



**rijksuniversiteit  
groningen**

FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

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

## **American Studies**

**for academic year 2016-2017**

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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 – Admission to the degree programme with a HBO propaedeutic certificate**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2.3 of Part A of these Teaching and Examination Regulations, the following additional requirement applies to this degree programme: English at VWO final exam level. The English language proficiency requirement can be met by presenting one of the following:

- IELTS Academic Module: 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 for all components);
- Internet-based (itb) TOEFL: 80;
- Other qualifications may be acceptable as determined by the Admissions Board.

### **Article 2.3 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 2.4 Language requirement 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 Admissions Board – before registration – to pass an English language test, to be administered by an agency stipulated by the Board.
2. The English language proficiency requirement: IELTS Academic Module: 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 for all components); or Internet-based (itb) TOEFL: 80; Cambridge certificate and IB diploma (levels to be determined). Other qualifications may be acceptable as determined by the Admissions Board.

### **Article 2.5 – 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>
<b>Acquiring Knowledge and Understanding</b>	<p>A Bachelor Degree in American Studies is awarded to students who:</p> <ul 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> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>1 e. have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of a complementary disciplinary domain, delivered as a designated minor Programme (Study Abroad or equivalent), aimed at deepening or broadening the major Programme</li> </ul>
<b>Applying Knowledge and Understanding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>2 b. are able to apply the theoretical and conceptual tools acquired in ToC I, II and III 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</li> <li>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</li> </ul>

	<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>
<b>Making Informed Judgments and Choices</b>	<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>
<b>Communicating Knowledge and Understanding</b>	<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. 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 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>
<b>Capacities to Continue Learning</b>	<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</p>

	successfully complete advanced academic course work at a partner institution in the United States, as well as in future international employment contexts
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**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:

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 I	10
6	North & South Americas Ia	5
7	North & South Americas Ib	5
8	The Americas IIa	5
9	The Americas IIb	5
10	Special Topics a	5
11	Special Topics b	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.

#### Article 4.2 – Practical exercises

The course units listed below will not be concluded with an written exam. These course units are passed by successfully taking part in one or more practical exercises: N/A

### 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:

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
12	The Americas III: From Exploration to Early Republic	10
	Minor	10
13	Rhetoric and Composition II	10
14	Theories of Culture II: Media and Popular Culture	10
	Minor	10
15	Special Topics II <sup>1</sup>	10
	Designated Minor <sup>2</sup>	30
16	Theories of Culture III: Consumer Capitalism	10
17	Research Seminar	10
18	Bachelor Thesis	10

<sup>1</sup> Students choose one of several course units.

<sup>2</sup> Either Study Abroad or optional modules related to the major.  
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.

#### Article 5.2 – Practical exercises

The course units listed below will not be concluded with an exam. These course units are passed by successfully taking part in one or more practical exercises: N/A

### SECTION 6 MINORS

#### Article 6.1 Faculty Minor

##### For students who started the degree programme before September 2016

The degree programme has the following Faculty Minors, from which the student must choose one:

Minors
1. Spanish
2. Communication and Information Science
3. Media and Journalistic Culture

4. Film Studies
5. International Relations
6. Non-Western Studies

## Article 6.2 – Transitional arrangements for Minors

### For students who started the degree programme on 1 September 2016 or later.

1. Transitional arrangements have been drawn up for Faculty Minors which are being phased out from September 2016 onwards. These arrangements are included as an Appendix to these Regulations.
2. A more detailed description of the new-style Faculty Minors will be included in the Teaching and Examination Regulations 2017-2018.

## 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
12	The Americas III: From Exploration to Early Republic		The Americas I (A and B) OR The Americas II (A and B)
13	Rhetoric and Composition II		Rhetoric and Composition I
	Designated minor/Study abroad		Propaedeutic phase Rhetoric and Composition II The Americas III
18	Theories of Culture III: Consumer Nation		Propaedeutic phase Rhetoric and Composition II Theories of Culture II
19	Research Seminar		Propaedeutic phase Rhetoric and Composition II Theories of Culture II
20	Bachelor Thesis		Propaedeutic phase Rhetoric and Composition II Theories of Culture II

## SECTION 8 TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

### Article 8.1 – Amendments

1. Any amendments to part A of these Regulations will, after discussion with and where necessary approval from the Faculty Council, be confirmed by the Faculty Board in a separate decree.
2. Any amendments to part B of these Regulations will, after the Departmental Board has put its case and after discussion with and where necessary approval from 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 8.2 – 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 8.2.1 are available from the Faculty Office. These documents can also be found on the Faculty website via 'My University'.

### **Article 8.3 – Date of commencement**

These Regulations shall take effect on 1 September 2016.

As decreed by the Faculty Board on ..... 2016.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Matrix of realized learning outcomes / course units in the degree programme
- Appendix 2: Guidelines for Bachelor's theses
- Appendix 3: Transitional arrangements for Minors



**Matrix learning outcomes Bachelor degree programme American Studies 16-17**

	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	2h	3a	3b	3c	3d	4a	4b	4c	5a	5b
Theories of Culture I	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
The Americas I	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
North & South Americas I	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Rhetoric and Composition I																		x	x	x		
The Americas II	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Special Topics	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x					
The Americas III	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Rhetoric and Composition II																		x	x	x		
Theories of Culture II	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Study Abroad or alternative designated minor	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X					x	x	x	x	x
Theories of Culture III	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Research Seminar	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x				x	x
BA Thesis	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	x	x				x	x
BA Internship														x	x	x	x					