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# Curriculum

for the Master's degree programme in  
English and American Studies

Degree programme code 812

Effective validity

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- For information purposes only

# Curriculum for the Master's Degree Programme

## *English and American Studies*

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## § 1 General Remarks

- (1) The Master's degree programme in *English and American Studies* is worth 120 ECTS credits. This corresponds to a scheduled study duration of 4 semesters. In accordance with § 54 Paragraph 1 of the Universities Act 2002 (hereafter: UA), the Master's degree programme in *English and American Studies* is assigned to the group of Studies in Arts and Humanities.
- (2) The workload for the individual programme achievement is indicated in ECTS credits. The workload must amount to 1500 hours in one year, for which 60 credits are awarded. The workload is comprised of the element of independent study as well as the semester and contact hours (§ 51 para. 2 subpara. 26 UA).

## § 2 Qualification Profile

The qualification profile describes the scientific and professional qualifications that students gain by completing the degree programme.

- (1) By providing a scientific professional education, the degree programme in English and American Studies allows students in this field to develop expertise in the English language and in Anglophone literatures and cultures. During the course of their studies, students consequently acquire theoretical and practical skills in the English language and in a variety of subject areas – with both specific and general professional relevance –, thus facilitating access to numerous established and alternative occupational fields upon completion of their studies. The Master's degree programme in English and American Studies aims to expand and consolidate these competencies, particularly in the fields of Linguistic Science, Literary Science and Cultural Studies, depending on the selected specialisation. As a result, upon completion of their studies, students will not only have acquired the subject-specific competencies that may serve as a basis for a scientific career, but they are also equipped with the cultural, methodological, and factual knowledge required to perform responsible activities in business, politics, the arts, and in the cultural sphere.
- (2) These professional and occupational fields include: archive and library service; diplomatic service; work as publishing editor; professional activities in the cultural sphere; international co-operation arrangements in the field of education and science; translation services; activities in extra-mural and operational training and continuing education; activities in mass communication (print media, radio, television), in advertising and in the leisure and tourism sectors; cross-border co-ordination efforts or public relations for businesses, corporations, authorities and associations; occupations with a linguistic orientation: development of lexica, textbooks, etc.; computational linguistics.
- (3) The necessary expertise is taught in the Required Subjects with due regard for the specifics of the language and for the context provided by the Anglophone research concepts. The Compulsory Electives and Optional Subjects serve to provide the required subject-specific consolidation and expansion. The competencies include:

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- a) **Practical language skills.** These include: Comprehensive in-depth knowledge of the English language, available cognitively, ranging from subtle text comprehension to the production of appropriate oral and written texts; this also includes the ability to act as text mediator between different cultural spaces.
  - b) **Methodological skills.** Among these are: Familiarity with the techniques of intellectual work, for instance: information acquisition, information processing and information sharing; the adoption of the respective required terminologies; knowledge of the principles of theory construction; ability to think analytically, to think in alternatives, to synthetically grasp complex relationships, to conduct autonomous research efforts, to engage in expert argumentation, and to creatively apply the acquired knowledge and transfer it to new fields of activity.
  - c) **Linguistic reflection skills.** These include: Insights into the function, performance and structure of language in general and of the English languages in particular; the knowledge of their regional, social and situational varieties, as well as their use in the given specific discourse; an appreciation of the nature of semiotic systems and of their historical relativity; familiarity with linguistic description approaches, as well as the ability to establish connections between language, culture and society.
  - d) **Skills in Cultural Studies.** These comprise: Proficiencies in the nuanced, problem-conscious and autonomous approach to films, literary and other texts, as well as cultural artefacts in general; furthermore, the skills required to set into place, analyse and criticise the very same within the context of cultural scientific theories and explanatory models.
  - e) **Intercultural skills.** These include: The knowledge of relevant cultural contexts; the ability to deal with current cultural, social and political problems of the Anglophone cultures in a critical and factually well-founded manner, as well as the willingness to manage different cultural experiences and attitudes with due consideration of potential problems.
  - f) **Humanitarian skills** or the exercising of responsibility towards human society, most notably, respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the equal treatment of women and men.
  - g) **Social skills**, which result from the experience of various working methods, such as teamwork, project work, working groups, or simulations.
  - h) **Gender mainstreaming.** This refers to the productive engagement with questions from Gender Studies, as well as a familiarity with the demands, intentions, concepts, and methods of Women's and Gender Studies as critical science.

### § 3 Admission Requirements

The admission to a Master's degree programme is contingent upon the successful completion of a relevant Bachelor's degree or a relevant Bachelor's degree at a University of Applied Sciences or other equivalent programme at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution (§ 64 para. 5 UA).

The Bachelor's degree programme in "English and American Studies" at Klagenfurt University qualifies as relevant in any case.

### § 4 Academic Degree

Graduates of this Master's degree programme are awarded the academic degree "Master" accompanied by "of Arts" (abbreviated to: MA). When used, the academic degree must follow the name.

### § 5 Structure and Organisation of the Degree Programme

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>ECTS Credits</i>
<i>Required Subjects</i>	<i>Advanced Language</i>	<b>10</b>
	<i>Research Design in English &amp; American Studies</i>	<b>16</b>
<i>Compulsory Electives</i>	<i>EITHER „Applied Linguistics” OR „Film, Literature and Culture Studies”</i>	<b>40</b>
<i>Optional Subjects</i>		<b>12</b>
<i>Master Thesis</i>		<b>30</b>
<i>Comprehensive Examination</i>		<b>12</b>
<b><i>Total</i></b>		<b>120</b>

### § 6 Studying Abroad/Mobility

All students enrolled in English and American Studies are strongly advised to complete part of their degree programme (at least one semester) as a study period abroad in an English-speaking region. Moreover, all students are encouraged to participate in any scheduled excursion.

### § 7 Types of Courses

- (1) Lectures are courses in which the instructors convey knowledge by lecturing. The course is concluded with a single (written and/or oral) examination.
- (2) Courses with an immanent examination character are courses in which the assessment is not based on a single examination, but rather is based on the written and/or oral contributions of the participants during the course or - in the case of scientific papers or projects (seminar papers or assignments requiring an equivalent effort) - no later than the end of the semester following the semester in which the course is held. The following are courses with an immanent examination character:

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- a) Portfolio Course (German abbreviation: PK): Students attending portfolio courses produce several separate pieces of work (portfolio) during the course of a semester. The workload is equivalent to 5 ECTS credits.
  - b) Course (German abbreviation: KU): Courses serve to expand and consolidate scientific competencies and consist of lecturers and students jointly addressing specific problems. The workload is equivalent to 4 ECTS credits.
  - c) Working Groups (German abbreviation: AG): Working groups serve the purpose of the practical testing and public presentation of research results. The workload is equivalent to 4 ECTS credits.
  - d) Seminar (SE): Seminars are research- or theory-oriented courses, aimed primarily at advanced students, and are used for the reflection and discussion of specific scientific problems. In the context of the seminar, students are generally required to produce a written paper with a length of approx. 6,000 words. The workload for seminars is equivalent to 8 ECTS credits.

## § 8 Courses in Required Subjects

Required Subjects are subjects, which characterise the degree program, and which are concluded by an examination.

### (1) „Advanced Language”

Practical language courses serve the further development of academic language proficiencies. Very good knowledge of the English language (at least C1 in all categories) is assumed.

### (2) „Research Design in English & American Studies”

Supporting ongoing research efforts, these courses serve to guide students towards the Master Thesis. They accompany the research process all the way from the multidisciplinary definition of the topic („Cutting Edge Research in English and American Studies [focussing, amongst others, on issues in Gender Studies]”) via the work on the Master Thesis („Research Forum” in „Applied Linguistics” or „Film, Literature and Culture Studies” [focussing, amongst others, on issues in Gender Studies]) to the joint presentation of results („Graduate Student Forum”).

	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Course Type</i>	<i>ECTS Credits</i>
<i>Required Subject „Advanced Language”</i>	<b>Style and Rhetoric in Scholarship</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Thesis Writing</b>	<b>PK</b>	<b>5</b>
			<i>Total: 10</i>
<i>Required Subject „Research Design in English &amp; American Studies”</i>	<b>Cutting Edge Research in English and American Studies [focussing, amongst others, on issues in Gender Studies]</b>	<b>KU</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Research Forum [focussing, amongst others, on issues in Gender Studies]</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Graduate Student Forum</b>	<b>AG</b>	<b>4</b>
			<i>Total: 16</i>

### § 9 Compulsory Electives

Compulsory Electives are those subjects, which students can select from the subjects prescribed by the curriculum. Students must complete Compulsory Electives worth a total of 40 ECTS credits.

The Compulsory Electives available for selection are „Applied Linguistics” and „Film, Literature and Culture Studies”, one of which must be chosen. The selected Compulsory Elective represents the main focus area of the degree programme.

	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Course Type</i>	<i>ECTS Credits</i>
<i>EITHER Compulsory Elective „Applied Linguistics”</i>	<b>Themes in „Applied Linguistics“</b>	<b>KU</b>	<b>4 + 4</b>
	<b>Advanced Topics in „Applied Linguistics”</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>8 + 8</b>
	<b>Advanced Topics in „Film, Literature and Culture Studies”</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Seminar in „Applied Linguistics” focusing on issues in Gender Studies</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>8</b>
			<i>Total: 40</i>
<i>OR Compulsory Elective „Film, Literature and Culture Studies”</i>	<b>Themes in “Film, Literature and Culture Studies”</b>	<b>KU</b>	<b>4 + 4</b>
	<b>Advanced Topics in „Film, Literature and Culture Studies”</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>8 + 8</b>
	<b>Advanced Topics in „Applied Linguistics”</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>Seminar in „Film, Literature and Culture Studies” focusing on issues in Gender Studies</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>8</b>
			<i>Total: 40</i>

## § 10 Optional Subjects

The term Optional Subjects refers to those subjects, which students can select freely from the range of courses offered by recognised domestic and foreign universities. Courses completed in order to gain the entitlement to study at a university, or the general or special university entrance qualification, are excluded. Students must complete Optional Subjects worth 12 ECTS credits.

Students are particularly encouraged to select courses from Feminist Science / Gender Studies or the Optional Subject module "Interdisciplinary Multilingualism".

## § 11 Courses with Limited Numbers of Participants

- (1) The following course types are each limited to a maximum number of 25 participants: PK, KU, AG, SE.
- (2) If the number of students registering for these courses exceeds the number of available places, students are admitted in accordance with the following procedure:
  - a) students enrolled in degree programmes for which the respective curriculum prescribes the compulsory completion of the course shall receive preferred admission;
  - b) students, who have already been deferred in the past shall receive preferential treatment;
  - c) in the case of courses taking place during the first semester of studying, the average grade achieved during the Bachelor's degree is relevant; this corresponds to the average of the grades received for all examination subjects recorded in the Bachelor degree certificate;
  - d) if, following application of the criteria according to para. 3 lit a) to c), the number of applications continues to exceed the defined maximum number of participants, the decision is made by the drawing of lots.

## § 12 Master Thesis

- (1) The term Master Thesis refers to the academic paper, which serves to demonstrate the students' ability to achieve adequate standards of content and methodology when independently addressing scholarly topics. The assignment for the Master Thesis shall be chosen in such a way that it is feasible and reasonable to expect students to complete the work within six months. The Master Thesis must be written in English. A number of students may jointly address a topic, provided that the performance of each individual student can be assessed independently.
- (2) The topic of the Master Thesis must be selected from one of the following Compulsory Electives: „*Applied Linguistics*” OR „*Film, Literature and Culture Studies*”.
- (3) The Master Thesis is worth 30 ECTS credits.
- (4) In accordance with Part B § 18 of the University Charter, the student must inform the Rector for Academic Affairs of the topic and the supervisor of the Master Thesis in writing prior to commencing work on the thesis. The topic and the supervisor are deemed to have been accepted, if the Rector for Academic Affairs does not issue a notice of prohibition within one month after receipt of the student's notice. A change of supervisor is admissible up to the point of submission of the Master Thesis.



- (5) The completed Master Thesis shall be submitted to the Rector for Academic Affairs in printed and in electronically readable form for the purpose of assessment. More specific instructions in this regard are decreed by the Rector for Academic Affairs with due consideration of the state of technological development. The supervisor shall assess the Master Thesis within two months from the time of submission.
- (6) The main text of the Master Thesis must have a length of at least 30,000 words.

### **§ 13 Use of Languages other than German**

All courses, examinations and written assignments are conducted in English or must be written in English.

### **§ 14 Examination Regulations**

Examinations, which counted towards the successful completion of the degree programme that served as prerequisite for the admission to the Master's degree programme, cannot be counted a second time towards the conclusion of the Master's degree programme.

- (1) Course examinations:

Courses pursuant to § 7 para. 2 a) to d) are endowed with an immanent examination character. Attendance is mandatory, and participants are furthermore expected to contribute actively to the discussion and reflection process, and to complete regular progress tests and final examinations, written assignments and / or oral presentations, depending on the subject area. Seminar papers or written assignments requiring a comparable effort shall be submitted no later than at the end of the semester following the semester in which the course is held.
- (2) The Master's degree programme in English and American Studies is concluded by the Master's Examination, which is comprised of the following parts:
  - a) course examinations covering all courses listed in §§ 8 and 9;
  - b) successful completion of the Optional Subjects;
  - c) the approbation of the Master Thesis;
  - d) the final oral comprehensive examination by committee (12 ECTS credits).
- (3) The oral comprehensive examination by committee comprises two subject areas from the area of specialisation (§9) from which the topic of the Master Thesis is sourced. One of these areas must be related to the Master Thesis, but may not comprise the same literature or the same problem definition; a second area from within this specialisation may be selected freely.
- (4) In the case that the interpretation of a text forms part of the oral comprehensive examination by committee, the candidate shall be allowed a reasonable preparation period immediately before the start of the examination.

- (5) The registration for the oral comprehensive examination by committee is conditional upon the successful completion of the parts of the Master's Examination listed in paras. 2 lit. a, lit. b and lit. c.

### **§ 15 Effective Validity**

This curriculum enters into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2011 following formal announcement in the University Bulletin of Klagenfurt University, and applies to all students who commence their Master's degree program from the winter semester of 2011 onwards.

### **§ 16 Transitional Provisions**

- (1) Students, who commenced their Master's degree programme prior to the winter semester of 2011 are entitled to complete their studies in accordance with the applicable provisions in place within the timeframe of the scheduled programme duration plus one additional semester, which means that they must conclude their studies no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014. If the degree programme is not completed on time, the student has to pursue her/his studies according to the provisions of the new curriculum. Furthermore, students are entitled to voluntarily transition to the provisions of the new curriculum at any point in time.
- (2) The specific provisions governing the equivalence of positively assessed examinations in relation to the previously applicable curriculum and the new curriculum are described in the Appendix (equivalence table).

**APPENDIX**

The following equivalence table – not including courses that carry the same or a similar course title – applies to students who are enrolled in the teacher training programme „Teaching English” (2008), and students who are transferred to or who voluntarily transition to the new curriculum:

<b>Master's degree programme in English and American Studies (2011)</b>	<b>Teacher Training Programme „Teaching English” (2008)</b>
Themes (KU) from „Film, Literature and Culture Studies”	Theory & Methodology of Culture Studies (VO)
<b>Master's degree programme in English and American Studies (2011)</b>	<b>Master's degree programme in English and American Studies (2005) acc. to UA 2002</b>
Style and Rhetoric in Scholarship	Advanced Writing & Translation
Thesis Writing	Thesis Writing
Themes (KU) in „Applied Linguistics”	Main Developments in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics I/II (VO)
Advanced Topics (SE) in „Applied Linguistics”	Special Topics in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics (SE)
Themes (KU) in „Film, Literature and Culture Studies”	Main Developments in Literature Studies <i>und</i> Culture Studies I/II (VO)
Advanced Topics (SE) in „Film, Literature and Culture Studies”	Special Topics in Literature Studies <i>und</i> Culture Studies (SE)
Advanced Topics (SE) in „Applied Linguistics”	Specialization in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics I/II (SE)
Research Forum („Applied Linguistics” [focusing, amongst others, on issues in Gender Studies])	Research Forum I/II (English Linguistics)
Advanced Topics (SE) in „Film, Literature and Culture Studies”	Specialization in Literature Studies <i>und</i> Culture Studies I/II (SE)
Research Forum („Film, Literature and Culture Studies” [focusing, amongst others, on issues in Gender Studies])	Research Forum I/II (Literature Studies <i>und</i> Culture Studies)
Cutting Edge Research in English and American Studies (focussing, amongst others, on issues in Gender Studies)	<i>No equivalent</i>
Graduate Student Forum	<i>No equivalent</i>
Seminar in „Applied Linguistics” focusing on issues in Gender Studies	<i>No equivalent</i>
Seminar in „Film, Literature and Culture Studies” focusing on issues in Gender Studies	<i>No equivalent</i>