

# Curriculum

## for the Master's Degree Programme

English and American Studies

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# Curriculum for the Master's Degree Programme

## *English and American Studies*

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## **§ 1 General Information**

(1) The Master's degree programme in English and American Studies comprises 120 ECTS credits (ECTS-CP). This corresponds to a planned duration of studies of four semesters. In accordance with § 54 Section 1 of the Universities Act 2002 (hereinafter: UA), the Master's degree programme in English and American Studies is affiliated to the group of Humanities and Cultural Studies degree programmes.

(2) The workload for the individual academic achievement is specified in ECTS credits (ECTS-CP). The workload for one year must amount to 1,500 real hours with 60 ECTS credits being allocated to this workload (§54 section 2 UA). The workload includes the number of hours of self study and semester/contact hours, including participation in the assessment procedure.

## **§ 2 Competency Profile**

(1) The competency profile describes the academic and preparatory vocational knowledge, skills, and competencies that students acquire by completing their studies in the form of intended learning outcomes. It also outlines the central content of the degree programme and the fields of work and occupation for which the degree programme qualifies or prepares students.

(2) The study of English and American Studies enables students of this subject, in the sense of academic vocational training, to become experts in the field of the English language, English linguistics, or English-speaking literatures and cultures. During the course of their studies, students acquire theoretical and practical skills in the English language as well as in various subject-specific and generally professionally relevant subject areas. This gives them the opportunity to work in a variety of established and alternative professional fields after graduation. In the Master's degree programme in English and American Studies, these competences are expanded and deepened, depending on the chosen specialisation, especially in the fields of linguistics, literary and cultural studies, so that after graduation students not only possess the subject-specific competences that can serve as a basis for an academic career, but also have the cultural, methodological, and professional knowledge that enables them to pursue a responsible career in business and politics, art and culture.

(3) Such professional fields include: archive and library work; diplomatic service; working as a lector of a publishing house; jobs in the field of culture; international cooperations in the field of education and science; jobs as a translator international cooperation in the field of education and science; jobs in extracurricular and company training and further education; jobs in the field of mass communication (press, radio, television), in the advertising industry and in the leisure and tourism sector; interdisciplinary coordination- and public relations work in companies, organisations, administrative bodies, and clubs; linguistically oriented professions: development of lexicons, textbooks, etc.

(4) The required competences are taught in the Required Subjects, both language-specific and in the context of Anglophone research concepts and are intensified and supplemented in the Elective Subjects. These competencies include:

a) Practical language skills. These include: Complex, also cognitively available knowledge of the English language, ranging from reflective text comprehension to the production of

situation-specific oral and written texts; this also includes the ability to act as a text mediator between different cultural spaces.

b) Methodical competencies. These include: Familiarity with the techniques of intellectual work, e.g. information acquisition, information processing and information transfer; the acquisition of the necessary, case-specific terminologies; knowledge of the principles of theory formation; skills in analytical thinking, in thinking in alternatives and in synthetic comprehension of complex contexts, in independent research, in subject-specific reasoning and in the creative application of the acquired knowledge and its transfer to new fields of activity

c) Reflective language skills. These include: Insights into the function, performance, and structure of language in general and varieties of English in particular; knowledge of its regional, social, and situational variants and their use in concrete discourse; understanding of the nature of sign systems and their historical conditionality; familiarity with linguistic approaches of description and the ability to establish critical connections between language, culture, and society.

d) Competences in cultural studies. These include: Skills in the differentiated, problem-conscious and independent handling of literary and other texts, films, as well as cultural artefacts in general; competencies in situating, analysing, and critically examining these within the framework of cultural theories and models of explanation.

e) Intercultural competencies. These include: The knowledge of subject-relevant cultural contexts; the ability to deal critically and objectively with current cultural, social, and political problems affecting Anglophone cultures, and the willingness to deal with different cultural experiences and attitudes in a problem-conscious manner.

f) Humanitarian competences, or the exercise of responsibility towards human society, in particular the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the equal treatment of all sexes and of people of all sexual orientations.

g) Social competencies resulting from the experience of working methods such as teamwork, project work, working groups, or simulations.

h) Gender mainstreaming. This refers to the productive examination of gender studies issues and a familiarity with claims, intentions, concepts, and methods of women's and gender studies as critical science.

### **§ 3 Admission Requirements**

Admission to a Master's degree programme requires the completion of a relevant bachelor's degree programme, a relevant bachelor's degree programme at a university of applied sciences, or another equivalent degree programme at a recognised domestic or foreign institution of post-secondary education (§ 64 (3) UA).

In any case, the bachelor's degree programme in English and American Studies (L033 612) at the University of Klagenfurt is an appropriate degree programme.

### **§ 4 Academic Degree**

Graduates of this Master's degree programme are awarded the academic degree of "Master" with the addition "of Arts" (abbreviated: "MA"). When carried, this academic degree must be listed after one's name.

## § 5 Structure and Organisation of the Study Programme

In total, the Master's degree programme in English and American Studies comprises 120 ECTS credits (ECTS-CP):

<b>Subject/ Achievement</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>ECTS-CP</b>
<b>Required Subject</b>	1 "Research Foundations"	After the successful completion of the subject, students are able to define essential questions of a subject area, to develop their own research questions based on these, and possess basic knowledge of suitable methods of analysis.	<b>10</b>
<b>Electives (either 2 or 3)</b>	2 "Linguistics"	Students can critically and thoroughly explain and apply selected methods and models in the various areas of linguistics. - They can place these in the larger context of linguistics and examine their relationships to the special field of the master's thesis with reference to existing research literature and in accordance with academic standards.	<b>56</b>
	3 "Literature and Culture Studies"	- Students can critically and thoroughly explain selected areas of English-speaking cultures and literatures in their historical and theoretical contexts. - They can place these in the larger context of Anglophone cultural and literary studies and examine their relations to the special field of the master's thesis with reference to existing research literature and in accordance with academic standards.	<b>56</b>
<b>Optional Subjects</b>	<b>4</b>	The students more thoroughly explore existing fields of knowledge or explore complementary and/or contrasting ones.	<b>12</b>
<b>Master's Thesis</b>		The students are able to work independently and reflexively on a subject-specific topic by drawing on existing research literature and to present their findings appropriately in writing.	<b>30</b>
<b>Comprehensive Examination</b>			<b>12 (6+6)</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>Total:</b>	<b>120</b>

## § 6 International Study/Mobility

It is expressly recommended to complete part of the studies in an English-speaking country from the 2nd semester onwards within the framework of the partnership agreements of the Alpen-Adria-Universität. At the student's request, it is necessary to establish which of the examinations planned abroad are equivalent to the examinations prescribed in the curriculum ("advance notice", § 78 section 6 UA).

## § 7 Types of Courses

(1) Lectures (L) are courses in which knowledge is imparted through presentations by the lecturers. The examination takes place in a single act (written and/or oral).

(2) Continuous Assessment Courses are courses in which the assessment does not take place in a single examination act, but on the basis of written and/or oral contributions by the participants. If a seminar paper or a paper of comparable complexity is to be written

within the framework of an Continuous Assessment Course, it is possible to submit the paper by the following 30 June for courses of the winter semester and by 31 January of the following year for courses of the summer semester.

Continuous Assessment Courses are:

a) Portfolio Course (PC): In a portfolio course, several individual papers (portfolio) will be written during the semester. The workload is 6 ECTS-CP.

b) Course (CO): In Courses, teachers and students work together on concrete issues. Courses have mandatory attendance and carry a workload of 4 ECTS-CP.

c) Working Groups (WG): Working Groups serve the practical testing and public presentation of research results. The workload is 8 ECTS-CP.

d) Seminar (SE): Seminars are research- and theory-oriented courses that are aimed at advanced students and serve to reflect on and discuss specific academic issues. Seminars have mandatory attendance and require a substantial dedication to self-study. As a rule, a written paper of 6,000 words must be produced within the framework of a Seminar. The workload for Seminars is 8 ECTS-CP.

## § 8 Required Subject Courses

The Required Subject characterises the degree programme, on which examinations have to be taken. In total, 10 ECTS-CP must be completed in the Required Subject.

	<i>Course Title</i>		<i>Type</i>	<i>ECTS-CP</i>
<i>Required Subject "Research Foundations"</i>	1.1	Introduction to Thesis Writing and Research Methodologies	PC	6
	1.2	Research Colloquium	CO	4
			<i>Total:</i>	<b>10</b>

## § 9 Electives

(1) Electives are those subjects that students can choose from the subjects specified in the curriculum. A total of 56 ECTS-CP credits must be earned in one of the Electives listed in Section 3.

(2) The choice of the Elective Subject determines the specialisation of the master's degree programme. If the Elective Subject "Linguistics" is selected, the specialisation is "Linguistics". If the Elective Subject "Literature and Culture Studies" is chosen, the specialisation is "Literature and Culture Studies". The respective specialisation is indicated in the diploma.

(3) List of Electives:

	<i>Course Title</i>		<i>Type</i>	<i>ECTS-CP</i>
<i>Elective "Linguistics"</i>	2.1	Themes in Linguistics	CO	4

	2.2	Advanced Topics in Linguistics: Focus Gender	SE	8
	2.3	Advanced Research Methodologies: Linguistics	CO	4
	2.4	Advanced Topics in Linguistics I	SE	8
	2.5	Advanced Topics in Linguistics II	SE	8
	2.6	Advanced Topics in Linguistics III	SE	8
	2.7	Early Thesis Forum: Linguistics	WG	8
	2.8	Advanced Thesis Forum: Linguistics	WG	8
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>56</b>
<i>Elective "Literature and Culture Studies"</i>	3.1	Themes in Literature and Culture Studies	CO	4
	3.2	Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies: Focus Gender	SE	8
	3.3	Advanced Research Methodologies: Literary and Cultural Theory	CO	4
	3.4	Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies I	SE	8
	3.5	Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies II	SE	8
	3.6	Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies III	SE	8
	3.7	Early Thesis Forum: Literature and Culture Studies	WG	8
	3.8	Advanced Thesis Forum: Literature & Culture Studies	WG	8
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>56</b>

## § 10 Optional Subjects

(1) Optional Subjects are those subjects which students can choose freely from the courses offered by recognised domestic and foreign universities. Courses taken to obtain an entitlement to study or to obtain a general or special university entrance qualification are excluded. 12 ECTS credits must be earned in Optional Subjects. In the case of courses completed at other recognised domestic or foreign institutions of post-secondary education, the competent university body decides whether recognition as an Optional Subject for the chosen degree programme is academically meaningful or relevant with regard to professional activities.

(2) The Curriculum Commission recommends that the Optional Subjects be chosen in a modular way so that they complement the master's degree programme in a meaningful way and correspond to the principle of ascending scientific professionalisation. Particular reference is made here to courses which correspond to the profile of the University of Klagenfurt as laid down in the statutes as well as to the overall development and focus areas of

the faculty: Feminist Science / Gender Studies, Multilingualism, Visual Culture, Public Health, Digital Humanities etc.

### § 11 Courses with a Limited Number of Participants

(1) The number of participants in Continuous Assessment Courses (see § 7 section 2) is limited to a maximum number of 20 students.

(2) If the number of registrations for these courses exceeds the number of places available, admission will take place according to the following procedure:

- a) The course is compulsory for the students in the curriculum
- b) The total number of courses successfully completed in the relevant degree programme (total ECTS-CP)
- c) The date (priority of the earlier date) of fulfilment of the application requirements (according to § 12)
- d) Students who have already been put on hold or who have to repeat the course
- e) The grade of the examination - or the average grade of the examinations (weighted according to ECTS-CP) - of the course(s) to be taken as a prerequisite for participation
- f) The final criterion for ranking is a drawing of lots between students who are ranked equally.

According to § 58 section 8 UA, it must be noted that students who have been put on hold for registration are not entitled to an extension of their period of study. If necessary, parallel courses should also be offered.

### § 12 Courses with Special Registration Requirements

For individual courses, registration requirements apply as shown in the table below. The positive completion of the subjects, courses or study areas listed in the right-hand column is the prerequisite for attending the corresponding subjects or courses listed in the left-hand column:

Course	Requires the successful completion of:
Advanced Research Methodologies	Introduction to Thesis Writing and Research Methodologies
Early Thesis Forum	Research Colloquium
Advanced Thesis Forum	Early Thesis Forum

### § 13 Master's Thesis

(1) The master's thesis is the academic work that serves as proof of the ability to independently work on scientific topics, both in terms of content and methodology. The topic of the master's thesis is to be chosen in such a way that the students can work on it within six months and can reasonably be expected to do so. The master's thesis must be written in English (§ 14). It is permissible for several students to work on a topic together if the achievements of the individual students can be assessed separately.

(2) The topic of the master's thesis must be selected from the chosen Elective.



(3) The master's thesis is awarded 30 ECTS-CP and must comprise at least 30,000 words (main text).

(4) Students must submit an application for approval of the subject and the supervisor to the Rector of Studies prior to embarking on their research. The application must be decided upon within two months of receipt. A change of supervisor is permitted until the master's thesis is submitted.

(5) The completed master's thesis must be submitted to the Rector of Studies in electronic form. At the request of the supervisor, a bound copy must be submitted to the supervisor by the author. The transfer to the university library must be made exclusively in electronic form.

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

All courses and examinations are held in English and all written papers must be produced in English; the master's thesis and all other written papers must be produced in English.

#### **§ 15 Examination Regulations**

(1) Courses according to § 7 section 2 a) to d) are Continuous Assessment Courses. Attendance is mandatory, and participants are expected to actively participate in the discussion and reflection process. Moreover, depending on the subject area, intermediate and final tests, written papers, and/or oral presentations may be required.

(2) The master's degree programme in English and American Studies is completed with the following academic achievements (a - d):

a) Course examinations for all courses listed under § 8 and 9;

b) Successful completion of the Optional Subjects;

c) Approbation of the master's thesis;

d) final oral board examination (according to section 3).

(3) The oral board examination covers two subject areas from the specialisation (§ 9). One of these areas has to be related to the master's thesis but must contain further questions; a further area from this specialisation can be freely chosen. If a text interpretation is part of the oral board examination, the candidate must be given an appropriate preparation time immediately before the start of the examination.

(4) Prerequisite for the registration for the oral board examination is the successful completion of the study achievements mentioned under section 2 lit. a, lit. b and lit. c.

(5) Examinations that have already been used to complete the course of study considered as a prerequisite for admission to the master's programme cannot be used again to obtain the final degree.

#### **§ 16 Commencement**

(1) This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2011, following its publication in the University of Klagenfurt's bulletin and applies to all students starting their master's degree programme in the winter semester 2011/2012.

(2) The amendments to the curriculum, published in the bulletin of the University of Klagenfurt of 6 June 2018, No. 113.3, come into force on 1 October 2018.

## § 17 Transitory Provisions

(1) Students who began their master's degree before the winter semester 2018/19 are entitled to complete their studies according to the previously applicable regulations within the intended duration of study plus one semester, i.e. until 30 April 2021 at the latest. If the degree programme is not completed on time, the student will be subject to the changed curriculum for the remainder of his or her studies. Furthermore, students are entitled to voluntarily submit to the changed curriculum at any time.

(2) The specific provisions on the equivalence of positively assessed examinations of the of the previous and amended curriculum can be found in the appendix (table of equivalencies)

### 1) APPENDIX Table of Equivalencies

**Table of Equivalencies Teacher's Training Programme "Teaching English" (2008)**

Master's Degree Programme English and American Studies (2018)	Master's Degree Programme English and American Studies (2011)	Teacher's Training Programme "Teaching English" (2008)
Themes in „Literature and Culture Studies“ (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)	Themes in „Film, Literature and Culture Studies“ (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)	Theory & Methodology of Culture Studies (LE, 3 ECTS-CP)

**Table of Equivalencies MA Degree Programme English and American Studies (11W)**

MA English and American Studies (18W)	MA English and American Studies (11W)
Introduction to Thesis Writing and Research Methodologies (PC, 6 ECTS-CP)	Thesis Writing (PC, 5 ECTS-CP)
Research Colloquium (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)	Style and Rhetoric in Scholarship (PC, 5 ECTS-CP)
Themes in Linguistics (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)	Themes in „Applied Linguistics“ (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)
Advanced Research Methodologies: Linguistics (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)	Cutting Edge Research in English and American Studies [focussing, amongst others, on issues in Gender Studies] (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)
Advanced Topics in Linguistics (SE, 8 ECTS-CP)	Advanced Topics in „Applied Linguistics“ (SE, 8 ECTS-CP)
Advanced Topics in Linguistics: Focus Gender (SE, 8 ECTS-CP)	Seminar in „Applied Linguistics“ focusing on issues in Gender Studies (SE, 8 ECTS-CP)
Early Thesis Forum: Linguistics (WG, 8 ECTS-CP)	Research Forum [focussing, amongst others,

CP)	on issues in Gender Studies] (SE, 8 ECTS-CP)
Advanced Thesis Forum: Linguistics (WG, 8 ECTS-CP)	Graduate Student Forum (WG, 4 ECTS-CP)
Themes in Literature and Culture Studies (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)	Themes in “Film, Literature and Culture Studies” (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)
Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies (SE, 8 ECTS-CP)	Advanced Topics in „Film, Literature and Culture Studies” (SE, 8 ECTS-CP)
Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies: Focus Gender (SE, 8 ECTS-CP)	Seminar in „Film, Literature and Culture Studies” focusing on issues in Gender Studies (SE, 8 ECTS-CP)
Advanced Research Methodologies: Literary and Cultural Theory (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)	Cutting Edge Research in English and American Studies [focussing, amongst others, on issues in Gender Studies] (CO, 4 ECTS-CP)
Early Thesis Forum: Literature and Culture Studies (WG, 8 ECTS-CP)	Research Forum [focussing, amongst others, on issues in Gender Studies] (SE, 8 ECTS-CP)
Advanced Thesis Forum: Literature & Culture Studies (WG, 8 ECTS-CP)	Graduate Student Forum (AG, 4 ECTS-CP)

2) APPENDIX recommended course of study without obligation for orientation and planning purposes

Specialisation in "English and American Studies, Focus Linguistics" (English and American Studies, Specialisation Linguistics)

	Required Subject "Research Foundations"	Elective "Linguistics"	Optional Subjects	Master's Thesis (Ma) & Master's Examination (Mp)	ECTS-CP
1	Introduction to Thesis Writing and Research Methodologies, Research Colloquium	Themes in Linguistics, Advanced Topics in Linguistics			22
2		Advanced Research Methodologies: Linguistics, Advanced Topics in Linguistics, Advanced Topics in Linguistics: Focus Gender, Early Thesis Forum: Linguistics			28
3		Advanced Topics in Linguistics Advanced Thesis Forum: Linguistics	12		28
4				Ma + Mp	42

Specialisation in "English and American Studies, Focus Literature and Culture Studies" (English and American Studies, Specialisation Literature and Culture Studies)

	Required Subject "Research Foundations"	Elective "Literature and Culture Studies"	Optional Subjects	Master's Thesis (Ma) & Master's Examination (Mp)	ECTS-CP
1	Introduction to Thesis Writing and Research Methodologies Research Colloquium	Themes in Literature and Culture Studies Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies			22
2		Advanced Research Methodologies: Literary and Cultural Theory Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies: Focus Gender Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies Early Thesis Forum: Literature and Culture Studies			28
3		Advanced Topics in Literature and Culture Studies Advanced Thesis Forum: Literature & Culture Studies	12		28
4				Ma + Mp	42