

Programme Outline: Single Honours Master of Arts in English: Language, Literatures and Cultures

Certificate: Literary and Cultural Studies

What is a Certified Study Area?

By choosing certain modules from the general curriculum, students can obtain an additional certificate along with their MA in English: Language, Literatures and Cultures. This means a specialisation on one of the four topics offered. The requirements for starting in one of these areas are the same as for the Single Honours programme. Obligatory modules cover the same as in the single honours curriculum plus the specific ones needed to get the study area certified.

What Does the Certificate Entail?

This certificate is aimed at students who wish to pursue their reading and research interests in topics from both Anglophone and North American literature and culture. To that end, the modules on offer for the certificate cover various areas from the two cultural regions: on Anglophone literature and culture from the Middle Ages to the present day, and on North American literature, rhetorics and culture. These theory-oriented modules are complemented by a practical module where students get an insight into how literature is used outside university contexts.

What are the Overall Learning Objectives?

After completing this course of study, students

- have a good working knowledge of theoretical approaches and methodology;
- can use these on analysing texts and critically reflecting on secondary literature;
- have a good overview knowledge of historical periods in the development of Anglophone as well as North American literature and culture;
- have gained a first insight into areas where printed or manuscript texts are the objects of work, not the foundation;
- have the methodological and practical knowledge to do research on a particular topic or area of interest to them;
- have the critical and analytical skills to turn their research interest into a thesis of about 25,000 words.

How Does This Study Area Work?

The Single Honours Master with a focus on Anglophone Literature and Culture offers students a huge variety of modules on that topic. There are two obligatory modules:

- M.EP.14: Academic Writing and Research Skills PLUS
- **EITHER** M.EP.15a: Advanced English Language Skills
OR M.EP.15b: American Culture and Institutions / British Culture and Institutions (for MA-students)

These modules help improve the students' academic writing and academic research skills as well as their practical English language skills and give them a deeper insight into customs, institutions and cultural practices in either Britain or the United States of America; they cover a total of 12 credits.

Students also have to take a "Completion Module" (M.EP.06a for theses on Anglophone literature, or M.EP.06b for theses on North American topics), each of which prepares students for their MA theses.

The core curriculum contains modules from both key areas. Students have to choose at least seven of the nine modules, gaining a total of 48 credits. Another 12 credits are taken from one out of three practical modules. For the 120 credits required for the MA degree, students also have to hand in their MA thesis (30 credits) and complete the corresponding completion module; in addition, they have to enrol in soft skills modules ("Optionalbereich", 12 credits), which offer students classes to prepare them for life after university by e.g. teaching public speaking, language skills or working space organisation. For students without sufficient German skills, classes on German language are obligatory.

Which Module Should I Take in Which Semester?

Students have to collect credits from various areas:

- obligatory modules outside Literary and Cultural Studies: 12 credits
- modules on literature and culture (core curriculum modules): 48 credits
- practical modules (core curriculum modules): 12 credits
- completion module in Anglophone Literature and Culture or North American Studies: 6 credits
- soft skills modules: 12 credits
- MA thesis: 30 credits

Students have to cover three obligatory modules and can choose from eleven additional ones to fit their personal interests. The large variety of modules makes it difficult to standardise timetables. The following table should be considered as a suggestion only.

Semester	1	M.EP.15a Advanced English Language Skills OR M.EP.15b American/British Culture and Institutions	M.EP.01b North American Literature and Culture	M.EP.01c Anglophone Literature and Culture – Theoretical Foundations	German A1 (for students with no German language skills)	30	credits per semester
	2	M.EP.14 Academic Writing and Research Skills	M.EP.04b Advanced North American Literature and Culture	M.EP.12b Literary Events	German A2	30	
	3	M.EP.02b/2c Medieval English Studies	M.EP.09b Research Course: Anglophone Literature and Culture	M.EP.12a Forms of Literary Reception	M.EP.04a Advanced Anglophone Literature and Culture	24	
	4	M.EP.06b Completion Module in North American Literature and Culture	MA Thesis (30 credits)			36	
						= 120	

Each standard block is worth 6 credits; double blocks are worth 12 credits. Grey blocks indicate soft skills modules. Blue blocks show modules focusing on the “academic” aspects of North American literature and culture, while the colour white indicates modules on Anglophone literature and culture. Green signifies that the modules do not focus on topics of literature and culture. Practical modules are highlighted in orange.

Students wishing to focus somewhat more on Anglophone literature topics choose the Anglophone research module M.EP.09a in place of M.EP.09c. Since the research module is worth 12 credits, one of the modules M.EP.02b/2c (Medieval Studies), M.EP.01b and M.EP.04b (North American Studies) can be dropped. If students already have very good knowledge on literary and cultural theories, they can opt for module M.EP.01a Anglophone Literature and Culture in place of M.EP.01c; since the former is a 6 credit-module, the selection of modules has to be adjusted accordingly.

The modules are explained in more detail on the following pages.

Semester I:

- **EITHER** M.EP.15a: Advanced English Language Skills **OR** M.EP.15b: American Culture and Institutions / British Culture and Institutions (for MA-students) – 6 credits

(OBLIGATORY)

The module is designed to **improve** the students' **practical language skills** or give them a deeper insight into **customs, institutions and cultural practices** in either **Britain or the United States of America**, e.g. in giving presentations, writing essays, moderating talks, etc., and how to use these skills during their studies. Students can choose between several options to meet their individual interests.

- M.EP.01b: *North American Literature and Culture* – 6 credits (ELECTIVE)

This module introduces students to the study of North American Literature and Culture through a lecture series on American Literary and Cultural History or on Literary, Cultural and Media Theory. The module finishes with a **written exam**. Through this module, students gain insights in the field of studies covered by the North American Studies department and into the necessary methods and theories.

- M.EP.01c: *Anglophone Literature and Culture: Theoretical Foundations* – 12 credits

(ELECTIVE literature/culture module)

This module is meant for students with little experience with using literary and cultural theories in the analysis and criticism of literature and other cultural products. It contains a **lecture series** on a topic or period in Anglophone literature, a **course on literary and cultural theories**, and either a **tutorial or a self-study** period that accompanies the seminar course.

While the lecture provides students with overview knowledge on the topic or period covered, the theory course deepens and enlarges students' knowledge on various theories and their uses, on key terms and ideas, and on their critical uses. The module expects students to prepare a **portfolio** (about 5000 words) in which they chart and critically reflect on what they have learnt in the courses; they are also required to show that they can use literary or cultural theories appropriately and with benefit.

- *German: A1* – 6 credits (SOFT SKILLS/EXTERNAL ELECTIVE)

This serves as an example of what students can choose from for the "Optionalbereich". German as a language can be started from scratch. Students will get a certificate about their command of the language after successfully finishing the final test. For international students who do not have sufficient skills in German language, it is obligatory to take these classes.

Credits earned this semester: 30

Overall credits: 30

Semester II:

M.EP.14: Academic Writing and Research Skills – 6 credits (OBLIGATORY)

This module is designed to deepen students' academic writing and academic research skills. The module expects students to write a **portfolio** of about 1200 words **and** a **term paper** of about 2200 words.

- M.EP.04b: *Advanced North American Literature and Culture* – 6 credits

(ELECTIVE literature/culture module)

In a way, students will build up on what they have learnt in module M.EP.01c as this advanced module features an **advanced seminar** on a topic, author, or genre from North American literature and culture, and an **independent study** part in which students prepare a literary theory or theoretical approach – under supervision of an instructor – which will help them write the required **term paper** of about 7500 words. Students thus improve their skills in researching and analysing independently, but on the basis of and guided by a particular theoretical approach.

- M.EP.12b: *Literary Events* – 12 credits (ELECTIVE practical module)

This module combines an **internship** in the literature industry with a **seminar** to reflect on one's own and benefit from other students' experiences. By reporting on their internship and handing in an ungraded **portfolio** of about 3000 words, students show how ideas about their later work life have developed through the internship. This module thus aims to serve to prepare students for a career in the literature/culture industry.

- *German: A2* – 6 credits (SOFT SKILLS/EXTERNAL ELECTIVES)

This serves as an example of what students can choose from for the "Optionalbereich". German as a language can be started from scratch. Students will get a certificate about their command of the language after successfully finishing the final test. For international students who do not have sufficient skills in German language, it is obligatory to take these classes.

Credits earned in this semester: 30

Overall credits: 60

Semester III:

- M.EP.02b/2c: *Medieval English Studies* – 6 credits

(ELECTIVE literature/culture module)

This module combines a **lecture** which is designed as an **overview** about the literature and culture of medieval England with a **seminar** about a specific topic. Thus, students learn about the culture and the functions of literature in that period of time as well as having a closer look at certain works. Students with no prior knowledge on medieval English will be placed in an overview course on the development of Old and Middle English language and literature to enable them to proceed studying these languages and texts in subsequent modules. As the literature of that time was handwritten, knowledge about the techniques and materials used are also part of the learning outcomes. Furthermore, students will have to put their existing competences on languages into a new context and learn how to decipher and read original manuscripts. The module ends with either an **end-of-term exam** or a **term paper**.

- M.EP.09b: *Research Course: North American Literature and Culture* – 6 credits

(ELECTIVE literature/culture module)

This module combines a **seminar-type course** that focuses on researching and critically reflecting on research results for a specific topic or area in North American literature and culture with an **independent study** period: Students are expected to prepare and research a project of their own, under supervision of an instructor, resulting in either a **term paper** or a **research report** of about 7500 words.

- M.EP.12a: *Forms of Literary Reception* – 6 credits

(ELECTIVE literature/culture module)

This module aims at introducing students to the great variety of uses literature has in the world outside university. To that end, students have to attend **two talks**, **two readings**, and a **theatre or opera production**, each of which focuses on or responds to texts from Anglophone literature in its broadest sense. The module also requires students to attend a block seminar in which they report and reflect on their experiences, always with an eye to how texts and authors are placed and exploited on the various markets and by the different audiences. The module ends with an ungraded **portfolio** of about 3000 words in which students creatively rework their findings and experiences.

- M.EP.04a: *Advanced Anglophone Literature and Culture* – 6 credits

(ELECTIVE literature/culture module)

The advanced module grants deeper insights into the study of Anglophone Literature and Culture. The knowledge and competences from the basic module are honed and applied in new contexts. Students can choose from a variety of seminars and lectures for this module to meet their individual ambitions, e.g. seminars on Shakespearean tragedies, their transformation into a TV series, or on postcolonial theory. This **topic-centred seminar** is combined with a lecture that focuses on a specific literary period or topic; the **lecture** serves to give additional background information to help understand the seminar discussions.

The module ends with a **term paper** of about 7500 words on a topic from the seminar. After having finished the module, students have access to the research module. This means that at this point, they will have acquired all the competences needed to work with academic literature and form a balanced critical opinion of their own based on the theories used.

Credits earned in this semester: 24

Overall credits: 84

Semester IV:

- M.EP.06b: *Completion Module on North American Literature and Culture* – 6 credits
(ELECTIVE completion module)

This module is designed to give advice and support to students while writing their MA theses. Students meet with their supervisor in a **colloquium** and discuss their plans and progress for their theses. At the same time they deepen and improve their knowledge through attending an **advanced seminar**. The colloquium gives valuable feedback throughout the semester and a chance to get inspiration from other students' work. The module ends with an **oral exam** in which the key ideas and results of the MA thesis are presented and discussed critically.

- *Thesis in North American Literature and Culture* – 30 credits (OBLIGATORY)

The MA thesis is usually the last thing students hand in during their studies. With it students show the competences acquired throughout their studies by working on their own project, using the methods of research and theories they got introduced to during their MA degree. For this certificate, students are actively encouraged to choose a research project from the literature industry which further qualifies them for working in that area.

Credits earned in this semester: 36

Overall credits: 120

Information correct as of October 2022.