

Course Specialization:

The program “MA North-American Studies” at the University of Cologne includes cooperation of the Department of Anglo-American History, the English Department, the Instituto de Historia Ibérica y Latinoamericana, the Institute for Art History and the Institute for Media Studies at the University of Cologne.

Every semester we admit up to 15 new students to our M.A. program who come to Cologne with a degree in an accredited BA studies program, which provides a pertinent basis for the MA North American Studies. This includes BAs in English and/or American Studies, Political Science, Modern History, Media Studies, Translation, Gender Studies, or Postcolonial Studies. Preferably, you have already attended courses with special attention to North America and its cultures; or you have written a B.A. thesis with a focus on North America.

Requirements:

In order to apply you need

- 1) a B.A. exam in a field that has affinity to North American Studies. That means that you need to provide evidence of at least 60 Credit Points in fields like English or American Literature, Translation Studies, American History, Economics with an American emphasis, American Politics, Gender Studies, Postcolonial Studies or American Film Studies. (These are examples only; the list is not complete)
- 2) an excellent knowledge and understanding of English as the program’s exclusive language of instruction and you should have a thorough understanding of a second European language, preferably French or Spanish (B1 CEF). You need to have passed an English language test on the level of C1 (CEF) before your application. It is no longer necessary that you speak German before you apply, but a good working knowledge of German should be acquired while you study in Cologne. We will not accept German tests administered by lecturers of other universities, you may, however, pass the DAAD written test at the University of Cologne before your application.

Your application with www.uni-assist.de includes a notarized copy of your B.A. certificate and diploma supplement. If you are still enrolled in a B.A. program at the time of your application, please submit your current transcript of grades. You should also download a certified copy of your high school diploma. In order to apply go to <http://www.uni-assist.de/>.

The deadlines for the application are January 15th for the following summer term and July 15th for the winter term.

The Program:

The program combines four modules: Literary & Cultural Studies, History & Society, Postcolonial Studies, and Research (see below). In all modules, students are expected to attend lectures and seminars regularly and actively, to prepare the assigned material for each class. To enhance your success and gain a deeper understanding of each topic, it is recommended to study additional material.

In your courses, you will encounter four different forms of instruction:

The lecture|seminar introduces you to the field and consists of a lecture and an additional reading course (group tutorial).

The lecture conveys more detailed knowledge of a particular area of study.

During the seminar, we discuss specific problems of scientific debate and practice basic techniques of scientific research.

In the colloquium, we focus on methods of transdisciplinary research. Here you will learn how to plan, conceptualize, and conduct your own research project for the MA-thesis.

In order to gain credit for all modules you need to pass a final exam.

In the third semester, you will closely cooperate with one of the scholars involved in the North American Studies program on your MA research project. This individual mentoring process will be

flanked by a group tutorial. At the end of this semester, you are ready to prepare a proposal, outlining the central questions and methods of your MA project. The last term is exclusively dedicated to the writing of a MA-thesis of 150.000 signs maximum (approx. 60 pages text, excluding bibliography or additional material). Students are required to write their thesis in English. The MA-Thesis will be granted 30 CP and will have to be finished after six months. Please note that all modules have to be successfully completed before you can start working on your thesis.

Modules:

1. Literary & Cultural Studies

This core module deals with American literature and culture from its colonial beginnings to the present. The focus is set on the analysis of artistic, aesthetic and cultural practices [text, image, sound]. The module also features the theoretical frameworks for such analyses [literary, media, and cultural theory]. The aim is to provide you with the expertise to perform independent and informed work within the diverse fields of North American Studies.

2. History & Society

The various classes of this module introduce you to the historical dimensions of the societies of Canada, the U.S., and the Caribbean. Concentrating on political history, social and economic history, gender history, intellectual history, and film history, you will acquire methods and techniques to research and interpret historical documents. Special attention will be given to recent debates on methodology and theory within the field of historiography.

3. Postcolonial Studies

Focusing on the societies of Canada, the U.S., and the Caribbean, the seminars and lectures of this module will convey detailed knowledge of central theoretical approaches and key concepts as well as current research questions within the field of Postcolonial Studies. Classes will engage with questions of colonial history and (post-) colonial literatures, exploring the full range of the postcolonial archive, including literature, film, music, and philosophy.

4. Research

This module consists of three colloquia that focus on comparative and methodological aspects of North American Studies. They provide a platform to discuss individual research interests, allow you to position yourself within the academic field, and to develop your MA thesis project continuously from an early stage onward.

Cooperations:

The MA-program works in close cooperation with the North American Studies Program at the University of Bonn. The program also maintains partnerships with the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Mississippi in Jackson.

Career & Opportunities:

The MA-program North American Studies qualifies students as experts in various matters relating to North American Studies, particularly

- Science management
- International organizations/ NGOs
- Foreign service
- Media
- Cultural institutions

- Academia, universities and non-university based organizations such as government or private research foundations

Application

Degrees international: <https://www.uni-assist.de/>

Degree from German universities: <http://phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/31698.html>

Programme management:

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