekt) are one course only, but since a lot of independent work is involved, you get the credits of two courses. Read the course description for more details on each semester's focus. The **MAP** for this course will be a **student conference**. The instructor will announce whether it will be held online this semester, or whether it is connected with an excursion.

# Module 4, 5, 6: Identities, Diversity, Medialities

These are our core modules. Each semester, we will offer different seminars on theories, histories, and practices of North American identities; questions of cultural diversity (with one focus on Gender Studies); and history, theories, and methodologies of Media. Read the course descriptions on Agnes to get an idea!

The MAPs for Modules 4 and 5 are **term papers** (of 12, resp. 20 pages)

The MAP for Module 6 is an **oral exam**.

# Module 7: Master Thesis

- It's probably a bit early to think about your thesis just yet.
- However, you might want to know that you get information about how to select a topic, and thesis advisors etc. [here](#).
- There are no deadlines for thesis registration, you can do this whenever you're ready. Once you are registered, you have twenty weeks to write about 60 pages.



# Module 8: Research and Writing Skills

- SE Research and Writing
- BSST (“Betreutes Selbststudium”)
- UE Sprachpraxis: Writing Skills

Attention! The course “Research and Writing” is only taught in the Winter semester! It is a preparation for your MA thesis, so you should take it with a specific goal in mind (finding or specifying a topic, developing the argument, organizing the structure, writing the introduction, etc.). BSST means “supervised self study” and entails credits for doing research for the MA thesis. Your supervisor will sign your form.

In this module, the **MAP is a Sprachpraxis MAP** (essay or portfolio of 12 pp).

# Module 9 or 10: Individual Focus I or II

- You can choose between these modules.
- In either of them, you will take two more courses from the core modules 4, 5 and 6.
- The **MAP** is a **book review** of about 5 pages.

# That's it!

- Modules 11 and 12 are addressed to students from **other disciplines** who want to take American Studies as ÜWP courses.
- Don't forget that you additionally need to collect 10 LP from **ÜWP courses**. See [ÜWP \(Überfachlicher Wahlpflichtbereich\)](#)