



**rijksuniversiteit  
groningen**

FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

**Part B - Bachelor's degree programme in:**

**American Studies**

**for academic year 2020-2021**

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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:
<b>Acquiring Knowledge and Understanding</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 a. have demonstrated broad, interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of major themes and developments in the history, culture, society, politics and economics of the Americas from the late fifteenth century to the present</li><li>1 b. have demonstrated broad, comparative knowledge and understanding of the United States’ role and position within transatlantic, inter-American, and global contexts</li></ol>

	<p>1 c. have demonstrated general understanding of the main theories and methodologies of the core disciplines relevant to the domain of American Studies, including cultural studies and cultural theory, political science, popular culture and media studies, history, literature, sociology, economics, and constitutional law</p> <p>1 d. have demonstrated understanding and knowledge of ways in which cultures and societies in the Americas have been shaped by U.S. ideologies (including individualism, exceptionalism, consumerism, free-market capitalism, manifest destiny, the American Dream, as well as ideologies of race, class, gender, and religion), and have demonstrated understanding of the role of the media in institutionalizing and critiquing those ideologies</p>
<p><b>Applying Knowledge and Understanding</b></p>	<p>2 a. can apply the requisite research skills, knowledge and tools (including online and digital tools and learning environments) to select, analyze, process, and critically evaluate large amounts of new information from a variety of disciplinary domains, and present their research results, both orally and in writing, by making effective use of relevant and appropriate theories, methodologies and IT technologies</p> <p>2 b. are able to apply theories and methodologies of the core disciplines relevant to the domain of American Studies, including cultural studies and cultural theory, political science, popular culture and media studies, history, literature, sociology, economics, and constitutional law to specific problems, new contexts, and concrete situations within the domain of American Studies and related fields; and are also able to understand and analyze the ways in which contemporary societies are shaped by ideologies and the media, and to develop critical responses to concrete questions within the domain of American Studies and beyond</p> <p>2 c. have shown an awareness of cultural and socio-political problems stemming from different forms of inequality in contemporary multicultural societies, notably in the United States and the Americas and are able to articulate possible solutions on the basis of theoretical, ethical, and practical reasoning</p> <p>2 d. can produce logical, critical, conceptually and theoretically sound, creative, and (partly) original argumentative essays and reflect critically on the situatedness of their own perspective</p> <p>2 e. can make constructive contributions to group projects by taking the initiative and demonstrating leadership potential</p> <p>2 f. have the cognitive and practical skills to offer viable solutions for complex problems that require originality, creativity, flexibility in thinking to resolve, as well as the ability to adopt multiple perspectives and tools offered by a range of different disciplines</p> <p>2 g. are able to take responsibility, show initiative, plan and manage projects, work under time pressure, and conduct themselves ethically (both academically and interpersonally)</p>
<p><b>Making Informed Judgments and Choices</b></p>	<p>3 a. are able to conduct guided and semi-independent research, to evaluate critically relevant primary and secondary sources and other information.</p>

	<p>3 b. have the ability to select and integrate relevant methodologies and theories of relevant disciplines within American Studies in a critical and interdisciplinary analysis of complex social, cultural, historical and political problems in the United States and its relation to other countries in the Americas</p> <p>3 c. are able to form grounded opinions about major social, political, and economic issues in U.S. society, as well as the role that ideology and the media play in those issues</p> <p>3 d. are able to re-evaluate their views of the United States and contrasting cultures (in the wider American hemisphere and beyond) within the context of their own lives and experiences</p>
<p><b>Communicating Knowledge and Understanding</b></p>	<p>4 a. have the ability to communicate effectively in English, both orally and in writing, the results of their research and to present complex information in a clear and concise manner to specialist and non-specialist audiences</p> <p>4 b. [E]* have demonstrated 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>4 b.[S]* have demonstrated 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>4 c. are able to demonstrate sensitivity to and respect for cultural differences and have the ability to deal effectively with potential differences of background, opinion and/or values; to work and communicate effectively in an international and intercultural context</p>
<p><b>Capacities to Continue Learning</b></p>	<p>5 a. possess the appropriate learning skills and strategies to independently identify and fill specific knowledge gaps and stay up-to-date with current developments in the domain of American Studies and related fields</p> <p>5 b. have the ability to successfully undertake specialized second cycle degree programmes requiring BA-level domain-specific knowledge and understanding as well as independent research skills, in particular in American Studies and related fields, as well as Research Master programmes, both in Europe and North America</p> <p>5 c. have acquired the requisite intercultural awareness and respect to successfully complete advanced academic course work at a partner institution in the United States, as well as in future international employment contexts</p>

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

\* 4b [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
<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>

## 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	Rhetoric and Composition Ia	5
6	Rhetoric and Composition 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	U.S. Political Culture I	5
12	U.S. Political Culture II	5

\* Students choose 1 of several course units.

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.

## 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	Rhetoric and Composition II: Constructing an Argument	5
16	Rhetoric and Composition II: The Research Paper	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: A Historical Approach *	5
222	Special Topics **	20
3		

Year 3

	Minor(see article 6.1 in part A of this TER)	30
23	Theories of Culture III: Consumer Nation	5
24	Theories of Culture III: Globalization and Sustainability	5
25	Research Seminar: Migration, Mobility, Transculturation	10
26	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.

## 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 III and IIIb		The Americas I (A and B) OR

			The Americas II (A and B)
15/16	Rhetoric and Composition II: Constructing an Argument and II: The Research Paper		Rhetoric and Composition Ia and Ib
	Study abroad		Propaedeutic phase Rhetoric and Composition IIa and IIb The Americas IIIa and IIIb
23/24	Theories of Culture III: Consumer Nation and III: Globalization and Sustainability		Propaedeutic phase Rhetoric and Composition IIa and IIb Theories of Culture II: Constructing an Argument and II: The Research Paper
25	Research Seminar		Propaedeutic phase Rhetoric and Composition IIa and IIb Theories of Culture II: Media Theory and II: Political Theory
26	Bachelor Thesis		Propaedeutic phase Rhetoric and Composition II: Constructing an Argument and II: The Research Paper one additional second-year AS course: either Theories of Culture II: Media Theory and II: Political Theory or The Americas IIIa and 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 2020.

These Regulations were decreed by the Board of the Faculty of Arts on 28 September 2020 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 <sup>1</sup>

	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	1c	1d	1e	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g		3a	3b	3c	3d	4a	4b [E]	4b [S]*	4c	5a	5b	5c
Theories of Culture I			x	x			x	x										x	x					
The Americas I	x	X		x				x								x		x	x					
North & South Americas		x		X				x		x							x	x	x		x			
Rhetoric and Composition I							x	x						x		x		x	x					
The Americas II	x	x		x				x										x	x					
Political Culture	X		x	x		x		x	x	X				X	x			x	x					
The Americas III	x	X		x				x										x	x					
Rhetoric and Composition II						X			x	x				x		x		X	X					
Theories of Culture II			X			x	x		x					x	x			x	x					
Special Topics						x			x					x				x	x	x				
Global USA		X		x					X					X	x		x	x	x					
Media Specialization			x	X		x			X					X	x	x		x	x					
Study Abroad or alternative designated minor					x													x	x		X	X	x	X
Theories of Culture III			X	x			x								x	x		x	x					
Research Seminar		x	x	x		x	x	X	X		X	x		X	x			x	x			x	x	

<sup>1</sup> Lower case “x” indicates that the course is working towards the realization of this learning outcome; upper case “X” indicates that the learning outcome is fully realized in this course

\* Learning outcome 4b [S] applies to students choosing the Spanish Specialization Option as one of their electives.

BA Thesis				X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X			x	X		
BA Internship												X					X					X	x	X	X