

# Curriculum for the master programme Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

at the Faculty of Philology and Cultural Studies of the University of Vienna. Published in the official newsletter of the University of Vienna on the 16.06.2008 and 30.06.2009 (minor changes).

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## § 1 Programme objectives and qualification profile

(1) In the course of the master programme in **Anglophone Literatures and Cultures** at the University of Vienna, the students acquire the skills to carry out independent research on the literatures and cultures of the English speaking world.

(2) The graduates of the master programme **Anglophone Literatures and Cultures** at the University of Vienna have acquired more advanced skills than are taught in a bachelor programme with respect to recognising and analysing complex phenomena in the Anglophone cultural regions, presenting them in a differentiated manner and applying such practically in inter-, multi- and trans-cultural communication situations, as a result of their wide-ranging methodological and theoretical academic education. They can choose from alternative specialisations, for instance in the field of British, Irish and New English Literatures, North-American cultures and literatures as well as

Cultural/Media Studies, whereby cultural and medial transfer processes are accorded special attention.

Graduates have an excellent oral and written command of the English language in academic and other types of text (productive and receptive) as well as the ability to reflect on these using appropriate literary and cultural studies methods.

## § 2 Duration and scope

The workload for the master programme Anglophone Literatures and Cultures is 120 ECTS points. This corresponds to an intended programme duration of four semesters.

## § 3 Prerequisites for admission

Admission to a master programme is subject to a university bachelor degree in a corresponding discipline or bachelor degree in such discipline from a university of applied sciences or other equivalent academic degree from a recognised national or foreign post-secondary educational institution.

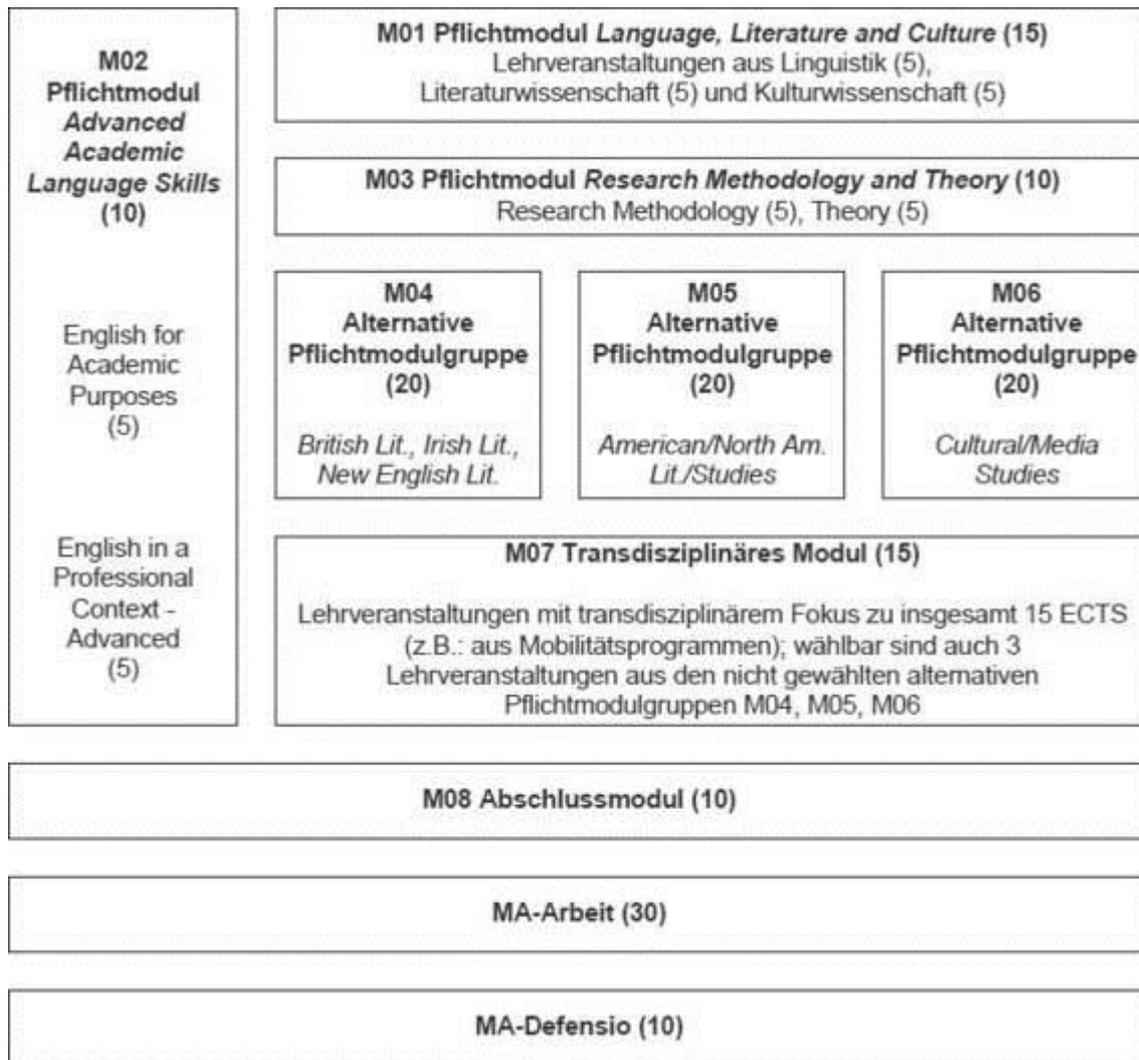
The bachelor programme in **English and American Studies** at the University of Vienna fulfils the above requirement in any case.

If another degree is basically equivalent, but individual supplements are required for full equivalence, additional courses and examinations corresponding to 30 ECTS points may be prescribed by the Study Programme Directorial Team in order to achieve such full equivalence; these must then be completed during the master programme.

## § 4 Academic degree

Graduates of the master programme **Anglophone Literatures and Cultures** are awarded the academic degree "*Master of Arts*" – abbreviated as MA. Graduates are entitled to add the letters MA after their name.

## § 5 Aufbau - Module mit ECTS-Punktezuweisung



### **M01**

#### **Obligatory module *Language, Literature and Culture* 15 ECTS**

The students are aware of the inter-disciplinary aspects of English and American Studies. They know different communication models (the focus is on linguistic communication in English) and look at a multiplicity of linguistic and extra-linguistic factors, which characterise communication in different situations. The students have an overview of selected special topics within the field of Anglophone literary studies and thus have consolidated and expanded their elementary knowledge.

#### *Courses*

Communication, Code and Culture	2 hrsVO	5 ECTS
Cultural Studies	2 hrsVO	5 ECTS
Literatures in English	2 hrsVO	5 ECTS

**M02****Obligatory module *Advanced Academic Language Skills* 10 ECTS**

Proceeding from C1/C2 level, students who have finished this module have the skills to analyse and produce academic texts as well as texts from non-academic fields with technical terminology. Students can identify the features specific to the genre in academic and other professionally-relevant texts and apply the insights gained thereby in the production of their own texts.

*Courses*

English for Academic Purposes	2 hrsUE	5 ECTS
English in a Professional Context - Advanced	2 hrsUE	5 ECTS

**M03****Obligatory module *Research Methodology and Theory* 10 ECTS**

The students have an overview of theories and methodologies within the field of Anglophone literary studies and thus have consolidated and expanded their elementary knowledge.

*Courses*

Research Methodology	2 hrsAR	5 ECTS
Theory	2 hrsAR	5 ECTS

**M04****Alternative obligatory module *British/Irish/New English Literatures* 20 ECTS**

A prerequisite for more advanced academic work is the insight into selected Anglophone literatures and cultures which is gained by intensive reading. On completion of this module, the students are familiar with key areas of British/Irish/New English (i.e. post-colonial) literary and cultural history as well as with selected issues of literary and cultural theory. There is a strong focus on aspects of inter-culturality and cultural transfer. Moreover, the students are acquainted with techniques of independent research and practice in independent academic work on special topics concerning British and Irish literature and culture as well as the more modern Anglophone literatures and cultures.

The prerequisite for admission to this module is a pass in the obligatory module *Language, Literature and Culture*.

*Courses*

Literature 1	2 hrsAR	5 ECTS
Literature 2	2 hrsAR	5 ECTS
Literature Seminar	2 hrsSE	10 ECTS

**M05****Alternative obligatory module *American/North American Lit./Studies* 20 ECTS**

On completion of this module, the students are familiar with different aspects of the North American cultural regions (USA, Canada) and their literatures, with the help of paradigms like regionalism, inter- and trans-culturality and (hybrid) identity constructs based on significant texts. They understand the literary traditions in their diverse historical contexts and comprehend them in their national and global significance and through in-depth analysis of their relevance to the culture(s) of the present day. The studying of imagological aspects of trans-Atlantic relations (e.g. in cultural exchange and in emigration experiences) is accorded special importance thereby.

The prerequisite for admission to this module is the completion of the obligatory module *Language, Literature and Culture*.

*Courses*

Literature 1	2 hrsAR 5 ECTS
Literature 2	2 hrsAR 5 ECTS
Literature Seminar	2 hrsSE 10 ECTS

**M06****Alternative obligatory module *Cultural Studies/Media Studies* 20 ECTS**

The students are able to apply theories to analyse cultural-historical, regional-academic and present-day cultural phenomena in depth; attention is paid to the fundament of cultural studies, that cultural artefacts reflect as well as constitute the norms and structures of a society. Various sorts of text and media are used as subjects for analysis; literature is not excluded, but neither is it prioritised. Cultural creations of meaning are apprehended within their institutional anchoring, whereby in particular social rank and power relationships like those between the sexes, the ethnic groups and between social classes, are taken into account.

The prerequisite for admission to this module is the completion of the obligatory module *Language, Literature and Culture*.

*Courses*

Cultural/Media Studies 1	2 hrsAR 5 ECTS
Cultural/Media Studies 2	2 hrsAR 5 ECTS
Cultural/Media Studies Seminar	2 hrsSE 10 ECTS

**M07****Trans-disciplinary module 15 ECTS**

This module enables the students, subject to agreement with the competent academic authorities, individually to arrange a meaningful supplement to their degree programme. The following options are available:

1. The students can take courses selected from other degree programmes amounting to 15 ECTS, insofar as these complement the curriculum in a meaningful fashion. This must be clarified in prior consultation with the competent academic authority.

2. Courses, which are taken during studies abroad and represent a meaningful supplement to the curriculum, may be recognised by the competent academic authorities insofar as they are equivalent in value.

3. Three courses comprising 15 ECTS can be chosen from the remaining, unselected, alternative obligatory modules M04, M05 and M06. The usual prerequisites for each module apply. Thus, a pass in the obligatory module M01 (*Language, Literature and Culture*) is a prerequisite for the completion of these three courses.

On completion of this module, the students will have consolidated and expanded their trans-disciplinary knowledge in the field of literary and cultural studies, in particular under the aspect of comparing cultures and inter-culturality, and in doing so will also have rounded off and further distinguished their individual research interests.

## **M08**

### **Final module 10 ECTS**

The final module consists of an MA seminar. The MA seminar is a project seminar, after completion of which the students will be ready to write their MA thesis.

The prerequisite for admission is the completion of one of the alternative obligatory modules (M04, M05 or M06) as well as the obligatory module *Advanced Academic Language Skills* M02.

#### *Courses*

MA seminar (to accompany and develop the MA thesis)

2 hrsSE 10 ECTS

## **§ 6 Master thesis**

(1) In their master thesis, the students will demonstrate their ability to handle academic topics independently and with content-related and methodological competence. The task for the master thesis should be selected so that it is feasible for the students to complete it within six months. The master thesis counts for 30 ECTS points.

(2) The topic for the master thesis must be chosen from the field of the alternative obligatory modules. Should another subject be chosen, or if there is a lack of clarity regarding the categorisation of the chosen topic, the competent academic authority shall decide as to the admissibility thereof.

## § 7 Master defensio

(1) Prerequisite for the admission to the master defensio is a pass in all prescribed modules and examinations as well as a positive mark for the master thesis.

(2) The MA defensio counts for 10 ECTS and takes the following form:

The MA defensio is an examination before a commission as provided in the statutes and consists of a defence of the master thesis and questions on relevant, sub-areas of English-American literary and cultural studies. In the defence of her or his master thesis, the candidate demonstrates ability to take part in academic disputation in the foreign language and in-depth knowledge of Anglophone literatures and cultures.

## § 8 Classification of courses

Courses are divided into those "with inherent examination character" and those "not with inherent examination character".

### (1) "Not with inherent examination character"

VO - Lecture:

Lectures serve the communication of knowledge on the basis of a talk held by the course instructor. The lecture serves the presentation of (core) topics and methods in the respective discipline, whereby different schools of thought are discussed and the status of current research is taken into consideration. This challenging and content-bound communication of methodical thinking via the foreign language, which requires more than merely acceptance and reproduction from the students, is an essential element of the unity of research and teaching in English and American Studies. Assessment is made on the basis of a written or oral final examination.

### (2) "With inherent examination character"

In compliance with the statutes, the course instructor will disclose the type of performance measurement at the beginning of the respective course.

AR – Study group:

Study groups are research-oriented courses, which are dedicated to specific academic problems within the discipline; there is a focus thereby on the interactive process of methodology and theory reflection.

SE - Seminar:

Seminars serve the development of theoretical, methodological and technical academic competences as well as the reflection on and discussion of specific academic issues at an advanced stage of the programme. The focus is on independent academic work and appropriate presentation of the results (written and oral).

UE - Practical course:

Practical courses serve the acquisition, practising and perfecting of knowledge, skills and abilities, especially in the field of language use.

## **§ 9 Restrictions on participation**

(1) The following general restrictions on participation apply to courses, for reasons of space available:

Study group AR 24  
Seminar SE 18  
Practical course UE 24

(2) In the event that the number of registrations exceeds the number of places available for courses with restrictions on participation, the following admission procedure applies:

Students are admitted according to a preference modus: the students indicate preferences when registering; course places are allocated based on the preferences indicated.

Students with better average marks from the courses which are defined as prerequisites for admission are accorded priority when allocating first preference. In the event that the average mark is the same, reference is had to the greater number of courses already completed on the standard curriculum for Anglophone Literatures and Cultures.

(3) The course instructors are entitled to allow exceptions to the provisions of paragraph 1 for certain courses, subject to the consent of the competent academic authority.

## **§ 10 Examination rules**

(1) Proof of academic achievement in courses

The course instructor must disclose the goals, contents and type of performance measurement, in compliance with the statutes.

(2) Examination material

The examination material relevant for the preparation and holding of examinations must be in proportion to the scope of ECTS points accredited.

(3) Prohibition on double accreditation

Points for courses and examinations that have already been completed for any degree counted as a prerequisite for admission to the MA programme, cannot be accredited again in the master programme.

## **§ 11 Entry into force**

This curriculum enters into force after its promulgation in the official newsletter of the University of Vienna, on 1 October 2008.

## **§ 12 Transitional provisions**

(1) This curriculum applies for all students who begin their degree programme in winter semester 2008/2009