



**rijksuniversiteit
groningen**

FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

Part B - Bachelor's degree programme in:

American Studies

for academic year 2023-2024

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SECTION 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1.1 Applicability

These Regulations comprise two parts – Part A and Part B. This degree programme-specific Part B accompanies Part A, which contains general provisions which apply to the teaching, examinations and final assessments of Bachelor’s degree programmes provided by the Faculty of Arts, hereinafter referred to as **the Faculty**. Part B contains degree programme-specific provisions which apply to the Bachelor’s degree programme in **American Studies**.

SECTION 2 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Article 2.1 Admission to the programme *with profile requirement*

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2.1 of Part A, it is additionally required for this degree programme: English at the level of the VWO final examination.

Article 2.2 Educational deficiencies

1. Deficiencies in educational qualifications in the subjects listed below may be compensated for by passing the relevant examinations at the level of the VWO final examination to the satisfaction of the Admissions Board: n.a.
2. Under certain circumstances, the Admissions Board can request a University Lecturer in the relevant subject to arrange one or more examinations.

Article 2.3 – Starting date

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2.7 of Part A, the following additional requirement applies to this degree programme:

Students who have previously been enrolled in this degree programme or who wish to start in a higher year may apply to the Admissions Board for permission to start on a date other than 1 September. The Admissions Board will grant permission for an alternative starting date if the specific course units that the student in question wishes to follow start on this date and if the student has satisfied the entry requirement for these course units.

SECTION 3 CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 3.1 Learning outcomes of the degree programme

<i>Dublin Descriptors for BA Level</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes for the BA programme in American Studies articulated in Key Competences</i>
	A Bachelor Degree in American Studies is awarded to students who demonstrate:
Acquiring Knowledge and Understanding Students have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in a field of study that builds upon their general secondary education, and is typically at a level that,	1a. broad, interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of major themes and developments in history and culture of the American continents, from the late fifteenth century to the present. 1b. understanding of methodologies within the discipline of American Studies (especially “close reading” and “contextualization”), as well as familiarity with theories relevant to the analysis of culture, politics, society, and media in the Americas.

<p>whilst supported by advanced textbooks, includes some aspects that will be informed by knowledge of the forefront of their field of study.</p>	
<p>Applying Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p>Students can apply their knowledge and understanding in a manner that indicates a professional approach to their work or vocation, and have competences typically demonstrated through devising and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study.</p>	<p>2a. the ability to close-read a wide variety of texts, and contextualize them within broader events and developments in the Americas.</p> <p>2b. the ability to work constructively with others to accomplish specific goals.</p> <p>2c. the ability to plan and complete appropriate coursework in the form of argument-driven essays.</p> <p>2d. the ability to organize and carry out a substantial research project (i.e. a 8,000-word thesis) within an established time frame.</p> <p>2e. awareness of and commitment to scholarly standards in terms of accuracy, ethical behavior, and breadth of sources used and cited in assignments and in the final BA thesis.</p>
<p>Making Informed Judgments and Choices</p> <p>Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) to inform judgements that include reflection on relevant social, scientific or ethical issues.</p>	<p>3a. the ability to conduct guided and semi-independent research, as well as to gather, select, and critically evaluate relevant information from print and electronic resources.</p> <p>3b. the ability to select relevant insights from a range of disciplines to critically examine contemporary sociopolitical challenges facing multicultural societies.</p> <p>3c. the ability to form well-grounded opinions about U.S. politics, culture, and media, taking into account historical specificities and power relations.</p>
<p>Communicating Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p>Students can communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.</p>	<p>4 a. the ability to communicate effectively the results of one’s research to both academic and non-specialist audiences, in both written and oral presentations.</p> <p>4b. the ability to communicate effectively in an international and intercultural context.</p> <p>4c [E]. proficiency in the target language of English at C2 level (near native) in the areas of listening and reading, and at C1 level (proficient) in written and spoken production (based on the CEFR).</p> <p>4c [S]. proficiency in the target language of English at C2 level (near native) in the areas of listening and reading, and at C1 level (proficient) in written and spoken production, and have demonstrated proficiency in the target language of Spanish at A2/B1 level in the areas of listening, reading, writing and speaking (based on the CEFR), depending on their prior knowledge of Spanish</p>
<p>Capacities to Continue Learning</p> <p>Students have developed those learning skills that are necessary for them to continue to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.</p>	<p>5a. domain-specific and general knowledge, understanding, and skills to undertake independent research in academic (second-cycle degree programs requiring BA-level domain specific knowledge) or workplace contexts.</p> <p>5b. the requisite intercultural awareness and skills to successfully work in an international employment and/or academic context.</p>

* 4c [E] This learning outcome applies to students who do not opt for the Spanish Specialization Option as part of their electives.

* 4c [S] This learning outcome applies to students who choose the Spanish Specialization Option in year 2. Students with little or no previous knowledge of Spanish will reach level A2. Students who qualify for the advanced level Spanish course will reach B1. Students who have chosen the Spanish Specialization Option in year 2 have the possibility of taking additional 10 EC of Spanish language courses during their Study Abroad period.

See appendix 1 for the *Matrix of realized learning outcomes / course units* in the degree programme.

Article 3.2 Language of instruction

1. The degree programme is taught in *English*.
2. All assignments, including the BA Thesis, must be written in English.

Article 3.3 Contact hours

1. The introductory phase of the degree programme comprises a minimum of 480 contact hours a year.
2. The post-introductory phase of the degree programme comprises a minimum of 360 contact hours a year.
3. The contact hours are divided as follows:

Contact time	Number of contact hours per year
Lectures/seminars (incl. Minor)	350
Progress supervision/mentor system/one-on-one supervision	31
Exams/assessment incl. follow-up	96
Other regular hours	7
Total	484

SECTION 4 THE INTRODUCTORY PHASE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 4.1 Structure of the introductory phase

1. The introductory phase comprises the following course units with their related student workloads:

Year 1

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Theories of Culture Ia	5
2	Theories of Culture Ib	5
3	The Americas Ia	5
4	The Americas Ib	5
5	American Studies in Practice Ia	5
6	American Studies in Practice Ib	5
7	North & South Americas I	5
8	North & South Americas II	5
9	The Americas IIa	5

10	The Americas IIb	5
11	American Politics I	5
12	American Politics II	5

All course units are listed in the online course catalogue OCASYS.

- The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus of each individual course unit and the assessment plan of the degree programme.
- In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved upon completion of the degree programme.

SECTION 5 THE POST-INTRODUCTORY PHASE OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 5.1 Structure of the post-introductory phase

- The post-introductory phase comprises the following course units with their related student workloads:

Year 2

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
13	The Americas IIIa	5
14	The Americas IIIb	5
15	American Studies in Practice IIa	5
16	American Studies in Practice IIb	5
17	Theories of Culture II: Media Theory	5
18	Theories of Culture II: Political Theory	5
19	Global USA I: Business, Work and Wealth*	5
20	Global USA II: Business, Work and Wealth*	5
21	Media Specialization I*	5
22	Media Specialization II*	5
23	Special Topics **	20

Year 3

	Minor(see article 6.1 in part A of this TER)	30
24	Theories of Culture IIIa	5
25	Theories of Culture IIIb	5
26	Research Seminar	10
27	Bachelor Thesis	10

* Students choose 10 EC of either Global USA or Media Specialization.

** Students choose two of several course units per block. In total they take 20 EC, 10 in each block.

All course units are listed in the online course catalogue OCASYS.

- The modes of instruction and assessment for the course units listed above are set out in the syllabus of each individual course unit and the assessment plan of the degree programme.
- In situations of force majeure, when it is not reasonably possible to provide teaching in the manner stated in OCASYS, alternative modes of instruction and assessment may temporarily be used. This is on condition that the prescribed learning outcomes are still achieved upon completion of the degree programme.

SECTION 6 TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 6.1 Compulsory order

The course units listed below and their related examinations may not be taken before the examinations for the associated course units have been passed, or, if explicitly stated, the course units have been satisfactorily followed – unless the Board of Examiners has made a different decision in a particular case:

No.	Course unit	No.	After passing course unit
13/14	The Americas IIIa and IIIb		The Americas I (A and B) OR The Americas II (A and B)
15/16	American Studies in Practice IIa and American Studies in Practice IIb		American Studies in Practice Ia and Ib
	Study abroad		Propaedeutic phase American Studies in Practice IIa and IIb and six additional second-year AS courses (total of 40 EC)
24 /25	Theories of Culture IIIa and IIIb		Propaedeutic phase
26	Research Seminar		Propaedeutic phase American Studies in Practice IIa and IIb
27	Bachelor Thesis		Propaedeutic phase American Studies in Practice IIa and IIb two additional second-year AS courses: Theories of Culture II: Media Theory, II: Political Theory, The Americas IIIa, or IIIb

SECTION 7 TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 7.1 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to part A of these Regulations will, following the recommendation by and/or upon the approval of the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. Any amendments to part B of these Regulations will, following the recommendation by and/or upon the approval of the Programme Committee and the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
3. Any amendments to these Regulations will not apply to the current academic year, unless it may reasonably be assumed that the amendment in question will not harm the interests of students.
4. In addition, an amendment may not influence any other decision concerning a student taken by the Board of Examiners under these Regulations to the disadvantage of students.

Article 7.2 – Publication

1. The Faculty Board shall duly publish these Regulations, any rules and guidelines formulated by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents.

2. Copies of the documents referred to in Article 7.2.1 are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal.

Article 7.3 – Date of commencement

These Regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2023.

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 30 May 2023 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Assessment plan

Matrix learning outcomes Bachelor degree programme American Studies

	1. Acquiring Knowledge and understanding		2. Applying Knowledge and Understanding					3. Making informed judgement and choices			4. Communicating Knowledge and understanding				5. Capacities to continue learning	
	1a	1b	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	3a	3b	3c	4a	4b [E]	4b [S]*	4c	5a	5b
Theories of Culture Ia	X		X									X				
Theories of Culture Ib	X	X	X					X	X	X						
The Americas Ia	X		X						X	X						
The Americas Ib	X		X		X				X	X						
North & South Americas I	X		X	X				X	X	X		X	X			
North & South Americas II	X		X	X				X	X	X		X	X			
American Studies in Practice Ia		X	X		X											
American Studies in Practice Ib		X	X	X			X	X			X					
The Americas IIa	X	X	X		X					X						
The Americas IIb	X	X	X		X					X						
American Politics I	X		X		X				X	X						
American Politics II			X	X	X				X	X						
The Americas IIIa	X	X	X		X					X						
The Americas IIIb	X	X	X		X			X		X						
American Studies in Practice IIa		X	X		X		X	X			X					
American Studies in Practice IIb		X	X				X	X			X					
Theories of Culture II: Political Theory		X	X		X					X						

	1a	1b	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	3a	3b	3c	4a	4b [E]	4b [S]*	4c	5a	5b
Theories of Culture II: Media Theory		X	X					X		X						
Special Topics [varies]																
Global USA I	X		X		X				X	X						
Global USA II	X		X		X				X	X						
Media Specialization I			X					X		X		X				
Media Specialization II			X		X			X	X	X	X					
Study Abroad or alternative designated minor												X	X			X
Theories of Culture IIIa		X							X	X						
Theories of Culture IIIb		X							X	X						
Research Seminar	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X				X	
BA Thesis	X	X	X			X	X	X			X			X	X	
BA Internship												X				X