

## Module Guide B.A. English Studies Major

### Compulsory Modules 1<sup>st</sup> year:

The module *“Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies”* (offered each winter term) comprises an “Übung” (Ü) and a tutorial (T). This module will introduce you to the main concepts and approaches in English and American literary studies, including literary and critical theories, defining epochs and the analysis of primary texts. At the end of term you will take a written exam (Klausur) to gain 6 credit points (CP) for successfully completing the module.

The module *“Introduction to Language and Communication Studies”* (offered each winter term) comprises a lecture (Plenum/Pl) and a tutorial (T). In this module you will be introduced to and given a structured overview of the many areas of English linguistics, such as microlinguistics (structure of the language), macrolinguistics (applied use of language) and diachronic linguistics (history of the English language). At the end of term you will take a written exam (Klausur) to gain 6 credit points (CP) for successfully completing the module.

The language practice module *“Language I”* consists of two consecutive “Übungen“, together covering one academic year, one taught in the winter term and one in the summer. The first of these, “Language Toolkit“, focuses on grammatical accuracy in English and developing vocabulary. The second, “Sounds of English“, deals with the phonetics of British and US English; it will introduce you to the phonetic alphabet and you will learn how to transcribe texts. At the end of each term you will be assessed through a written exam (Klausur/Teilprüfung), with a total of 6 CP awarded for successfully completing the module.

*“Professional Development”* is an obligatory module, which has to be taken in any one of the six semesters of our three-year programme. The module entails a period of work or project-related experience, which could either be a 4-week internship, or alternatively could mean attending a summer school or workshop related to English Studies (preferably in an English-speaking country).

### **Core Elective Modules 1<sup>st</sup> year:**

The elective modules “*Issues in...*”, offered during the summer term, each comprise an “Übung” and a tutorial. Their purpose is to examine in greater depth the subject matter presented in the introductory courses. In the accompanying tutorials, you will learn how to structure, research and write a term paper. In all of the *Issues* modules, you will write a term paper (6 CP) at the end of term.

- In “*Issues in British and Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures*” (Ü/T, term paper, 6 CP), you will analyse texts in depth, drawing on literary theories and concepts from English and/or postcolonial studies, sometimes including regionally or culturally specific perspectives. Most of the *Issues* modules focus on a certain period, an individual author or a particular genre.
- *Issues in North American Literatures and Cultures*, (Ü/T, term paper, 6 CP): You will examine a range of American (and sometimes Canadian) literary and cultural texts, learn more about the contexts in which they were created (history, function) and apply relevant theories and concepts to literary interpretation and analysis. Most of these *Issues* focus on a particular genre, specific period or key aspect of American literature and culture.
- *Issues in Language and Communication Studies: English across the Globe*, (Ü/T, term paper, 6 CP) is an applied linguistics module specialising in the study of English as a global language and of its varieties worldwide. In some of these modules, you will also learn how to collect and evaluate relevant data, or will investigate social aspects of language use.
- *Issues in Language and Communication Studies: English through the Ages*, (Ü/T, term paper, 6 CP) provides an overview of the history of the English language and the development of modern English from Old, Middle, and Early Modern English. It will strengthen your competence and skills in the literary analysis of texts from earlier periods of history and your understanding of medieval influences.

**Optional Modules (any time):**

The additional modules in the *“Optionalbereich”* give you the opportunity to join courses taught by other departments and faculties to gain an insight either into subjects related to your primary field of study or other areas of your own interest (e.g. other languages, courses offered by other departments, research options, field trips). By the end of your undergraduate studies, you should have gained a total of 12 credit points (CP) in these modules.

**Compulsory Modules 2<sup>nd</sup> year:**

The compulsory language practice module *“Language II”* consists of two *“Übungen”*, both taught in the winter term. To be entitled to take this module you must have completed and passed the previous language practice module *“Language I”*. The first *“Übung”*, called *“Mechanics”*, aims to improve your oral communication skills in English by providing a solid grounding in how to give presentations. The second, *“Translation I”*, introduces you to German-English translation, helping you to overcome the stumbling blocks that translation inevitably entails and developing your vocabulary. You will be assessed through two *“Teilprüfungen”* at the end of term, one a written exam (Translation I) and one an oral presentation (Mechanics), with a total of 6 CP awarded for successfully completing the module.

The compulsory module *“Language III”* (6 CP) comprises two *“Übungen”*, both taught in the summer term. To be entitled to take this module you must have completed and passed the previous language practice module *“Language II”*. The two *“Übungen”* are called *“Writing”* and *“Translation II”*. In the first you will improve your written productive skills in English in order to compose well-structured essays at an academic level. The second course will consolidate and develop the understanding and skills you acquired in *“Translation I”*. Each of the two courses will be assessed through a written exam at the end of term (Klausuren/Teilprüfungen).

### **Core Elective Modules 2<sup>nd</sup> year (you choose 6 of 10):**

General info: The elective modules on literature all consist of a lecture (VL) and an “Übung” (Ü). Prior completion of the first-year module “Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies” is required to be entitled to participate in any of them. Assessment is through written exams (Klausur) at the end of term, with a total of 6 CP awarded after passing them. This applies to all of the following 2<sup>nd</sup>-year elective modules.

- *“British Literatures and Cultures”* (VL, Ü, Klausur, 6 CP) takes a more in-depth look at the epochs and history of British literature. The “Übung” will focus on critical interpretations of individual literary texts. You will broaden and deepen your knowledge of literary and critical theory, periods and genres.
- *Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures* (VL, Ü, Klausur, 6 CP) explores English postcolonial literatures and cultures as a whole while focussing on specific regions, authors and works as examples. You will also become acquainted with postcolonial theories, concepts and methodology.
- *North American Literatures and Cultures* (VL, Ü, Klausur, 6 CP) aims to provide you with skills in the critical appreciation of literary works by North American authors, while also acquainting you with cultural and political characteristics of North America.
- *Focus on North American Popular Cultures* (VL, Ü, Klausur, 6 CP) is designed to deepen your knowledge and understanding of popular cultural processes and phenomena in the United States and Canada. The module will look at popular cultural theories and teach you the critical skills you need to analyse such phenomena.
- *Focus on English Popular Cultures* (VL, Ü, Klausur, 6 CP.) In this module you will learn about theories of and perspectives on intermediality and modern genres. You will analyse audiovisual media and products of British and global popular culture, while becoming acquainted with essential resources.

General info: The elective modules on linguistics all consist of a lecture (VL) and an “Übung” (Ü). Prior completion of the first-year module “Introduction to Language and Communication Studies” is required to be entitled to participate in any of them. Assessment is through

written exams (Klausur) at the end of term, with a total of 6 CP awarded after passing them. This applies to all of the following 2<sup>nd</sup>-year elective modules.

- *Medieval Studies* (VL, Ü Klausur, 6 CP) will take a closer look at the English language and literature of the Middle Ages. You will read and translate Old English, Middle English, and early Modern English texts while learning how to classify them in terms of context and literary form. Furthermore, you will be introduced to the established methods and theories in Medieval Studies.
- *Language in Culture and Cognition* (VL, Ü, Klausur, 6 CP) is designed to further your knowledge of a specific field of enquiry within linguistics. You will take a closer look at the culturally shaped use of language, language acquisition and speech processing.
- *Language Structures and Language Functions* (VL, Ü, Klausur, 6 CP) will further your knowledge and understanding of the analysis of language and develop your competence in methodology. You will take a closer look at areas such as lexicology, morphology, syntax and phonology.

*Regional Studies GB/IRL* (PL, Ü, Klausur, 6 CP) will provide an overview of the development of modern-day Britain and Ireland, their regions and institutions. You will gain an understanding of the long and complex process through which the four nations of the Isles (England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales) came to constitute themselves as political entities.

*Regional Studies North America* (PI, Ü, Klausur, 6 CP). In this module you will study the history of the United States (and Canada), gain an understanding of political and social problems in the multicultural societies of North America and learn about how they evolved. You will take a critical approach to this set of problems and address questions of nation-building, immigration and the context of recent events.

### **Core Elective Modules 3<sup>rd</sup> year (4 of 7):**

General info: The following elective modules consist of a seminar (S), an “Übung” (Ü) during the winter term and, if you plan to write your B.A. thesis on a subject related to one of these modules, an additional research seminar (K) in your final summer term. At the end of the first of the two terms, you will write a term paper for a total of 9 credit points (CP). This applies to all of the following 3<sup>rd</sup>-year elective modules.

- *British and Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures* (S, Ü (K), term paper, 9 CP) focuses attention on a selected topic or motif, a particular genre or epoch within British literature, a specific critical theory or a perspective relating to a particular region such as a postcolonial country.
- *North American Studies* (S, Ü (K), term paper, 9 CP) will broaden and deepen your understanding of theories and concepts in North American Studies.
- *Literatures and Cultures in Comparison* (S, Ü (K), term paper, 9 CP) will teach you how concepts, approaches and intertextual methodologies from the field of inter- and transculturality can be applied.
- *Medieval Culture and History of the English* (S, Ü (K), term paper, 9 CP) focuses on the translation and analysis of texts written in earlier forms of the English language from past periods of history
- *Applied Linguistics* (S, Ü (K), term paper, 9 CP) invites you to take a closer look at intercultural communication and the use of linguistic methodology.
- *Focus on Theory* (S, Ü (K), term paper, 9 CP) seeks to help you understand literary and cultural theories. You will learn to critically examine and compare literary, linguistic and interdisciplinary theories and criticism.
- *Current Issues in American and Canadian Politics and Economics* (S, Ü (K), term paper, 9 CP) will provide insights into the present-day political and economic situation of the United States and Canada and promote your ability to analyse related issues and questions.
- Final term: For your B.A. thesis, which is normally written in your 6<sup>th</sup> and final term, (together with an undergraduate research seminar in your field of study) you will be awarded 12 credit points.