FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

Part B: Master's degree programme in:

North American Studies
ISAT 60845

- **Master's track American Studies**

for academic year 2025-2026

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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 the Master'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 degree programme in **American Studies**

Section 2 Admission

Article 2.1 – Entry requirements

1. Students with a Dutch or foreign certificate of higher education that indicates that they have acquired the following knowledge, skills and attitudes shall be admitted to the degree programme: knowledge and understanding of and subject-specific skills in American Studies at Bachelor's degree level.
2. Holders of a certificate from the Bachelor's degree programme in American Studies of the University of Groningen or from another Dutch university are expected to have the knowledge, understanding and skills listed in Article 2.1.1 and will be admitted to the degree programme on that basis.
3. Holders of a certificate from the Bachelor's degree programme in
   - History
   - Media Studies
   - English Language and Culture
   - Arts, Culture and Media
   - International Relations and International Organisation
   - Art History
   - Middle Eastern Studies
   - European Languages and Cultures
   - Archaeology
   - Greek and Latin Language and Culture

   of the University of Groningen with a premaster minor North American Studies are expected to have the knowledge, understanding and skills listed in article 2.1.1 and will be admitted to the degree programme on that basis.
4. The Admissions Board is responsible for assessing whether students with or without a Bachelor's degree are admissible on the basis of sufficient knowledge, understanding and skills at the level of a Bachelor's degree.

Article 2.2 – Language requirements for foreign certificates

1. Students who have been admitted to a degree programme on the basis of a foreign certificate or degree may be asked by the Board of Examiners – before registration – to pass an English language test, to be administered by an agency stipulated by the Board.
2. The English language proficiency requirement will be met by passing an examination in English at the level of the Dutch VWO final exam, or by passing the TOEFL internet-based test with a score of at least 100, with a minimum score for speaking and writing of 25 (each), or an IELTS score of at least 7.0 (with a minimum of 6.5 for all components).

Article 2.3 – Admission to Master's tracks

In addition to the provisions of Article 2.1, the following admission requirements apply to the various Master's tracks specializations in this degree programme:
n/a

Section 3 Content and structure of the degree programme

Article 3.1 – Student workload

1. The degree programme has a student workload of 60 ECTS.
2. The student workload is expressed in whole ECTS credit points.

Article 3.2 – Learning outcomes of the degree programme

Dublin Descriptors for MA Level	*Learning Outcomes for the MA Degree Programme in North American Studies articulated in Key Competences* A Master's Degree Programme in North American Studies is awarded to students who demonstrate:
Acquiring Knowledge and Understanding Graduates have demonstrated knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and extends and/or enhances what is typically associated	1a. in-depth interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of specific developments in cultures, politics, and media of the American continents, and their relevance in a global context.

with the Bachelor's level and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context.	1b. an understanding of the history of the field of American Studies both in the United States and Europe, and of how different conceptual, theoretical, and methodological approaches relevant to that field can be synthesized into interdisciplinary frameworks for understanding American culture.
Applying Knowledge and Understanding Graduates have the ability to apply their knowledge, understanding and problem-solving abilities in new and unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study; they are also able to integrate their knowledge and process complex materials.	2a. the ability to independently apply one or more theories and methodologies of the core disciplines of American Studies to the analysis of specific sociopolitical and/or cultural problems in the Americas, past or present. 2b. the ability to work constructively with others to accomplish specific goals. 2c. the ability to plan and complete appropriate coursework in the form of argument-driven research essays 2d. the ability to organize and carry out a substantial research project (i.e. a 15,000-word dissertation) within an established time frame. 2e. advanced awareness of and commitment to scholarly standards in terms of accuracy, ethical behavior, and the breadth of sources used and cited in assignments and in the final dissertation.
Making Informed Judgments and Choices Graduates have the ability to formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information that includes reflecting on the social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements.	3a. the ability to formulate and refine a significant research problem, as well as to gather, select, and critically evaluate relevant information from a wide variety of print, archival, and electronic resources. 3b. the ability to integrate relevant insights from a range of disciplines to critically examine, and articulate possible solutions to, contemporary sociopolitical challenges facing multicultural societies.

	3c. the ability to form well-grounded opinions, and engage in informed debate about U.S. politics, culture, and media, taking into account the historical and global dimensions of those problems.
Communicating Knowledge and Understanding Graduates have the ability to communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.	4a. the ability to communicate effectively and convincingly the results of one's research, and to present complex/abstract information, to both academic and non-specialist audiences, in both writing and oral presentations. 4b. the ability to work and communicate effectively in an international and intercultural context, in-person and using digital technologies. 4c. proficiency in the target language of English at C2 level (near native) in the areas of listening and reading, in written and spoken production (based on the CEFR).
Capacities to Continue Learning: Students have developed those learning skills that are necessary for them to continue to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.	5a. domain-specific and general knowledge, understanding and skills to study autonomously and to formulate an original research problem, in academic (third cycle degree programs requiring MA-level domain specific knowledge) or workplace contexts. 5b. the ability to demonstrate up-to-date knowledge about current developments in the United States and/or in the field of American Studies, and to fill specific knowledge gaps. 5c. the requisite intercultural awareness and skills to successfully work in an international employment and/or academic context.

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

Article 3.3 Language of instruction

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

Article 3.4 – Master's tracks

The degree programme has the following Master's tracks:

No.	Master's track
1	American Studies

Article 3.5 – Content of the curriculum

1. The degree programme comprises the following course units with their student workload:

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	MA Seminar I	10
2	MA Seminar II	10
3	Histories and Methods of American Studies*	10
4	MA Seminar III: Writing for the Real World	10
5	MA Dissertation	20
6	Internship** OR:	10
7	Study Abroad***	10

* Mandatory.
** Students have the option to replace one MA Seminar with an Internship, which is relevant to the nature and level of the degree programme.

*** Pending availability of exchange places and eligibility, students have the option of spending one semester at one of the institutions in the Americas with which the degree programme has a formal exchange agreement. Students doing course work in North America will fulfill the program requirements by acquiring a total of 10 ECTS in the US. For visa purposes, they need to complete the equivalent of 3 research seminars at 400 level or higher. However, the additional 20 ECTS accrued (necessary to maintain full-time student status in the US) are "extra" credits that will be listed in the diploma supplement, but are *not* required for graduating from our program.
NOTE: The Study Abroad option makes it impossible to finish the program in one year; it will, in fact, add an additional semester to the nominal duration of the program.

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

2. 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.
3. 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 4 Assessment within the degree programme

Article 4.1 – Compulsory order

The examinations for the course units listed below may not be taken before the examinations for the associated course units have been passed:

No.	Course unit	No.	After passing course unit
5	MA Dissertation		Histories and Methods of American Studies 1 MA Seminar

SECTION 5 TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 5.1 – 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 5.2 – 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 5.2.1 are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal.

Article 5.3 – Date of commencement

These Regulations shall take effect on 17 October 2025.

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 17 October 2025 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required.

Appendices:
Appendix 1: Assessment plan