



university of
 groningen

FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

Part B - Bachelor's degree programme in: American Studies ISAT 50623

for the academic year 2026-2027

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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, whilst supported by advanced	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.

textbooks, includes some aspects that will be informed by knowledge of the forefront of their field of study.	1c The student has knowledge of one or two overarching themes within the humanities, and can explain the consequences of these themes for the knowledge domain of American Studies.
Applying Knowledge and Understanding 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.	2a. the ability to close-read a wide variety of texts, and contextualize them within broader events and developments in the Americas. 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 essays. 2d. the ability to organize and carry out a substantial research project (i.e. a 8,000-word thesis) within an established time frame. 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.
Making Informed Judgments and Choices 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.	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. 3b. the ability to select relevant insights from a range of disciplines to critically examine contemporary sociopolitical challenges facing multicultural societies. 3c. the ability to form well-grounded opinions about U.S. politics, culture, and media, taking into account historical specificities and power relations.
Communicating Knowledge and Understanding Students can communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	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. 4b. the ability to communicate effectively in an international and intercultural context. 4c 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).
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 undertake independent research in academic (second-cycle degree programs requiring BA-level domain specific knowledge) or workplace contexts. 5b. 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 3.2 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 first year of the degree programme comprises 422 contact hours a year.
2. The contact hours in the first year are divided as follows:

Contact time	Number of contact hours per year
Lectures/seminars	290
Progress supervision/mentor system/one-on-one supervision	31
Exams/assessment incl. follow-up	94
Other regular hours	7
Total	422

3. The second and third years of the degree programme comprise a minimum of 331 contact hours a year.

SECTION 4 – THE FIRST YEAR OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 4.1 Structure of the first year

1. The first year consists of the following course units with the assigned workload in ECTS:

Year 1

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Theories of Culture Ia	5
2	Theories of Culture Ib	5
3	The Americas I	10
4	American Studies in Practice I	10
5	The Americas II	10
6	American Politics	10
7	Faculty-wide course 1*	10

*BA1 students participate in Stories We Live By: Mediating Identities

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

- a. 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 (appendix 1) of the degree programme.
- a. 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 SECOND AND THIRD YEARS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 5.1 Structure of the second and third years

1. The second and third years comprises the following course units with their related workload:

Year 2

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
8	The Americas III	10
9	American Studies in Practice II	10
10	North & South Americans	10
11	Theories of Culture II	10
12	Special Topic 1	5
13	Special Topic 2	5
14	Special Topic 3	5
15	Special Topic 4	5

Year 3

16	Minor (see article 6.1 in part A of this TER)	30
17	Research Seminar	10
18	Faculty-wide course 2	10
19	Bachelor Thesis	10

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

- o. 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 (appendix 1) of the degree programme.
- o. 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 – MINOR

Article 6.1 Structure of the faculty minor “American Studies”

- The minor consists of the following course units with the assigned workload in ECTS:

Track “Critical Theory”

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	American Studies in Practice II	10
2	Theories of Culture Ia	5
3	Theories of Culture Ib	5
4	Theories of Culture II	10

Track “U.S. Politics”

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	American Studies in Practice II	10
2	Americas I: The American Century and Beyond	10
3	American Politics	10

Track U.S. History

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Americas I: The American Century and Beyond	10
2	The Americas III: From Exploration to Early Republic	10
3	Theories of Culture II	10

Article 6.2 Structure of the university minor “Rhetorics”

- The minor consists of the following course units with the assigned workload in ECTS:

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
1	Rhetoric Lab	10
2	Secrets of Rhetoric	10
3	Rhetorics of Politics and Media	10

SECTION 7 TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAMME

Article 7.1 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
8	The Americas III	3 5	The Americas I OR The Americas II (A and B)
9	American Studies in Practice II	4	American Studies in Practice Ia and Ib
	Study abroad	9	First year of the degree program American Studies in Practice II And 30 EC of additional second-year AS courses (e.g., six 5 EC courses or three 10 EC courses or some combination)
	Theories of Culture III		First year of the degree program

17	Research Seminar	9	First year of the degree program American Studies in Practice II
19	Bachelor Thesis	9 11/ 8	First year of the degree program American Studies in Practice II 10 EC of additional second-year AS courses: either Theories of Culture II: Media Theory and II: Political Theory, or The Americas III

SECTION 8 – TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 8.1 – Transitional arrangements

Who is affected and when?

Because these changes are implemented in the 2026-27 academic year, all students who entered the program in 2024-25 or 2025-26 will be affected. Students who entered before 2024 and who have study delays may also be affected.

In response to this, the following transition arrangements are proposed:

- Students who entered the program in 2024-25* will follow the new BA3 curriculum in 2026-27 (Faculty-wide course 2 instead of Theories of Culture 3).
- Students who entered the program in academic year 2025-26* will follow:
 - North and South Americans 1 and 2 in BA1 semester 2;
 - Theories of Culture in BA 2 semester 1;
 - and Faculty-wide Course 1 in BA2 semester 2.
 - To accommodate this transition, in the academic year 2026-27, Theories of Culture 2: Politics and Media will be taught in semester 1. It will move to semester 2 in the academic year 2027-28.
 - The table below shows the sequence for students entering 2025-26:

Year	Semester 1	Semester 2	
BA1 2025-6	Americas I ASiP 1a and 1b Theories of Culture 1a and 1b	Americas 2a and 2b American Politics 1 and 2 North and South American 1 and 2	
BA2 2026-7	Americas III ASiP 2 Theories of Culture 2	Spec. Topics 1 (5) Spec. Topics 3 (5) Spec. Topics 2 (5) Spec. Topics 4 (5) Faculty-wide course 1	

BA3 2027-8	Minor	MMT (10) BA Thesis (10) <i>Faculty-wide course 2</i>	
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- o. *Students who entered the program before 2025-2026* may need to take or resit a course that has been eliminated in order to complete their study program. This applies to: Theories of Culture 3; Theories of Culture 2: Media Theory; Global USA; and Cultural Analysis. Students who need to take or resit one of these courses will have to contact the study advisor and, in consultation with the advisor and relevant instructors and subject to their approval, they will have the following options:
 - . follow one or two Faculty-wide courses (not exceeding 20 EC total) to replace courses that have been eliminated from the TER;
 - a. follow a Special Topics course that has similar course material and learning outcomes to the course that needs to be resat (subject to program coordinator approval);
 - b. if the former instructor and/or the program coordinator of the eliminated course agrees, the student may attempt an additional resit for the course that was eliminated.
- o. *All students who enter the program before 2026-2027:* Students who need to take or resit one part of a former a/b or 1/2 course should discuss their situation with the study advisor. In most cases, an extra resit attempt can be granted by submitting a new final assignment, with or without following (part of) the merged 10 EC course. In some cases, substitutions may be possible. (For example, a Special Topics or Faculty-Wide course). In no case can a course with 1) identical or similar content and 2) learning outcomes be completed more than once for credit. All of this is subject to study advisor and instructor approval.
- 0. Nota Bene: transitional resits may take other forms than the original exam.

ASSESSMENT PLAN – MATRIX LEARNING OUTCOMES

See appendix 1 for assessment plan

See appendix 2 for matrix learning outcomes

Article 8.2 Amendments

1. Any amendments to part A of these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or subject to the approval of the Programme Committee and in consultation with – and where necessary subject to the approval of – the Faculty Council, be adopted by the Faculty Board in a separate decision.
2. Any amendments to part B of these Regulations will, following a recommendation by and/or subject to the approval of the Programme Committee and in consultation with – and where necessary subject to the approval of – the Faculty Council, be adopted by the Faculty Board in a separate decision.
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 that student.

Article 8.3 Publication

1. The Faculty Board will duly publish these Regulations, the Rules and Regulations formulated by the Board of Examiners, and any amendments to these documents.
2. Any interested party may obtain a copy of the documents referred to in Article 8.3.1 from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via the Student Portal.

Article 8.4 – Entry into force

These Regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2026.

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 23 June 2026 and approved by the Faculty Council and the Programme Committee where required on 18 June 2026.