FACULTY OF ARTS

TEACHING AND EXAMINATION REGULATIONS (OER)

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

ISAT 50623

for the 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 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

Dublin Descriptors for BA Level	*Learning Outcomes for the BA programme in American Studies articulated in Key Competences* 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.	
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 of the degree programme

1. The first year 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 I	10
4	American Studies in Practice Ia	5
5	American Studies in Practice Ib	5
6	North & South Americas I	5
7	North & South Americas II	5
8	The Americas IIa	5
9	The Americas IIb	5
10	American Politics I	5
11	American Politics II	5

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 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 phase comprises the following course units with their related student workloads:

Year 2

No.	Course unit	Student workload in ECTS
12	The Americas III	10
13	American Studies in Practice II	10
14	Theories of Culture II: Media Theory	5
15	Theories of Culture II: Political Theory	5
16	Global USA	5
17	Cultural Analysis in American Studies	5
18	Special Topics	20

Year 3

	Minor(see article 6.1 in part A of this TER)	30
219	Theories of Culture III	10
20	Research Seminar	10
21	Bachelor Thesis	10

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 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
12	The Americas III		The Americas I OR The Americas II (A and B)
13	American Studies in Practice II		American Studies in Practice Ia and Ib
	Study abroad		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)
19	Theories of Culture III		First year of the degree program
20	Research Seminar		First year of the degree program

			American Studies in Practice II
21	Bachelor Thesis		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 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.
5. Transitional arrangement for students entering the program before 2025-2026:
   a) for 10 EC courses that formerly consisted of two 5 EC courses (namely, Americas I, Americas III, American Studies in Practice II, Global USA, Cultural Analysis in American Studies [formerly Media Specialization], and Theories of Culture III): Students who passed one, but not both, 5EC portions of a course that is now 10EC will be granted an additional resit attempt (i.e., after the usual resit opportunity) for the module they failed. Students in other circumstances should speak with the study advisor before the semester begins.
   b) for Global USA and Cultural Analysis in American Studies, which become mandatory 5 EC courses in 2025-26: students who did not pass the 10EC version of one of these courses in 2024-25 or earlier take the 5EC version of both courses to pass this program requirement.

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 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.