



**UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG**  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

**Master of Arts in American Studies  
Module Handbook  
(In effect since 12.07.2023)**

## **Overview: Master of Arts (M.A.) in American Studies**

### **Launch Date**

Winter semester 2004/05 (non-consecutive)

Winter semester 2018/19 (consecutive)

### **Disciplinary Categories**

American Studies, Geography, History, Literary and Cultural Studies, Political Science, Religious History, International Political Economy & Economic History

### **Location**

Heidelberg Center for American Studies

### **Standard Period of Study**

4 semesters

### **Number of ECTS credits**

120 ECTS credits

### **Modules**

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 or part time

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## 1. Preamble – Heidelberg University Learning Objectives

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 competence profile stemming from this mission is valid for all disciplines. It is replicated in each separate module handbook 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 interdisciplinary competencies
- Fostering practical problem-solving abilities
- Developing interpersonal and social skills
- Promoting social responsibility through the use of these skills

## 2. Preliminary Remarks

The study of American society and its history, economy, culture and literature has been of central importance within the Anglo-American and European humanities and social sciences since the 1950s. It is no coincidence that the academic origins of American Studies lie in the first peak phase of the Cold War and since then have repeatedly served an interdisciplinary examination of the nature and functions of American culture and society.

At the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, two major branches of research are prominently represented and investigated. One branch concerns itself with the processes that set in motion what can be described - in the aftermath of the Civil Rights Movement - as the pluralization of American national culture. Achievements from the 1960s and 1970s include ethnic diversity, alternative forms of spirituality, self-determination in the choice of lifestyle and continue to define American society today in its cultural and political representations. The second branch links aspects of identity politics to questions of social justice and political participation, which cannot always be justified in terms of identity, but which nevertheless determine the core of American democracy. Some of these aspects include social mobility, educational opportunities, health, and climate protection. Both issues encompass phenomena that are becoming increasingly important in a globalized world - both for the USA itself and for transatlantic alliances and conflict relations, within which the USA acts as an economic and cultural nation as well as a military power.

At the HCA, the USA, its history, and role in the world are studied and taught in five disciplines, encompassing their varied ramifications. Two of these disciplines, geography (with a focus on urbanization and migration) and religion, are unique to the HCA in continental Europe. All disciplines share a common methodological orientation. Postcolonial literary and cultural criticism, aesthetics, critical race theory and gender studies are just as much a part of the teaching and research program as international relations theories, comparative government, varied approaches to history and social sciences, human geography concepts, and the study of the history and significance of religion and different faith communities in the US.

### 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. The MAS offers an expansive thematic scope, unique in Germany. The program is offered by the HCA in cooperation with the English, geography, history, theology, and political science departments, and the Alfred Weber Institute for Economics. In particular, the inclusion of geography and religious history in the curriculum makes the program exceptional even beyond Germany and Europe.

Master's students can choose from disciplines in the humanities or social sciences. This allows students to choose an area of focus from the very beginning of their studies and continue specializing in their chosen areas throughout the course of their studies. 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 as well as 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 US politics, culture, society, and geography 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. Students of the HCA's MAS program may specialize early on and choose between the disciplines of 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 specific 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 empathize with foreign cultures and move flexibly in an intercultural environment. Not least of all, the MAS will present students with the opportunity to experience and consciously engage with both the benefits and challenges of cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity.

## **5. Program Structure and Layout**

Students enroll in the program each winter semester. The standard duration of study, including the writing of the Master's thesis, is four semesters.

At the start of the program, students will choose two core disciplines from the five disciplines offered at the HCA for their two main modules. Students will further delve into one of their two core disciplines in the research module, which is usually the field in which they will write 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 connect the perspectives and methods of the various disciplines with one another.

These subject modules are supplemented by a methodology module, a key competencies module, which includes courses outside of American Studies, and a "mobility window", which is usually completed in the third semester and provides students with the opportunity to spend time abroad, do an internship or something similar. 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 contribute to the latest subject-specific knowledge and research methods of the individual disciplines.
2. To implement multi- and interdisciplinary approaches and 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 core discipline („Kernfach“)
- an examination module

The core discipline encompasses:

- a subject-specific component
- a section on building comprehensive competencies (“Übergreifende Kompetenzen”)

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. As a part of the main module, students will attend a minimum of one seminar in their chosen core discipline, which is made available only to M.A. students (e.g. Advanced Seminar or similar) as well as an additional course (e.g. lecture, applied skills course, seminar, or similar). Students can select their core disciplines by choosing between literary and cultural studies or political and social sciences.
2. **Research Module:** Upon completing the main module, students will take part in a research module in order to immerse themselves more fully in one of their two core disciplines. In the research module, students will attend a seminar offered exclusively to M.A. students. As a part of the so called “Independent Study” format, students will work autonomously through a reading list agreed upon in coordination with a professor. This usually serves 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 interdisciplinarity module serves to promote interdisciplinary approaches to scholarship and thus supports the methodological-integrative component of American Studies. Unlike the flexibility module, the interdisciplinary module brings two subject areas into direct dialog with each other. Students will attend an interdisciplinary seminar offered by lecturers from two different disciplines as well as a two-part interdisciplinary colloquium in which different subject areas and research approaches in American Studies will be discussed.

The section of the program on comprehensive competencies (*Übergreifende Kompetenzen*) is divided into the following three parts:

1. **Methodology Module:** In the methodology module, students will deepen their understanding of theoretical and empirical methods in American Studies as well as developing their academic writing skills.



2. **Cross-cutting Perspectives:** In this module, students will take courses outside of the area of American Studies. These can either be related to American Studies, or come from subjects that cooperate with American Studies for certain courses (e.g. economics, law), or from subjects that have a theoretical-methodological connection to American Studies (e.g. sociology, religious studies), provided that this is approved by the respective lecturers, especially in the case of subjects with restricted admission. 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 potential 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 society or strengthen their intercultural competencies. Ideally, students will complete a semester abroad in their third semester of the program. For students interested in pursuing a career in academia, 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. If there is demand for such an assignment or special course, it must be coordinated in conjunction with the Student Administration in good time as the course can only take place if a minimum of six students register.

The program concludes with the examination module:

**Examination Module:** Upon 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 of independently researching a topic using academic methods. Details regarding the M.A. thesis are described in section 7.11 of the *Modulhandbuch*. Completion of the thesis takes four months. 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 (*Prüfungsordnung*).

Professors will announce the modalities of examination in the first session of each course. Some modules require different competence-oriented examination formats to assess the learning objectives, which is why cumulative module examinations are planned.

## 5.2 Sample Course of Study

The course of study outlined here serves as an example and can be adapted to fit individual needs. With the exception of the courses “Theory and Methods” and “Academic Writing” (only offered in the winter semester), relevant courses for individual modules are offered in both the winter and summer semesters and can therefore be completed a semester earlier or later depending on the current course offering.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Semester (28 credits)

#### Methodology Module

Course: Theories & Methods 4 credits

Course: Academic Writing 4 credits

#### Main Module I

M.A. Seminar: Core Discipline I 10 credits

Lecture: Core Discipline I 4 credits

#### Main Module II

Lecture: Core Discipline II 4 credits

#### Interdisciplinary Module

MAS Colloquium I 2 credits

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester (30 credits)

#### Main Module I II

M.A. Seminar: Core Discipline II 10 credits

#### Research Module

M.A. Seminar: Core Discipline I 10 credits

#### Flexibility Module

Applied Skills: Discipline III 4 credits

Lecture: Discipline IV 4 credits

#### Interdisciplinary Module

MAS Colloquium II 2 credits

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester (28 credits)

#### Research Module

Independent Study: Core Discipline I 4 credits

#### Interdisciplinary Module

Interdisciplinary Seminar 6 credits

Flexibilitätsmodul

Lecture: Core Discipline I

4 credits

Cross-cutting Perspectives

2 courses outside of American Studies

8 credits

Mobility Window

Internship (four weeks)

6 credits

**4<sup>th</sup> Semester (34 credits)**Examination Module

Research colloquium

2 credits

M.A. Thesis

24 credits

Oral final exam

8 credits

**5.3 Module Overview**

Sem	Modules			
4	Cross-cutting Perspectives ( $\Sigma$ 8 CP) 2 courses outside of the area of American Studies	Examination Module ( $\Sigma$ 34 CP) Research Colloquium (2 CP) M.A. Thesis (24 CP) Oral Final Exam (8 CP)		
3		Mobility Window ( $\Sigma$ 6 CP) Study abroad, internship or teaching assignment + reflection		
2		Subject-specific Courses ( $\Sigma$ 54 CP)		Interdisciplinary Module ( $\Sigma$ 10 CP) Interdis. seminar (6 CP) MAS Colloquium (2 x 2P)
1	Methodology Module ( $\Sigma$ 8 CP)	Research Module (14 CP) Core Discipline I/II  1 M.A. Seminar 1 Independent Study	Flexibility Module (12 CP) 12 CP from courses outside of the American Studies program	
		Main Module I (14 CP) Core Discipline I  1 M.A. Seminar 1 Course	Main Module II (14 CP) Core Discipline II  1 M.A. Seminar 1 Course	

## **6. Professional Prospects for MAS Graduates**

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, factual expertise, methodological arsenal, practical skills, and active minds 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 for the M.A. in American Studies

### 7.1.1 Main Module Geography

<b>Designation:</b> Main Module <i>Geography</i>				
<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Department of Geography				
<b>Status:</b> elective				
<b>Frequency:</b> every semester				
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> first or second semester / 1-2 Semesters				
<p><b>Content:</b> 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><b>Course formats:</b> The teaching and learning arrangements differ based on varied course formats: lectures consist mainly of talks or presentations held by the instructor, complemented by interactive exercises and assignments. Seminars emphasize active participation and student-forward discussions, which students prepare for by completing required readings and contributing their findings in the form of group discussions and presentations, or as discussion leaders. Students must write a term paper in each seminar. For the practical exercises, working in small groups is of central importance, whether on a computer 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> Upon completion of the main module in geography, students will be able to identify and critically engage 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</i>	2	6	1	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (3 CP), graded written exam (90 min) or oral exam (30 Min.) (3 CP),
<i>Seminar</i>	2	8	2	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (2 CP), oral presentation (2

				CP) and written term paper (min. 15-20 pages) (4 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14 CP</b>		

### 7.1.2 Research Module Geography

<b>Designation: Research Module Geography</b>				
<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Department of Geography				
<b>Status:</b> elective				
<b>Frequency:</b> every other semester				
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> third or fourth semester / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Content:</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.</p> <p><b>Course formats:</b> As above, the methodological spectrum is broad and depends on the different teaching formats. Seminars focus 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 existing data sets (for example, US Census, OSM). During the independent study component of the module, students will 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 (e.g., 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. Upon successful completion of the seminars/applied skills classes, 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. By the end of the module, students will have acquired significant knowledge about a focused research question of their choosing.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the Module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>Geography</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the Geography Main Module				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> seminar grade				
<b>Courses</b>	<b>H/W/S</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Recommended Semester</b>	<b>Course Work and Exams</b>
<i>Seminar or practical skills for M.A. students in English</i>	2	6	3	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (2 CP), oral presentation (1 CP), written term paper (3 CP)

<i>Independent Study (e.g. lecture course, colloquium, field work, excursion (min. 10 days))</i>	2	8	4	Various presentations throughout (4 CP), Final presentation (either written paper, poster, film, or public lecture); for an excursion, preparative seminar which includes presentations both in class and on site and active participation (4 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14 CP</b>		

### 7.2.1 Main Module History

<b>Designation:</b> Main Module History
<b>Offered by:</b> History Department; Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA)
<b>Status:</b> elective
<b>Frequency:</b> every semester
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> first or second semester / 1-2 semesters
<p><b>Content:</b> The module conveys the current state of research on selected problems in American history and gives students the opportunity to carry out independent, research-related historical work. It consists of an advanced seminar and a lecture (or applied skills course) in American history. Building on what students have learned in their undergraduate studies, the courses provide them with in-depth knowledge of a specific subject area of the sub-discipline. Selected historical phenomena are examined and discussed in the context of current research approaches and debates.</p> <p><b>Course formats:</b></p> <p>The teaching and learning formats depend on the type of course. In advanced seminars, relevant working techniques and methods of the sub-discipline are applied to primary sources in their language of origin. A special focus lies on independent, detailed, oral and written presentations and discussions of historical facts and their interpretation.</p> <p>The lecture deals with a larger topic and presents the results of historical source analysis using methods and processing relevant to historiographical research approaches. Choosing an applied skills class rather than a lecture shifts the focus onto experimental and in-depth exemplary application of central working techniques and methods of the sub-discipline.</p> <p>The broad range of methods used in the various courses thus depend on their respective teaching format: lecture held by an instructor, seminar discussion, collaborative interpretation of sources, long and short presentations, open discussions, small group work, e-learning, individual supervision, independent preparation and follow-up (also in written form), self-study/reading, or writing an extensive term paper. As a rule, the length of the final term paper (including footnotes but excluding blank lines, appendices [editions, images, maps, etc.] and bibliography) should not exceed 46,000 lines (this corresponds to approx. 7,670 words at an average of approx. 6 characters per word and approx. 20 pages at approx. 2,300 characters per page). In the case of an applied skills class: short written term paper (6-8 pages).</p> <p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Upon successful completion of the module, the students – supported by their instructor – 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</p>

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.

**Applicability of the Module:** M.A. American Studies/*History*

**Prerequisites:** Previous courses in the discipline from prior studies or completion of the basic module of the corresponding discipline in the B.A. program

**Breakdown of the final grade:** weighted grade point average of the relevant courses (advanced seminar 10/14, Lecture/Applied Skills 4/14)

Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended Seminar	Course Work and Exams
Advanced Seminar	2	10	1-2	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (2 CP), oral presentation (2 CP) and written term paper (roughly 20 pages) (6 CP)
Lecture	2	4	1-2	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (2 CP), obligatory reading list (1 CP), oral exam (approx. 15 min.) <i>or</i> written exam (120min.) (1 CP)
<i>or</i> Applied Skills Class	2	4	1-2	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (2 CP), oral and/or written contribution (1 CP), oral exam (approx. 15 min.), written exam (120min.) <i>or</i> term paper (approx. 6–8 pages) (1 CP)  The lecture or applied skills class will be graded.
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14 CP</b>		

### 7.2.2 Research Module History

<b>Designation:</b> Research Module History
<b>Offered by:</b> History Department; Heidelberg Center for American Studies
<b>Status:</b> elective
<b>Frequency:</b> every other semester
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> second or third semester / 1-2 semesters



**Content:** 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.

**Course formats:** In advanced seminars, 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).

This module also comprises of a wide and varied spectrum of teaching formats: lectures, seminar discussion, collaborative source interpretation, long and short presentations, open discussions, small group work, e-learning, individual supervision, independent course preparation and review (also in written form), independent study and reading, and/or composition of a long term paper.

Term papers written for advanced seminars generally do not exceed 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.

Supervised independent-study/supervised instruction/supervised development of practical skills

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of the module, the students 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.

**Applicability of the Module:** M.A. American Studies/*History*

**Prerequisites:** successful completion of the main module in history

**Breakdown of the final grade:** advanced seminar grade

Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
Advanced seminar	2	10	2-3	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (2 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), term paper (ca. 20 Seiten) (6 CP)  The seminar will be graded.
Independent Study (Supervised independent-study/supervised instruction/supervised development of practical skills)	2	4	2-3	Independent study / Tutor or mentor work / subject related practical work (2 CP)  Small oral or written exam (2 CP)  (pass/fail)

<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14 CP</b>		
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### 7.3.1 Main Module Literature & Culture

<b>Designation: Main Module:</b> <i>American Literature and Culture</i>				
<b>Offered by:</b> English Department				
<b>Status:</b> elective				
<b>Frequency:</b> every semester				
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> first - third semesters / 1-2 semesters				
<b>Course formats:</b> Seminar discussions; lectures; group-based and/or individual instruction for writing academic papers; preparing research reports and annotated bibliographies; and giving poster/oral presentations				
<b>Content:</b> The students will acquire expert knowledge of American literature and culture in an advanced seminar or 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.				
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Upon successful completion of the main module “American Literature and Culture” students will <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 content)</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> Seminar grade				
Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Advanced seminar for M.A. students in English (e.g. “Hauptseminar” or “Oberseminar”)</i>	2	10	1-3	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (3 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), research paper (approx. 18 pages) (5 CP)

<i>Additional course not offered exclusively to M.A. students (e.g. lecture)</i>	2	4	1-3	Regular and active participation including preparation and re-view (2 CP), Oral presentation <i>or</i> poster <i>or</i> response paper (2 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14 CP</b>		

### 7.3.2 Research Module Literature & Culture

<b>Designation:</b> Research Module <i>American Literature and Culture</i>				
<b>Offered by:</b> English Department				
<b>Status:</b> elective				
<b>Frequency:</b> every semester				
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> second or third semester / 1-2 semesters				
<b>Course formats:</b> Seminar discussions; lectures; group-based and/or individual instruction for writing academic papers; preparing research reports and annotated bibliographies; and giving poster/oral presentations  <b>Content:</b> 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. Another central aspect is the mediation of literary or cultural theoretical concepts and contexts within the history of ideas.				
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> After completing the research module, students will be able to work independently on a literary topic. They will be familiar with central literary-historical periodization models and therefore able to identify relevant literature and studies, excerpt them, evaluate them critically and place them within their overall respective contexts. In addition, they will have learned to organize literature into subject areas on an abstract level and to formulate theses that reflect the current state of research in the discipline.				
<b>Applicability of the Module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>American Literature and Culture</i>				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of the main module in <i>American Literature and Culture</i>				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> seminar grade				
<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. students in English (e.g.</i>	2	8	2-3	Regular and active participation including preparation and re-view (2 CP), oral presentation (2

“Hauptseminar” or “Oberseminar”)				CP), term paper (approx. 15 pages) (4 CP)
Independent Study	2	6	3	Portfolio <i>or</i> annotated bibliog- raphy <i>or</i> presentation (2 CP), term paper (4 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14 CP</b>		

#### 7.4.1 Main Module Political Science

<b>Designation:</b> Main Module <i>Political Science</i>
<b>Offered by:</b> Institute for Political Science (IPW), Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA)
<b>Status:</b> elective
<b>Frequency:</b> every semester
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> first or second semester / 1-2 semesters
<p><b>Course formats:</b> Lectures, open discussions, long and short 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 and annotated bibliographies, and e-learning</p> <p><b>Content:</b> The students will acquire expert knowledge political science, focusing on the US, 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 analysis of political systems. Students will work independently on an area of focus by applying appropriate methodology with regard to current developments in American politics.</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 ability to critically assess theoretical approaches and different methods of comparative analysis of political systems and/or comparative international conflict analysis and regulatory policy, particularly in the US-American context, and apply them empirically for the development of independent research</li> <li>• the academic know-how to independently conceptualize a topic both theoretically and methodologically, carry it out, and present it both orally to an audience and in written form</li> </ul>
<b>Applicability of the Module:</b> M.A. American Studies/ <i>Political Science</i>
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Previous courses in political science 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> seminar grade

Courses	H/W/ S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Seminar for M.A. students (e.g. advanced seminar)</i>	2	10	1-2	Regular and active participation including preparation and re-view (2 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), term paper (approx. 20 pages) (6 CP)
<i>Lecture</i>	2	4	1-2	Regular and active participation including preparation and re-view (2 CP), oral exam (2 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14 CP</b>		

#### 7.4.2 Research Module Political Science

<b>Designation:</b> Research Module <i>Political Science</i>
<b>Offered by:</b> Institute for Political Science (IPW), Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA)
<b>Status:</b> elective
<b>Frequency:</b> every other semester
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> second, third, or fourth semester / 1-2 semesters
<p><b>Course formats:</b> Lectures, open discussions, long and short 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><b>Content:</b> In the research module, students will attend another advanced seminar and develop an independent study project. In addition to expanding specialized knowledge, the research module aims to deepen methodological competencies. 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 of political theory, historical contexts, and their analysis and application.</p> <p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Upon successful completion of the research module in political science, students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- work independently on a subject area within political science, including identifying, excerpting, critically analyzing, and contextualizing relevant literature and studies</li> <li>- organize literature in the subject area at an abstract level and formulate theses that reflect the current state of research in the discipline</li> <li>- design and carry out research projects either analyzing the US political system or US international relations and present them orally to an audience or in written form</li> </ul> <p>Thus, this module prepares students to write their M.A. Thesis in political science.</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: seminar grade</b>				
<b>Courses</b>	<b>H/W/ S</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Recommended semester</b>	<b>Course work and exams</b>
<i>Seminar for M.A. students (e.g. advanced seminar)</i>	2	10	2-4	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (2 CP), oral presentation (2 CP), term paper (approx. 20 pages) (6 CP)
<i>Independent Study</i>	2	4	2-4	advanced research or reading project, tutorial, specialized practical activity, short oral or written contribution (4 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>14 CP</b>		

### 7.5.1 Main Module Religion & Culture

<b>Designation:</b> Main Module <i>Religion and Culture</i>
<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies; Faculty of Theology
<b>Status:</b> elective
<b>Frequency:</b> every other semester
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> first or second semester / 1-2 semesters
<p><b>Course formats:</b> Lectures, seminar discussions, group source analysis, long and short presentations, plenary discussions, small group work, e-learning, individual supervision, independent preparation and after class reflection (also in written form), individual study/reading, writing an extensive paper</p> <p>Term papers for advanced seminars should not be longer than 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), including footnotes, but excluding spaces, attachments [images, maps, etc.] and bibliography.</p> <p>In the case of an applied skills class: Term papers are slightly shorter and should not exceed 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), including footnotes, but excluding spaces, attachments [images, maps, etc.] and bibliography.</p> <p><b>Content:</b></p> <p>The main module conveys the current state of research on selected problems in American religious history and is intended to give students the opportunity to work independently on research within a given thematic framework. Building on what students have learned in their undergraduate studies, the courses provide them with in-depth knowledge of a specific area of the sub-discipline. Selected historical phenomena are examined and discussed in the context of current research approaches and debates.</p> <p>In the advanced seminar, relevant working techniques and methods of the sub-discipline are applied to primary sources in their original languages. A special focus is also placed on the independent, detailed oral and written presentation and discussion of historical and theological-historical facts and their interpretation.</p> <p>The lectures each deal with a larger topic and present the results of historical source analysis using historical and cultural studies methods as well as relevant research approaches. If an applied skills class is</p>

chosen instead of a lecture, then the focus will be on the exemplary application of the relevant working techniques and methods of the sub-discipline.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon the successful completion of the main module, students will have broadened and deepened their knowledge of American religious history through an intensive examination of selected content. They will be able to outline complex academic questions and to critically evaluate historical approaches and research results as well as carry out independent analyses and representations of historical topics using academic methods. Furthermore, they will have gained 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.

**Applicability of the Module:** M.A. American Studies/*Theology*

**Prerequisites:** Previous courses in theology from prior studies or completion of the basic module of the corresponding discipline in the B.A. program

**Breakdown of the final grade:** seminar grade

Courses	H/W /S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Seminar for M.A. students in English (e.g. advanced seminar)</i>	2-3	12	1-2	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (3 CP), presentation or short written contribution (3 CP), long term paper (approx. 25 pages) (6 CP)
<i>Lecture</i>  or  <i>Applied skills class</i>	2  (2)	2  (2)	1-2	Regular and active participation, final exam (90 mins.; pass/fail), oral exam can be given as an alternative if applicable (2 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4-5	<b>14 CP</b>		

### 7.5.2 Research Module Religion & Culture

<b>Designation:</b> Research Module <i>Religion and Culture</i>
<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg Center for American Studies; Faculty of Theology
<b>Status:</b> elective
<b>Frequency:</b> every other semester
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> second, third, or fourth semester / 1-2 semesters

**Course formats:**

Lectures, seminar discussions, group source analysis, long and short presentations, plenary discussions, small group work, e-learning, individual supervision, independent preparation and after class reflection (also in written form), individual study/reading, writing an extensive paper

Term papers for advanced seminars should have a length of about 34,500 – 46,000 lines (this corresponds to about 7,670 words at approx. 6 characters per word, totaling roughly 15-20 pages at 2,300 characters per page), including footnotes, but excluding spaces, attachments [images, maps, etc.] and bibliography.

Independent but supervised reading, preparation and critical discussion of selected research literature

**Content:**

In the research module, students expand and deepen their knowledge of research into American religious history in selected areas. In the advanced seminar, relevant theories and methods of the sub-discipline are discussed and applied to original language sources. In the “Independent Studies” section, students agree with the lecturers on a reading canon of 4-6 monographs on a selected area of research. The students submit a critical reading report and meet with the lecturers to discuss what they have worked on.

**Learning Outcomes:**

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.

**Applicability of the Module:** M.A. American Studies/*Theology*

**Prerequisites:** successful completion of the main module in *Religion and Culture*

**Breakdown of the final grade:** Advanced seminar grade

Courses	H/W/S	CP	Recommended semester	Course work and exams
<i>Advanced seminar for M.A. and Ph.D students in English</i>	2-3	10	2-4	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (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 CP	2-4	Advanced reading project; preparation and critical discussion of selected literature (4-6 works) (4 CP)
<b>Total:</b>	4-5	<b>14 CP</b>		



## 7.6 Methodology Module

<b>Designation:</b> <i>Methodology Module</i>				
<b>Offered by:</b> HCA				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory				
<b>Frequency:</b> every winter semester				
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> first semester / 1 semester				
<p><b>Content:</b></p> <p>The module consists of one course on “Theory and Methods” and one 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, 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, to familiarize students with academic terminology in English, and improve students’ academic communication skills. The students will be introduced to the various forms of text they will be required to write (book reviews, literature overviews, term papers). They will develop their skills in formulating and discussing academic issues and learn the formal requirements of academic writing.</p> <p><b>Course formats:</b> open discussion, long and short academic presentations, group work, individual supervision, seminar discussions, independent preparation and follow-up work (also in written form), independent study/reading, preparation of research reports and annotated bibliographies, e-learning.</p>				
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students will acquire competencies in developing complex academic questions in the field of American Studies, critically assessing current research debates and scholarship, as well as conducting independent analysis and application of theories in the humanities. Students will be able to present complex facts and their own research results orally 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> completion of the Methodology Course from the B.A. program’s Introductory Module ( <i>Einführungsmodul</i> ) or an equivalent from another discipline				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> 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 including preparation and review (2 CP) obligatory reading list (1 CP) short oral and written contribution (1 CP)
<i>Applied skills course: Academic Writing</i>	2	4	1	Regular and active participation including preparation and review (2 CP) obligatory reading list (1 CP) short oral and written contribution (1 CP)

<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>8 CP</b>		
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## 7.7 Interdisciplinary Module

<b>Designation:</b> <i>Interdisciplinary Module</i>				
<b>Offered by:</b> HCA				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory				
<b>Frequency:</b> every semester				
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> first or second semester / 2 semesters				
<p><b>Content:</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>Course formats:</b> open discussion, long and short academic presentations, group work, individual supervision, seminar discussions, independent preparation and follow-up work (also in written form), independent study/reading, preparation of research reports and annotated bibliographies, e-learning</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> Prior education through previous degree program or completion of the interdisciplinary module in the B.A. American Studies				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> Interdisciplinary seminar grade				
<b>Courses</b>	<b>H/W/S</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Recommended semester</b>	<b>Course work and exams</b>
<i>Interdisciplinary seminar</i>	2	6	2	Regular and active participation including preparation and re-view (2 CP) obligatory reading list (1

				CP) short oral and written contribution (1 CP) Term paper (approx. 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 CP</b>		

## 7.8 Flexibility Module

<b>Designation: Flexibility Module</b>				
<b>Offered by:</b> English Department, Institute for Political Science, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, History Department, Geography Institute, Faculty of Theology				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory				
<b>Frequency:</b> every semester				
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> second and third semester / 2 semesters				
<p><b>Course formats:</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.</p> <p><b>Content:</b> 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></p> <p>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. They will have expanded their skills in both individual disciplines as well as interdisciplinary approaches as Americanists.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the Module:</b> M.A. American Studies / individual discipline				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> prior education in the corresponding discipline through a previous study program or B.A. in American Studies				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> Weighted grade point average from all exams (1/3, 1/3, 1/3)				
<b>Courses</b>	<b>H/W/S</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Recommended semester</b>	<b>Course work and exams</b>
<i>Lecture/seminar/applied skills class</i>	2	4	2	See requirements in the module handbooks of the respective institute or department

<i>Lecture/seminar/applied skills class</i>	2	4	2	See requirements in the module handbooks of the respective institute or department
<i>Lecture/seminar/applied skills class</i>	2	4	3	See requirements in the module handbooks of the respective institute or department
<b>Total:</b>	6	<b>12 CP</b>		

## 7.9 Cross-cutting Perspectives

<b>Designation: Cross-cutting perspectives</b>				
<b>Offered by: Heidelberg University</b>				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory				
<b>Frequency:</b> every semester				
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> second through fourth semester / 1-2 semesters				
<p><b>Content:</b> Students should take two courses from subjects that are not institutionally represented in American Studies. These courses can either be related to the disciplines of American Studies or come from subjects that cooperate with American Studies for certain courses (economics, law) or from subjects that have a theoretical-methodological connection to American Studies (e.g. sociology, religious studies), provided that this is agreed upon with the respective lecturers, especially in the case of subjects with restricted admission. Language courses are also recognized in this area.</p> <p><b>Course formats:</b> lecture, open discussion, long and short academic presentations, group work, individual supervision, seminar discussions, independent preparation and follow-up work (also in written form), independent study/reading, preparation of research reports and annotated bibliographies, e-learning</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> prior education through a previous study program or B.A. in American Studies; A maximum of three (3) course changes are allowed in this module before the entire module is definitively failed and the right to take exams is lost.				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> weighted grade point average from both course grades (1/2 und 1/2)				
<b>Courses</b>	<b>H/W/S</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Recommended semester</b>	<b>Course work and exams</b>

Course from another subject/institute	2	4	3	See requirements in the module handbooks of the respective institute or department; Language courses with a final exam (graded or ungraded)
Course from another subject/institute	2	4	3	See requirements in the module handbooks of the respective institute or department; Language courses with a final exam (graded or ungraded)
<b>Total:</b>	4	<b>8 CP</b>		

### 7.10 Mobility Window

<b>Designation:</b> Mobility Window				
<b>Offered by:</b> Heidelberg University or other institutions				
<b>Status:</b> compulsory				
<b>Frequency:</b> every semester				
<b>Recommended semester / module duration:</b> third semester / 1 semester				
<p><b>Content:</b> The mobility window gives students the opportunity to establish an intensive practical and applied component to their American Studies degree. Students can complete an internship in an area relevant to the professional field of American Studies or a study abroad program. If students are interested in a career in academia, they can also receive credit for student teaching and study programs that are not part of the regular B.A. or M.A. curriculum. The need for such a special teaching or study offer must be agreed upon with the program administration in good time. The course will only be held if a minimum of six students are registered.</p> <p><b>Course formats:</b> internship, study abroad, student teaching</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, expand their language skills, and strengthen their intercultural competence. They will have acquired firsthand working experience and taken concrete steps toward establishing their future careers.</p>				
<b>Applicability of the Module:</b> M.A. American Studies				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> prior education through a previous study program or B.A. in American Studies				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b> ungraded				
<b>Courses</b>	<b>H/W/S</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Recommended semester</b>	<b>Course work and exams</b>

<i>Internship/study abroad/student teaching</i>		6	3	Completion of internship/study abroad/student teaching
<b>Total:</b>		<b>6 CP</b>		

### 7.11 Examination Module

<b>Designation: Examination Module</b>				
<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 / module duration:</b> fourth semester / 1 semester				
<p><b>Content:</b> The module is made up of three parts: writing an academic paper on a selected topic from the area of the research module, participation in an ungraded research colloquium and a final oral examination.</p> <p><b>Course formats:</b> The research colloquium offers students the opportunity to present their own project, respond to criticism of the project, and discuss the others participants' projects. As a rule, the Master's thesis should not exceed 25,000 words (including footnotes, but excluding spaces, appendices and bibliography), which corresponds to approximately 60 pages. Students have four months to complete their thesis. The oral examination 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 also demonstrate their ability to independently produce and edit a substantial work on a complex topic within a set time frame. They will manage and organize their time and independently engage in scholarly work. In particular, they will show that they 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, students will present their own project, address and incorporate criticisms of their own work, and constructively criticize other projects. In the oral examination, students will demonstrate that they have dealt with themes from their chosen research module in intense detail 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 the examination regulations ( <i>Prüfungsordnung</i> ) for information on registration and regulations				
<b>Breakdown of the final grade:</b>				
<b>Courses</b>	<b>H/W/S</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>Recommended semester</b>	<b>Course work and exams</b>

<i>Master's thesis (independent)</i>	-/-	24	4	Master's thesis (approx. 60 pages)
<i>Research colloquium</i>	2	2	4	Oral presentation on master's thesis topic (20 min), ungraded
<i>Final oral exam</i>	-/-	8	4	Oral exam (60 min.) on select topics from the research module
<b>Total:</b>		<b>34 CP</b>		