

Module 1: “North American Studies Across the Disciplines”

Contents and objectives:

This module provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the historical, theoretical and socio-cultural foundations of North America’s diverse cultures. Students will participate in classes from different departments and disciplines. Relevant subject areas include questions of history, literature, culture, race/ethnicity, religion, education, and gender. By approaching these concepts from various disciplines, such as historical studies, literary studies, cultural studies, and educational sciences, participants will be able to gain insights into North America and into its being shaped by transnational and transcultural processes, both in the present and in the past.

Depending on the courses on offer at any given time, this module will provide experience in the following skills and fields of knowledge:

- Introduction to U.S., Canadian, Mexican, and Caribbean histories, literatures, and cultures
- Knowledge of migration, cultural exchange, and transnational education, particularly between Germany and the United States
- Development of an understanding for North American regions in their Western and non-Western contexts
- Insight into the concepts and theories of transnational education, race/ethnicity, gender, religion, culture, and politics

LP: 15	Workload (h): 450				
Course type	LP	SWS	Assignments	Of which relevant for grade	Self-study
Seminar	7	2	Research paper	100%	180h
Seminar	4	2	- ¹	-	90h
Seminar	4	2	- ²	-	90h

Duration:
no limitation

Status:
compulsory

Offered:
every semester

Alternative course choices within the module:

¹ No particular assignments are required for the certificate. In order to have a course recognized for the certificate, however, students are required to complete the course assignments (‘Studienleistungen’) in that specific class.

² No particular assignments are required for the certificate. In order to have a course recognized for the certificate, however, students are required to complete the course assignments (‘Studienleistungen’) in that specific class.

Participants can choose from different courses (listed in HISLSF) that are open to the certificate “North American Studies”. In total, three seminars are mandatory, covering at least two different disciplines. One of the three seminars needs to be completed with a research paper (3.500 –5.000 words).

Entry requirements:

B.A. students can as a rule only participate in B.A. courses, while M.A. students can take part in all Certificate courses, the instructor’s permission provided. Graded term papers need to be written according to the length and standards of the student’s level at the time of participation in the class in question.

Weighting of module grade in calculation of final Certificate grade:

100%

Module coordinators:

Prof. Sarah Albiez-Wieck, Prof. Heike Bungert, Prof. Corinna Norrick-Rühl, Prof. Silvia Schultermandl, Prof. Kai Sina, Dr. Andreas Oberdorf

Module 2: “Study North America: Theory and Practice”

Contents and objectives:

This module offers participants the opportunity to explore not only different aspects of North American cultures, but also different forms of studying and doing research. This module thus allows students to both deepen their knowledge in regular courses as well as to choose between other formats of research and practice, and thus to develop a complex perspective on the historical, theoretical and socio-cultural foundations as developed in Module 1. Participants may choose from a wide range of cultural activities, either abroad or at home in Germany, and thus gain some substantial experience of North American cultural diversity.

Students choose a minimum of three thematic (transdisciplinary) clusters (two, if study abroad is one of them) to achieve a total of 15 LP for Module 2.

On completion of this module, students will have:

- Gained relevant practical or academic experience abroad and/or
- Been exposed to North American culture/s by working at a cultural/political/economic institution
- Been exposed to varied academic experiences by taking part in conferences, colloquia, language classes, workshops, or summer schools

LP: 15

Workload (h): 450

List of thematic clusters	LP	Assignments	Of which relevant for grade
1. Stay Abroad in North America (For 10 LP: min. of 300 hours abroad in North America; for 5 LP: 150 hours abroad in North America. Among many other options, activities may include a longer internship (min. 120 working hours / 60 working hours) in a relevant business or organization or the completion of a semester/program at a North American university)	10 / 5	Documentation and reflection in a module portfolio	0%
2. Internship outside of North America (Practical or academic experience in a cultural/business/political organization or academic program directly relevant to the Certificate's subject of a minimum of 90 working hours)	5		
3. Summer School (Active participation in a relevant summer school)	5		
4. Lectures/Conference (Participation in a minimum of ten lectures or one academic conference)	5		
5. Courses (Active participation [written exam or oral	5		

presentation] in at least one additional lecture course, colloquium, language course etc. relevant to the Certificate)		
6. Independent Study (min. of 90 working hours of immersion in North American culture by reading, watching, visiting etc. related cultural products and events; students compile an annotated reading list, annotated film list, commented list of cultural/political events attended and discuss it with a faculty supervisor)	5	
7. Additional essay related to North America (4.500–6.000 words; cannot be identical with a term paper handed in for course under point 5 or the graded essay in module 1)	5	
8. Successfully completed B.A. or M.A. thesis with a focus on North America	10	
Duration: no limitation		
Status: compulsory		
Offered: every semester		
Alternative choices within the module: Students must gain a total of 15 LP. They must choose at least two different clusters listed above. Additional choices and clusters not listed above must be discussed with a module coordinator.		
Entry requirements: none		
Weighting of module grade in calculation of final Certificate grade: 0%		
Module coordinators: Prof. Sarah Albiez-Wieck, Prof. Heike Bungert, Prof. Corinna Norrick-Rühl, Prof. Silvia Schultermandl, Prof. Kai Sina, Dr. Andreas Oberdorf		