

**Note:**

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Curriculum for the  
**Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies**  
at the Faculty of Humanities 2, University of Innsbruck

**§ 1 Profile and programme objectives**

- (1) The Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies is grouped among the Humanities and Cultural Sciences.
- (2) Educational objective: The primary objective of the Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies is to convey excellent active English language skills. The study programme imparts in-depth knowledge of the language in terms of structures, functions and use, its history as well as varieties. Moreover, it introduces English literature and literary analysis and conveys basic knowledge of cultural, historical, political, economic, social and gender aspects of the English-speaking world.
- (3) Qualification profile: In training future specialists English and American Studies, apart from the transfer of profound expert knowledge and active written and oral language skills, the study programme emphasises on the development of key qualifications guaranteeing intellectual openness and methodical flexibility for practicing rapidly changing job profiles.
  1. Subject-specific skills
    - a) Language-practical skills: The language training within the curriculum is focused on the guidelines of the Common European Frame of Reference: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR) (target level C2 based on CEFR). Based on the level of competences, suitable descriptors on CEFR have been developed for the individual curricular language proficiency courses. The descriptors help to explicitly determine the teaching and learning objectives for a foreign language, in addition to the base level. The objective of university language teaching in the field of skills and competences is sophisticated language proficiency which is oriented towards the descriptions on CEFR. University language skills features the command of the four skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing which are prerequisites for communicative skills, intercultural action and examination with texts and which are to be transferred in an integrated form. Oral and written language competence is to be developed and extended systematically and progressively in fields such as text reception, text production, special languages and transmission (mediation) in order to correspond to scientific and vocational education. Principle: University language training represents an essential part of philological study qualification and cannot be transferred apart from the entire contents of the study programme. It is more than vocational training and aims to correspond to the general educational mandate of universities as defined according to CEFR. That means that university language training is not only restricted to the transfer of basic skills but also aims at acquiring professional and communicative competences in inter- and intra-cultural context – as an essential part of philological studies on the level of bachelor's and master's programmes. In terms of defining the educational objectives, university language training is oriented towards the requirements of

professional practice and speech comprehension in a multilingual context. Moreover, curricular requirements and the modular structure of the curricula are also to be considered.

- b) Linguistic skills: These are the competences which acquire students by the synchronous and diachronic study of the structures and functions of the different fields of language in general and the foreign language studied in particular. Graduates of the Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies are able to analyse language on a system-linguistic basis and to reflect their situation-specific use (pragmatics, sociolinguistics). They understand the English language as a result of a varied historical development process. Due to their studies, graduates are able to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in terms of specific tasks.
  - c) Literary skills: These are the competences which enable a critically use of literary texts of the English language and cultural area, whereas the term „literary“ is broadly defined and thus also includes film, audio drama, comics or text music (e.g. musicals). Literary skills result from a differentiated language comprehension and also from a detailed knowledge of production conditions, historical-social contexts and traditions of literary work. These competences also include the ability to deal with the theories of literary consideration and to use literary methods exemplary and apply them to the analysis of concrete literary and non-literary texts.
  - d) Cultural-scientific skills: These competences result from the acquisition of knowledge in terms of the cultural, political, social, economic and gender-specific context of the relevant English language area in past and present. They also exist in the competence to critically deal with the issues concerning these language areas and to elaborate associated subjects according to scientific criteria.
  - e) Culture skills: This includes the competence to identify, define and describe the geographical, economic, historical, ethnic-religious, political, socio-cultural and gender-specific facts of the relevant English culture and language area. Students are aware of the varied conditions of the English-speaking culture area in comparison to their own culture, which leads to a norm- and convention-appropriate behaviour in the foreign culture area.
  - f) Intercultural skills: This is the competence to analyse and shape cultural interaction processes. The constant confrontation with socio-cultural realities of the relevant English language area during the study programme results in the practice to equally deal with the context of one's own and also the foreign culture and to flexibly consider the different views and traditions of thinking. This implies open-mindedness and tolerance.
  - g) Basic and orientation knowledge: The study programme conveys basic knowledge of cultural science (methods, subjects and objectives) and familiarity with basic issues (concept of culture, culture-theoretical approaches). It enables to understand the culture-scientific dimension of the special studies in its historical relativity and actuality.
  - h) Media skills: It features acquaintance with culture-scientific important text sorts and media (from the fields of literature, functional literature, popular culture, film, theatre, music, print and digital media) as well as knowledge in the use of media in general and media of the English-speaking target culture. Media skills also corresponds theoretical-methodical competence in the field of inter-media contexts, in particular with regard to the relationships between literature and other art forms as well as in the field of different medial expression forms of discursive phenomena (e.g. text, image, sound).
2. Key qualifications and soft skills: These are qualifications which students acquire in addition to their subject-specific competences and which qualify them to undertake vocational tasks in different occupational fields. Special emphasis is to be given to:
- a) Written and oral expression: Students have to write various works in the foreign language, give presentations in courses and discuss work results. In this context, they also learn to present different contents, to outline complex issues in a comprehensive and convincing manner, to defend their own point of view, to criticize other views, to ask specific questions, and to give precise answers. One of the key qualifications is thus communicative competence.

- b) The ability to clear rigid thought patterns by thinking in alternative ways and to be open for unconventional and creative solutions: Intense critically reflected dealing with specialist literature and different doctrines is particularly suitable for developing this ability.
  - c) Systematic approach to new tasks: In linguistics, literature and cultural science, texts are subject to a scientific analysis. The tasks for the students are not only the dealing with relevant theories but also the elaboration of individual, problem-related theoretical approaches. In this context, students learn to specifically and individually solve problems and critically deal with individual solution strategies.
  - d) Thinking in contexts: By linking the subjects of English and American Studies with other science fields and neighbouring disciplines, students are able to think in contexts and to consider several aspects of the tasks to be accomplished.
  - e) Independence: During their studies, students are supposed to find information and acquire knowledge autonomously. Independent scientific work requires and promotes the ability to organize one's own work efficiently and to accomplish it proactively.
  - f) Intercultural and transcultural skills: ability to appropriately deal with other cultures and to understand and interpret their cultural processes and products adequately.
  - g) Team skills: they are developed and promoted by partner and group works.
- (4) Occupational profiles and career opportunities: Due to the special role of English as Lingua franca of the contemporary world, future prospects of graduates of the Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies are evaluated very positively. The study programme prepares for occupational fields with different job profiles and covers a wide range of activities in the fields of publishing, librarianship, journalism, new media, culture management, adult education, public administration, diplomatic service, marketing etc.

## § 2 Scope and duration

The Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies covers 180 ECTS-Credits, with a duration of six semesters.

## § 3 Courses and numbers of participants

- (1) Courses without continuous assessment:
  - 1. **Lectures** (VO) deal with main and/or specific topics of English and American Studies as well as relevant methods and doctrines. No max. number of participants.
  - 2. **Study orientation course** (SL) conveys an overview on the main contents of the study programme, and it forms the basis for the decision to choose the study programme. Study orientation courses are with compulsory attendance. The maximum number of participants: 25 in courses from the Area of Competence: Language Usage; 30 in courses from all other Areas of Competence.
- (2) Courses using continuous assessment:
  - 1. **Introductory seminars** (PS) convey basic knowledge of scientific working, introduce subject literature and exemplary treat issues of English and American Studies in presentations, discussions and smaller written contributions (of approx. 3,500 words) or equivalent performances. Maximum number of participants: 30
  - 2. **Practical courses** (UE) offer scientifically well-founded language training. Maximum number of participants: 25
  - 3. **Lecture-practical courses** (VU) serve as systematic acquisition, implementation and specialisation of scientific contents. Maximum number of participants: 30
  - 4. **Working groups** (AG) serve as common testing of practical skills (e.g. foreign language acquisition), practical use of scientific knowledge and methods or joint elaboration of concrete issues. Maximum number of participants: 30

#### § 4 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

In courses with a limited number of participants, course places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If the criteria in Z 1 do not suffice, first, students of the Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies and of the Secondary School Teacher Accreditation Programme English, for whom this course is part of a compulsory module are to be given priority, and second, students of for whom this course is part of an elective module.

#### § 5 Stay abroad

A stay abroad in an English-speaking country with a duration of at least four months is strongly recommended. The objectives of the stay abroad are broadening linguistic and cultural competence as well as gathering international experience.

#### § 6 Programme structure

- (1) Compulsory modules with a total of 140 ECTS-Credits from the following five Areas of Competence are to be taken:
  - Basics (30 ECTS- Credits)
  - Language Use (30 ECTS- Credits)
  - Linguistics (30 ECTS- Credits)
  - Literary Studies (30 ECTS- Credits)
  - Cultural Studies (20 ECTS- Credits)
- (2) Elective modules with a total of 25 ECTS-Credits from the following Areas of Competence are to be taken, whereas from the Area of Competence Cultural Studies at least elective module 5 or 6 and 7 or 8 is to be taken.
  - Language Usage (15 ECTS- Credits)
  - Cultural Studies (10 ECTS- Credits)
- (3) Two bachelor's theses with a total of 7.5 ECTS-Credits are to be completed, which are to be completed in addition to the ECTS-Credits awarded of the relevant bachelor's theses courses.

#### § 7 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) The following compulsory modules, amounting to 140 ECTS-Credits from the Areas of Competences are to be taken:

A. Area of Competence: Basics (30 ECTS-Credits)

1.	Compulsory module: Fundamentals of Philological-Cultural Studies	SST (h)	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>VO Foundations: Studying Languages, Literatures, Cultures</b> This course discusses organisational, social and cultural aspects of the philological subjects as research disciplines. It presents the university as an institution and in its role as producer and transmitter of knowledge. The course also reflects on the importance of language and literature in society. It further looks at the most important techniques and tools for the philological subjects	1	2.5

<b>b.</b>	<b>SL Introduction to Philological Cultural Studies</b> This course serves as a basic introduction to English and American Studies. As such it offers both an outline of the discipline and an overview of core concepts of English and American Studies. Furthermore, the course familiarizes students with the most important research tools and skills required for the further course of their studies, i.e. students will learn the effective use of library catalogues, bibliographical indices, online resources, etc. In addition, requirements for written and spoken assignments will be discussed (e.g. writing research papers, presenting, discussion leading).	1	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Knowledge of the specific forms of communication in the field; familiarity with institutions and occupational fields dealing with language and literature, insight into the structures of the university		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>2.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Fundamentals of Linguistics</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>VO Introduction to Linguistics</b> Overview on basic concepts of linguistics, basic knowledge of elements and levels of language(s), increased language awareness, insight in the basic mechanisms of communication	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Basic knowledge of fundamental theories and methods of linguistics and language analysis; awareness of the complexity of linguistic utterances, expansion of language awareness; insight into topics of applied linguistics		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>3.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Fundamentals of Literary Studies</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>VO Introduction to Literary Studies</b> Introduction to central questions/problems, topics, and methodological concepts in literary studies, e.g. basic terminology such as 'literature,' 'literary criticism,' 'literary studies,' 'literary history,' 'text,' 'period,' etc.; basic introduction to literary analysis and interpretation, stylistics, literary theory, and genre studies.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Knowledge of research categories (in literary studies) and of basic methodological approaches; insight into important literary theories		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>4.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Fundamentals of Cultural Studies</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
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	<b>VO Introduction to Cultural Studies</b> This lecture will focus on fundamental aspects of cultural studies. Presentation of different concepts of 'culture'; theoretical and methodological approaches to intercultural research; forms of inter-culture, phenomena of social perception; processes of cultural transfer.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Insight into central issues, topics and methodological approaches of cultural studies		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

5.	<b>Compulsory module: Cultural History I</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>VO Cultural History I</b> Presentation of the entire cultural contexts of linguistic and literary appearances; multilingualism and language change; central concepts such as „identity“, „nation“, „gender“, „class“ etc.M; insight into changing world views and perception patterns of cultural history and the history in general based on examples of philosophy, literature, science and art.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Understanding cultures and periods of - not only Western - cultural history; understanding the connections between language and world view; ability to place literary and linguistic developments in the context of larger cultural developments		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

6.	<b>Compulsory module: Cultural History II</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>VO Cultural History II</b> In-depth knowledge of cultural history I by dealing with other epochs or thematic focuses.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Deeper understanding of cultures and periods of - not only Western - cultural history		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

B. Area of Competence: Language Usage (30 ECTS-Credits)

7.	<b>Compulsory module: Language System I: Focus on Language Constituents</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>SL Listening/Speaking I</b> Listening content: Pronunciation, a variety of texts on areas pertaining to English and American Studies, including literature, cultural, linguistic, media studies etc. Speaking content: Descriptive treatment of the above topics	2	1.5
<b>b.</b>	<b>UE Reading/Writing I</b> The aim of this course is to introduce basic conventions of good writing techniques. It is a pre-essay writing course in which students will learn to compose both well-structured and varied sentences as well as coherent	2	3

	paragraphs. We will analyse texts for structural elements such as unity, coherence, and cohesion. Exercise types will include summary writing and elementary paragraph production.		
<b>c.</b>	<b>UE Awareness I</b> Word classes and their characteristics, simple phrases and clauses, lexical relations between words, word formation	2	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Expansion of linguistic range: phonological, morphological and lexical competence. Target level B2+ (achievement of strong vantage)		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>8.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Language System II: Focus on Language in Context</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>UE Listening/Speaking II</b> Listening: A variety of texts focusing on topics such as social issues, global issues, economy, healthcare etc. Speaking: A descriptive treatment of the above topics	2	2.5
<b>b.</b>	<b>UE Reading/Writing II</b> Continuation of discussion of basic writing skills, moving from the paragraph level to full texts. Tasks include short essays, summaries and letters, with a strong focus on developing editing skills and avoiding common writing problems.	2	2.5
<b>c.</b>	<b>UE Awareness II</b> Reflection of language function: grammar in context	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Expansion of grammatical competence; improvement of comprehension of spoken and written language in context (utterances, sentences, texts, notional and functional concepts). Target level C1 (achievement of effective operational proficiency)		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 7		

<b>9.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Focus on Language Usage I</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>UE Listening/Speaking III</b> To promote understanding of more complex argumentative and specialised texts and an appreciation of nuances, including allusion, humour, word-play etc. To foster the ability to communicate effectively in discussions and problem-solving tasks	2	2.5
<b>b.</b>	<b>UE Reading/Writing III</b> To encourage a critical approach to and appreciation of texts (journalistic, literary etc.), practise discourse and critical writing modes and consolidate summary writing skills.	2	2.5
<b>c.</b>	<b>UE Awareness III</b> Time/tense, subjunctives, nouns/noun phrase, verbs/verb phrase, modality, word-order, concord, co-text, context, referencing etc. - based on textual concepts and contexts	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.5</b>

	<b>Objective:</b> Pragmatic competence and discussion competence; psychological and sociolinguistic appropriateness, text types and discourse principles; development of correct register use and sociolinguistic competence. Target level C1+ (extension of effective operational proficiency)
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory modules 7 and 8

10.	Compulsory module: Focus on Language Usage II	SST (h)	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>UE Listening/Speaking IV</b> Close, analytical reading of various text types, spontaneous and prepared oral tasks, writing tasks (essays, reviews, summaries, etc.) and listening comprehension. A blend of all four skills.	2	2
b.	<b>UE Reading/Writing IV</b> The texts under consideration will include the short story, personal narrative, reader response journal, critical revision in addition to academic and personal essay.	2	3
c.	<b>UE Awareness IV</b> Translations of texts are produced in class and at home (regular assignments); in-depth discussions of texts in class.	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Discourse competence. Target level C2 (achievement of mastery)		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory modules 7, 8 and 9		

C. Area of Competence: Linguistics (30 ECTS-Credits)

11.	Compulsory module: Introduction: English Linguistics	SST (h)	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>VO Introduction to English Synchronic Linguistics</b> This lecture provides an introduction to the various branches of English synchronic linguistics. Phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, ecolinguistics.	1	3
b.	<b>VO Introduction to the History of English</b> This lecture provides an overview of the History of the English language. Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, Modern English.	1	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Understanding the diversity of issues and topics in modern English linguistics, focusing on English (British or American standard) as a foreign language		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

12.	Compulsory module: Survey of English Linguistics	SST (h)	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>VO Systemic Linguistics</b> This lecture is based on the Introduction to English Synchronic Linguistics and will present a more detailed discussion of the main areas of linguistic	2	5

	enquiry: the sounds of language (phonetics and phonology), the structure of words (morphology and word-formation), the meaning of words (semantics and lexicology), the combination of words (syntax), language in communication (pragmatics).		
<b>b.</b>	<b>VO English Usage and/or Applied Linguistics</b> The lecture will look at varieties of English in terms of modelling differences. In addition to reviewing the presence and role of English in various parts of the world, it will look at typological similarities and differences between various „Englishes“. The content is therefore both descriptive and meta-descriptive, taking into account linguistic data but also the ways in which various scholars have tried to systematise this evidence, in order to create general „classifications“ of varieties.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students learn to develop their awareness of linguistic subtleties, especially in the areas of pronunciation, vocabulary and syntax		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>13.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Focus on Special Fields of English Linguistics</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>PS Synchronic and/or Diachronic English Linguistics</b> This course aims at giving students an overview of the field of pragmatics. Students will be introduced to its key concepts and learn how to carry out linguistic research from a pragmatic perspective.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Application of specific methods and resources for the course subject; insight into the current state of research of the respective area; independent academic working skills; argumentation and effective bibliographical and presentation skills; pursuing ideas independently		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>14.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Focus on Method and Innovation in English Linguistics</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>PS Systemic and/or Applied English Linguistics</b> The aim of this seminar is to give an introduction to the linguistic description of spoken and written English texts. At the end of the seminar, students shall be familiar with the relevant terminology, different research paradigms and methods of analysis in this area.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Independent academic reading; creativity; awareness of problems; openness to explore new areas, especially those of general relevance; awareness of occupational opportunities		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>15.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: English Linguistics: Review and Outlook</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>AG English Linguistics</b>	2	5

	Selected topics from phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, variety studies, applied linguistics and historical linguistics.		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> In-depth treatment of selected areas; understanding scientific methods		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

D. Area of Competence: Literary Studies (30 ECTS-Credits)

16.	Compulsory module: Introduction: Literary Studies	SST (h)	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>VO Introduction to British and Postcolonial Literary Studies</b> Introduction to British and Postcolonial Literary Studies introduces you to the wide field of English and Postcolonial Literatures. The course will discuss issues of literary theory, different schools of literary criticism, and the literary genres. The main aim is to make you familiar with the basic tools as well as critical concepts in literary scholarship used for the interpretation of literary texts.	2	2.5
b.	<b>VO Introduction to American Literary Studies</b> This survey lecture course attempts to trace American literature from its beginning in the early modern image of the New World during the Age of Discovery to the contemporary literary landscape of the early twenty-first century. It discusses all major periods, by selecting representative texts of central authors in order to pinpoint their paradigmatic character and innovative potential for the tradition of American literature.	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Competence in the critical treatment of literary texts from the English-speaking world; ability to deal with literary theories and to apply the methods of literary studies for the analysis of selected texts; understanding the links between literature, society (especially the multicultural societies of the UK and USA) and politics; awareness of the impact of literature and various cultural phenomena		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

17.	Compulsory module: Advanced: British and Postcolonial Literary Studies	SST (h)	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>VO British and/or Postcolonial Literary Studies + Reading List</b> Overview of the development of English literature within the wider context of the consolidation of an Anglophone writing culture. Insight into the historical development of the different literary genres, specific themes and schools of thought. Introduction into the most important works of Anglophone literature and the contexts in which they were written.	2	7.5
b.	<b>PS British and/or Postcolonial Literature</b> In-depth knowledge of the contents from the lecture; exemplary and focused examination (historical, present, comparative, interdisciplinary, thematic) with English and/or post-colonial literature, texts of different genres as well as different cultural phenomena.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Insights into foreign cultures, including intellectual, social and political aspects;		

	increasing intercultural awareness through examination of modern multicultural societies and their phenomena; treatment of selected works and themes of English and/or postcolonial literature
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory modules 3 and 16

18.	Compulsory module: Advanced: American Literary Studies	SST (h)	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>VO American Literary Studies + Reading List</b> The lecture is meant to provide an introduction to the development of American literature, starting with its beginnings in the colonial period and moving up to the present time. It will look at how and when the various literary genres began to develop and will discuss in more detail individual authors and their main works in their cultural and historical contexts. The lecture is combined with a required reading list.	2	7.5
b.	<b>PS American Literature</b> Analysis and understanding of selected pieces of American literature in their cultural context by exploring the conflict between the individual pursuit of happiness and society's conventions of what is perceived to be normal.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12.5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Overview of the development of North American literature from the beginnings to the present; familiarity with various literary genres and major works; insights into the development of American literature, including intellectual, social and political aspects, with special attention to ethnic literature; treatment of selected works and themes of American literature		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory modules 3 and 16		

E. Area of Competence: Cultural Studies (20 ECTS-Credits)

19.	Compulsory module: Introduction: Cultural Studies	SST (h)	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>VU Concepts, Contexts, Theories of Cultural Studies: British and Anglophone Cultures</b> To achieve a basis in the theory of Cultural Studies and acquire an overview of British culture.	2	5
b.	<b>VU Concepts, Contexts, Theories of Cultural Studies: American Cultures</b> To become familiar with key concepts and methodologies of cultural studies which are particularly relevant to the study of film and media; to develop and advance audio-visual analytical skills to interpret moving images in their historical and cultural contexts.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Overview of fundamental concepts and contexts using texts and topics from British, Anglophone and American cultural studies		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

20.	Compulsory module: Fundamentals of Media Science	SST (h)	ECTS-Credits
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<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Introduction to Media Analysis</b> Term of media; contexts between media, information and ideologies; media and politics; media history; medial production forms; medial communication forms; orality – writtenness; intertextuality; multi-modality: text – graphic – image – sound – object; media aesthetics; media reception; media critics.	1	2.5
<b>b.</b>	<b>VU Introduction to Media Analysis</b> This course is an introduction to the basics of media analysis, applied to print, film, television, and the new media. It provides a historical background to media development, introduces basic media terminology, and discusses genres and formats. The focus of the course will be on applied media analysis and media literacy.	1	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Knowledge of the basic concepts of media studies; overview of main issues, approaches and results of media research; examples of the use of media analysis methods		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>21.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Gender Studies</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>VU Gender Studies</b> Throughout this course, we will examine how gender is systematically entangled with other axes of differentiation such as sexuality, nation, class, and race, often with political, cultural, and ethical repercussions. Focusing on the late 20th and 21st centuries, we will draw a road map of some of the most influential theories in feminist, lesbian, and queer studies, concentrating particularly on the areas of subjectivity, power structures, body politics, and locationality. Ultimately, this course encourages students to approach Gender Studies, in its broadest sense, as a box of tools with which to engage critically with written and visual texts, and begin to carve out their own position as public intellectuals.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Knowledge of basic issues of gender theory; insights into the links between gender identity and socio-cultural context		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

- (2) Elective modules from the Area of Competence: Language Usage with a total of 15 ECTS-Credits and from the Area of Competence: Cultural Studies with a total of 10 ECTS-Credits are to be taken, whereas from the Area of Competence: Cultural Studies at least elective module 5 or 6 and 7 or 8 is to be taken.

A. Area of Competence: Language Usage

<b>1.</b>	<b>Elective module: Professional Language Skills: Interlingual Mediation</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>UE Interlingual Mediation</b> In this course we will deal with various practical aspects of interlingual mediation between English and German, working with texts that range from literature and film to cookbooks, travel brochures, instruction manuals, newspaper articles and magazine stories.	2	5

	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Development of language skills for professional purposes and academic work with special attention to translation from English to German and German to English		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory modules 7, 8 and 9		

<b>2.</b>	<b>Elective module: Professional Language Skills: Language Analysis and Correction</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>UE Language Analysis and Correction</b> Achieving efficient correction techniques - error analysis and methods of correction	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Development of language skills for occupational and academic purposes, with special attention to text correction and error analysis		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory modules 7, 8 and 9		

<b>3.</b>	<b>Elective module: Professional Language Skills: Editing and Proofreading</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>UE Editing and Proofreading</b> A variety of text types are analysed in detail, focusing in particular on students' work, and business communication	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Development of language skills for occupational and academic purposes, with special attention to linguistic correctness and appropriateness		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory modules 7, 8 and 9		

<b>4.</b>	<b>Elective module: Professional Language Skills: Professional and Academic Writing</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>UE Professional and Academic Writing</b> Academic writing skills and business communication skills	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Development of language skills for occupational and academic purposes, with special attention to academic and other professional writing skills		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory modules 7, 8 and 9		

B. Area of Competence: Cultural Studies

<b>5.</b>	<b>Elective module: Discourse / Identity: British/Anglophone Cultures</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>PS Discourse/Identity: British/Anglophone Cultures</b> To deepen an understanding of Cultural Studies; to acquire the ability to understand cultural theories and to apply methods of cultural studies to	2	5

	sociocultural events and cultural products. Individual sessions on socio-cultural backgrounds will help us to contextualize the material, while accompanying discussions of theoretical aspects allow us to place the individual works in a wider context of critical thought.		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Competence in the critical treatment of texts from Anglophone cultures (excluding the USA); ability to deal with cultural theories and to apply the methods of cultural studies in a results-oriented fashion for the analysis and interpretation of selected data; intercultural skills		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 19		

<b>6.</b>	<b>Elective module: Discourse/Identity: American Cultures</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>PS Discourse/Identity: American Cultures</b> To analyse and question the processes behind the creation and perpetuation (as well as change) of film canons throughout their history; to lead to a better understanding of the interconnections of cultural, economic and political factors that influence the way canons look. To become familiar with interdisciplinary approaches to the study of American culture and to develop a critical framework for analysing cultural phenomena in different genres, media, art forms, and historical periods.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Further development of cultural understanding, particularly in terms of interculturality and transculturality; identification and assessment of cultural phenomena and their construction within the context of American studies		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 19		

<b>7.</b>	<b>Elective module: Critical Interfaces: British/Anglophone Cultures</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>PS Critical Interfaces: British/Anglophone Cultures</b> Critical examination with cultural-scientific texts and media of the Anglophone world (with the exception of the USA); integration of different dimensions of cultural studies. Competences, theories and contexts from the compulsory module 19 are to be further developed, advanced and practically applied within a project.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Further development of knowledge and competence in cultural studies; ability to deal with cultural theories and to apply the methods of cultural studies in a results-oriented fashion for the analysis and interpretation of selected data from the Anglophone areas; advanced intercultural skills		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 19		

<b>8.</b>	<b>Elective module: Critical Interfaces: American Cultures</b>	<b>SST (h)</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>PS Critical Interfaces: American Cultures</b> Critical examination with cultural-scientific texts and media in American	2	5

	Studies; elaboration and implementation of a cultural studies project (e.g. project, excursion, extended written work) which responds to and unites different dimensions of cultural studies.		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Further development of cultural studies knowledge, results-oriented application (project or academic paper); awareness and critical treatment of critical interfaces within American culture		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 19		

## § 8 Studies Induction and Orientation Stage

- (1) The Studies Induction and Orientation Stage (STEOP), with a duration of one semester (30 ECTS-Credits), provides an overview of the study programme and its structure in order to give students an objective basis to assess their decision to pursue their chosen subjects.
- (2) During the Studies Induction and Orientation Stage, the following course examinations, which may be repeated twice, must be completed satisfactorily:
  1. SL Fundamentals of Philological and Cultural Studies (PM 1 lit. b/1 hour/2.5 ECTS-Credits)
  2. SL Listening/Speaking I (PM 7 lit. a/2 hours/1.5 ECTS-Credits)
- (3) A positive result (passing grade) on the examinations specified in Paragraph 2 permits students to attend all courses and take all examinations following the Introduction and Orientation Phase for Students (STEOP) and to write a bachelor's thesis as described in the curriculum. The registration requirements specified by the curriculum must be met.

## § 9 Bachelor's Theses

- (1) Two bachelor's theses with a total of 7.5 ECTS-Credits each are to be completed. Both theses are to be written in English and have to be subject-specific.
- (2) The bachelor's theses are to be completed within courses using continuous assessment from the compulsory modules 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21 and the elective modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and are supervised by the relevant course lecturer. The performance of the bachelor theses is to be delivered in addition to the relevant bachelor's theses courses.
- (3) The bachelor's theses are to be submitted in paper form and in digital version. The form of the submission of the digital version is to be determined by the Director of Studies.

## § 10 Examination Regulations

The assessment of performance of a module (module examination) is to be carried out by course examinations. Course examinations are:

1. Examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in an individual lecture or in the studies induction and orientation stage which course assessment is based on a single examination at the end of the course. If a reading list is determined in a lecture, it forms part of the examination material. Before starting the course, the course lecturer shall specify and declare which type of examination (written and/or oral) will take place.
2. Courses with continuous assessment, for which course assessment is based on regular written and/or oral contribution by participants. Before starting the course, the course lecturer shall specify and declare which type of examination will take place.

## § 11 Academic Degree

Graduates of the Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies are awarded the academic degree „Bachelor of Arts“, abbreviated „BA“.

## **§ 12 Validity and Effect**

- (1) The curriculum is effective as of 1 October 2009.
- (2) §§ 3, 7, and 10 in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, Issue 26, No 456, is effective as of 1 October 2011 and applies to all students.
- (3) § 8 in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, Issue 26, No 456, is effective as of 1 October 2011 and applies to all students beginning their degree programme as of winter semester 2011/2012.
- (4) § 8 in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, Issue 26, No 456, ceases to be effective at the end of 30 September 2014.

## **§ 13 Transitory Provisions**

- (1) Regular students who have commenced the Diploma Programme English and American Studies at the University of Innsbruck (curriculum in the version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 14 September 2001, Issue 69, No 832) before 1 October 2009 are entitled from this point in time onwards to complete the first part of this study programme within a maximum of five semesters and second part of this study programme within a maximum of seven semesters.
- (2) If a part of the Diploma Programme English and American Studies is not completed within the specified time then the current curriculum of the Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies will apply. Students are entitled to change to the curriculum of the Bachelor's Programme English and American Studies at any time on a voluntary basis.