



Universität Regensburg

Information about the study



British Studies
American Studies
English Linguistics
(B.A. / M.A.)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN STUDIES

The academic profile of the Department of English and American Studies at the University of Regensburg is shaped by the interplay of three categories: 'identity, diversity, and transformation'. Within a transnational and intercultural theoretical framework, these three categories determine our engagement with the languages, literatures and cultures of the British Isles, North America and the English-speaking regions of Africa, Oceania, and the Caribbean.

From this vantage point of 'identity-diversity-transformation', the English Linguistics section constitutes an internationally well-known and recognized research center in the field of 'World Englishes', which investigates language variation and varieties of English worldwide, including the use of English as a lingua franca in Europe.

Research in the British Studies section encompasses British and Anglophone literatures and cultures from the Middle Ages to the present, from the regional diversities within the British Isles to Anglophone cultures around the globe, including immigrant cultures and 'New English Literatures'.

North American Studies explores the multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and transnationally interrelated diversity of American literatures and cultures from colonial times to the immediate present. Present areas of research include cultures of memory, visual cultures, performance studies and relationships between Europe and America. The internationally recognised Regensburg European American Forum (REAF) serves as a platform to integrate the interdisciplinary agenda of Regensburg American Studies.

In Teaching English as a Foreign Language, we follow a transdisciplinary approach by linking the insights gained from relevant academic disciplines – such as applied linguistics, cultural and literary studies, education, psychology, and sociology – to concerns of ELT practitioners.

The Department of English and American Studies at the University of Regensburg enjoys high national and international renown and has established itself among the leading German research institutes in the field. Its academic profile has always been greatly shaped by an intercultural focus, which is continually strengthened by the continuous realignment of the fields involved at the intersection of linguistics as well as literary and cultural studies.

BRITISH STUDIES AT THE UR

British Studies at the University of Regensburg covers British literatures and cultures from the Middle Ages to the present, as well as English-language literatures and cultures historically affected by British colonialism (except for the United States). Our section of the department focuses both on the regional diversities within the British Isles as well as the global dimensions of Britishness, including immigrant cultures and 'New English Literatures'. Embracing an interdisciplinary approach, British Studies in Regensburg is interested in cultural artefacts and representations and performances in their respective historical frameworks, as well as employing theories and methods from the fields of history, media, theatre studies, history of science, sociology, and gender studies. Additionally, in the age of intense processes of globalisation and postcolonial renewal, intercultural studies have increasingly gained importance. The aim of British Studies, both in research and teaching, is to arrive at an understanding of Britain and Anglophone cultures around the globe that is profoundly tied to historical and theoretical frameworks, enabling students to analyse cultural phenomena and developments with a firm grounding in academic standards and methodologies.

Our research and teaching staff currently focuses on the following areas of specialisation:

Literatures and cultures of British colonialism, Early Modern Studies, (Post-) Victorian Literatures and Cultures, Contemporary British Fiction, Science and Literature Studies, Gender Studies and Queer Literatures, Law and Literature Studies, Irish and Welsh Studies, Scottish Studies, Ecocriticism, Children's and Young Adult Literature, South African Literature.

British Studies is available as a major and as a minor of our joint B. A. programmes as well as the major of our M. A. programme British Studies.

AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UR

American Studies at the University of Regensburg explores the multi-ethnic and multi-lingual diversity of North American literatures and cultures in their regional, national, and global manifestations from colonial times to the present.

As an interdisciplinary project, American Studies examines textual, performative, visual, material, and virtual representations and interpretations of 'America'. American Studies employs methodologies from literary and cultural studies, history, political science, cultural geography, visual culture studies and linguistics. In the context of the internationalization of American Studies, transnational, intercultural and comparative approaches have gained particular significance in recent years.

The Regensburg American Studies program aims at a comprehensive understanding of North America, including both European and American perspectives.

Research and teaching in American Studies at Regensburg emphasize the following areas: American cultural memory, early American studies, American drama and theater, German-American relations, American visual culture studies, American material culture studies, and performance studies.

Degree programs in American Studies at the University of Regensburg are interdisciplinary in scope, transnational in approach and international in outreach. Courses explore the multi-ethnic and multi-lingual diversity of North American histories, politics, cultures, and literatures from early times to the immediate present.

American Studies can be studied both as major and minor of our joint B. A. programs as well as the major of our M. A. program European-American Studies.

ENGLISH LINGUISTICS AT THE UR

Linguistics is widely defined as the scientific study of language. But what does it mean to study a language? Human languages are complex, consisting of a multitude of interrelated layers basically matching those areas of knowledge any speaker or learner of a language must acquire: pronouncing speech sounds, building words, adding grammatical endings, combining words into larger units, understanding both the literal meaning of words and larger units and how a given situation may influence the meaning and the use of language. Hence, English Linguistics attempts to understand and explain the characteristics, manifestations, and conditions of usage of the English language in its cultural contexts based on scientific methodologies and theories.

These areas of knowledge are the focus of the core disciplines of linguistics: phonetics and phonology; word-formation and morphology; syntax; semantics and pragmatics. In-depth familiarity with these subfields of linguistics provides the starting point for venturing into one of the many specialised branches or sub-disciplines of linguistics, like corpus linguistics, computational linguistics, sociolinguistics, language-acquisition, language variation and change, historical linguistics, dialectology, language contact, lexicography, and the historical development of the English language over the centuries (Old English, Middle English, etc.) to name but a few.

The team of English Linguistics here at the University of Regensburg consists of a dynamic group of scholars whose research focuses on language variation and varieties of English and whose contacts and publications are international in orientation and global in outreach.

Through completing a variety of courses in these areas, students should be provided with the knowledge and skills necessary to be able to understand the functions of language and to both produce and interpret specific texts and formulations by taking into consideration both their structural characteristics and their linguistic and cultural context.

In addition, students will be provided with opportunities to engage with language academically via a variety of text corpora, which were partly even produced by members of the department. These electronically created linguistic databases provide students with a broad variety of opportunities for academic and scientific investigation of linguistic matters, such as, for example, the comparison of linguistic varieties or examination of language change(s).

English Linguistics can be studied as both major and minor of the joint B. A. programs as well as major of the M. A. program English Linguistics here at the University of Regensburg.

DEGREE PROGRAMS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND AMERICAN STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts (B. A.)

- B. A. British Studies (Anglistik)
 - B. A. American Studies (Amerikanistik)
 - B. A. English Linguistics (Englische Sprachwissenschaft)
- for further information, please see pp. 8 ff.

Master of Arts (M. A.)

- M. A. British Studies (Britische Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft)
 - M. A. European-American Studies (Europäisch-Amerikanische Studien)
 - M. A. English Linguistics (Englische Linguistik)
- for further information, please see pp. 17 f.

English Language Teaching/Teacher Training

- Lehramt Gymnasium ("vertieft") (9 semesters)
 - Lehramt Real-, Mittel-, Grundschule (English as "Unterrichtsfach") (7 semesters)
 - Lehramt Mittel- or Grundschule (English as "Didaktikfach") (7 semesters)
 - please note: it is possible to study for both a B. A. and in the Teacher Training Program at the same time
- for further information, please consult the separate brochure for English Language Teaching/Teacher Training

Getting a PhD (Promotion)

Please refer to the PhD examination regulations:

- English Linguistics: www.uni-regensburg.de/language-literature-culture/english-linguistics
- British Studies: www-deas.uni-r.de/anglistik
- American Studies: www-deas.uni-r.de/amerikanistik

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

The examination regulations for the combined B. A. at the University of Regensburg specify that these B. A. degrees can consist either of a combination of two majors or of one major and two minors. British Studies, American Studies, and English Linguistics can be chosen as either B. A. major (first major), second major, or minor. It is not possible to combine British Studies, American Studies and English Linguistics.

You can find out more about your options for combining majors and minors in the examination regulations or in the additional information material provided by our Central Department for Course Counseling. All students are strongly encouraged to properly get informed on their subjects and degree before taking up their studies.

A study plan that defines the schedule for the individual semesters of the program cannot be prescribed because of the various possible combinations of majors and minors and the students' different levels of background knowledge and interests.

The examination regulations define which modules need to be completed during the study program. They also state which prerequisites (i.e., individual courses or core modules) must be fulfilled for students to be allowed to do more advanced courses or modules. Within these guidelines, students are free to design their own schedule/curriculum. The decision which courses to do which semester or to take extra courses beyond the compulsory program is subject to individual study preferences. The examination regulations can be found here:

www.uni-regensburg.de/studium/pruefungsordnungen/bachelor/philosophische-fakultaeten/index.html

More details on the individual modules can be found in the module descriptions which can be accessed here:

www.uni-regensburg.de/studium/modulbeschreibungen

On the website of the Department of English and American Studies, we provide a condensed overview of the modules in the form of overview tables:

www-deas.uni-regensburg.de

→ Students → B. A. (Bachelor of Arts) → Structure

You will receive additional information on the structure and contents of your studies during the introductory events aimed at first semester students, which will take place at the beginning of each semester before the official start of the lecture period (see information on enrollment on our homepage before the start of lectures).

MODULARIZATION

The B. A. and M. A. programs are structured into modules which include a certain number of credit points. Upon graduation, students receive a Diploma Supplement and a Transcript of Records.

The ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) is a credit point system in which one credit point is the unit of measurement for the student workload. The scope of academic achievements is quantified in credit points (which are often abbreviated 'LP' according to the German term for credit points: 'Leistungspunkt'). One credit point equals an approximate workload of 25-30 hours (lectures, seminars, preparation, internships, papers, preparation, and follow-up, etc.). For one year of study in a full-time degree program with an average workload, 60 ECTS points (LP) are assumed.

The study program is structured into modules. Thematically related classes, some of which build on each other, are combined to form one module, which usually consists of at least two classes and will take one or two semesters to complete. In modularized subjects, exams usually will take place during the respective lecture period. This means that achievements made in the form of modules will count as part of the overall exam grade or may even replace specific exams altogether.

The Diploma Supplement is an international, English-language attachment to the graduation certificate and provides information on the national higher education system, the university attended, course content completed, the course of study and the qualifications acquired.

The Transcript of Records is a document in which all courses, modules and examinations are listed. It contains both the credit points as well as the grades.

B. A. EXAMINATION

The standard period of study ("Regelstudienzeit"), including the completion of the B. A. thesis, is six semesters. The maximum period of study is eight semesters.

The B. A. examination consists of the course-related examinations in the B. A. major (1st major) and either the second major or the two minors (depending on the combination of majors and minors in the respective student's individual B. A. program), and the B. A. thesis. During the course of study, a total of 180 credit points must be earned. This includes 10 credit points for the successful completion of the B. A. thesis.

Among these 180 cumulative credit points, students may choose 20 freely. These credit points can be acquired through additional non-mandatory courses within the fields of one's own B. A. program or, alternatively, also through courses from other (non-related) fields of study.

The B. A. examination is passed once both the course-related examinations and the B. A. thesis have been successfully completed. The overall grade of the B. A. exam is composed of the cumulative grades of the B. A. major (50%) and the final grade of the second major (30%), or the final grades of the two minors (15 % each) as well as the grade of the B. A. thesis (20%).

MODULE OVERVIEW OF THE B. A. PROGRAMS

All B. A. programs offered by the Department of English and American Studies comprise the areas of English Linguistics, Literary Studies, Cultural Studies, and Language Practice. While the mandatory modules towards the beginning of the study program aim to convey fundamental skills and methodology, specialization takes place in the intermediate and advanced modules

The medium of instruction is English. Only courses with a German title and/or German course description in the annotated course catalog will be held in German. Thus, language skills should be at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) for all language competencies and at level C1 CEFR for receptive language competencies.

Modules: British Studies (B. A.)

British Studies as B. A. Major (First Major)

Sem. 5-6	Advanced Module Skills 6 credit points		Advanced Module British Studies 16 credit points	B. A. Thesis 10 credit points
Sem. 4-5	Intermediate Mod- ule Language 7 credit points		Intermediate Mod- ule British Studies 1 8 credit points	Intermediate Mod- ule British Studies 2 12 credit points
Sem. 1-3	Core Module Lan- guage 10 credit points	Code Module Linguistics 12 credit points	Core Module Liter- ary Studies 12 credit points	Core Module Cul- tural Studies 10 credit points

British Studies as Second Major:

- 4 core modules
- 2 intermediate modules:
Intermediate Module British Studies 2 (12 credit points)
Intermediate Module Language (Second Major) (4 credit points)

British Studies as Minor:

- 2 core modules Language + Cultural Studies (22 credit points)
- 1 core module Literary Studies (Minor) (12 credit points)

For additional information, please consult the module description of your study program:

www.uni-regensburg.de/studium/modulbeschreibungen

To view all compulsory courses on one page, please look at the overview tables:

<http://www.uni-regensburg.de/sprache-literatur-kultur/anglistik-amerikanistik/studium/bachelor-of-arts/studienaufbau/index.html>

Modules: American Studies (B. A.)

American Studies as B. A. Major (First Major)

Sem. 5-6	Advanced Module Skills 6 credit points		Advanced Mod- ule American Studies 16 credit points	B. A. Thesis 10 credit points
Sem. 4-5	Advanced Module Language 7 credit points		Advanced Mod- ule American Studies 1 8 credit points	Advanced Module American Studies 2 12 credit points
Sem. 1-3	Core Module Language 10 credit points	Core Module Linguistics 12 credit points	Core Module Literary Studies 12 credit points	Core Module Cultural Studies 10 credit points

American Studies as Second Major:

- 4 core modules
- 2 intermediate modules:
intermediate module American Studies 2 (12 credit points)
intermediate module (Second Major) (4 credit points)

American Studies as Minor:

- 2 core modules Language + Cultural Studies (22 credit points)
- 1 core module Literary Studies American Studies (Minor) (12 credit points)

For additional information, please consult the module description of your respective study program:

www.uni-regensburg.de/studium/modulbeschreibungen

To view all compulsory courses on one page, please look at the overview tables:

www.uni-regensburg.de/sprache-literatur-kultur/anglistik-amerikanistik/studium/bachelor-of-arts/studienaufbau/index.html

Modules: English Linguistics (B. A).

English Linguistics as B. A. Major (First Major)

Sem. 5-6	Advanced Module Skills 6 credit points	Advanced Module Eng. Linguistics 18 credit points	B. A. Thesis 10 credit points	
Sem. 4-5	Intermediate Mod- ule Language 7 credit points	Intermediate Mod- ule Eng. Ling. A 8 credit points	Intermediate Module Eng. Linguistics B 8 credit points	
Sem. 1-3	Core Module Language 10 credit points	Core Module Lin- guistics 12 credit points	Core Module Lit- erary Studies 12 credit points	Core Module Cultural Studies 10 credit points

English Linguistics as Second Major:

- 4 core modules
- 2 intermediate modules:
intermediate module Eng. Linguistics B Second Major (12 credit points)
intermediate module Language (Second Major) (4 credit points)

English Linguistics as Minor:

- 2 core modules Language (10 credit points) + Cultural Studies (10 credit points)
- 1 core module Linguistics (12 credit points)

For additional information, please consult the module description of your respective study program:

www.uni-regensburg.de/studium/modulbeschreibungen

To view all compulsory courses on one page, please look at the overview tables:

www.uni-regensburg.de/sprache-literatur-kultur/anglistik-amerikanistik/studium/bachelor-of-arts/studienaufbau/index.html

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

Students enrolled in the B. A. programs British Studies, American Studies and English Linguistics are required to provide proof of at least basic knowledge (A1+) of another foreign language by the time they register for their B. A. thesis. This proof of language proficiency can be provided either by documentation of foreign language classes during their primary/secondary education or by enrolling in the foreign language classes offered by the University of Regensburg's Centre for Language and Communication (ZSK). For more information, please consult the list of classes offered by the "Studienbegleitende Fremdsprachenausbildung" of the ZSK:

www.uni-regensburg.de/zentrum-sprache-kommunikation/sfa/

The courses of the Department of English and American Studies are almost exclusively held in English – with only very few exceptions. To ensure a successful course of study, it is essential for prospective students to already have advanced English-language skills when taking up their studies. Therefore, they should have an adequate knowledge of the languages, literatures and cultures of the UK and North America at a higher secondary education level. Prospective students can evaluate their knowledge and skills via the self-test provided by our department. Both the test and its solutions can be accessed on our homepage:

www.uni-regensburg.de/sprache-literatur-kultur/anglistik-amerikanistik/studieninteressierte/b-a-bachelor-of-arts-/index.html

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIRST-SEMESTER STUDENTS (B. A.)

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE WINTER SEMESTER

For the B. A. programs **English Linguistics, British Studies, and American Studies** as

B. A. Major (First or Second Major) (approx. 15 credit points per semester)

- General Language Course A (2 hours / 3 credit points)
- Introductory Lecture "Introduction to English Linguistics: Theory and Structure" (2 hours / 4 credit points)
- Introductory Lecture "Introduction to English Linguistics: Phonetics and Phonology" (2 hours / 4 credit points)
- Introductory Course "Introduction to English and American Literary Studies" (3 hours / 4 credit points)
- Introductory Lecture "Introduction to British and Irish Studies" (2 hours / 2 credit points)
- Introductory Lecture "Introduction to American Studies" (1 hour / 1 credit point)

Minor (approx. 7 credit points per semester)

- General Language Course A (2 hours / 3 credit points)
- Introductory Lecture "Introduction to English Linguistics: Theory and Structure" (2 hours / 4 credit points) when studying B. A. English Linguistics, or Introductory Course "Introduction to English and American Literary Studies" (3 hours / 4 credit points) when studying B. A. British Studies or B. A. American Studies

Other combinations are possible.

Detailed information on each program is provided in the introductory sessions for first-year students, which are offered at the beginning of the semester before classes begin.

You can find an overview including further information and the date of the respective introductory meeting on the homepage of the Department of English and American Studies.

<https://www.uni-regensburg.de/sprache-literatur-kultur/anglistik-amerikanistik/studium/bachelor-of-arts/erstsemester/index.html>

STAY ABROAD

All students are strongly encouraged to spend an extended period of time studying or working in an English-speaking country. Time spent abroad does not mean a "loss of time" - not even with regard to the standard period of study. On the contrary, in addition to the associated personal gain it is also a great opportunity to get credit transferred from a university abroad to your own university.

You may apply for a semester on leave ("Urlaubssemester") to complete your stay abroad, and the advantage gained in language skills and academic knowledge will often have an accelerating effect on further studies. Besides, you may also get credit transferred to your respective B. A. program at your own university. The stay abroad should generally start approximately after having completed the core modules.

Various scholarship and exchange programs are available for a stay abroad. It is also possible to apply for a position as an assistant teacher or teaching assistant at schools, colleges, or universities in English-speaking countries.

For more information on stays abroad, please consult our International Office. The International Office is the central information and service unit for study abroad programs:

www.uni-regensburg.de/ur-international/international-office/index.html

INTERNSHIPS

Future employers often expect that applicants will have prepared extensively for their professional aims via various internships during their studies. Therefore, it is highly recommended to gain practical experience in your respective field of study via the completion of internships during the semester breaks.

You can find more information on looking for internships abroad on the website of our International Office:

www.uni-regensburg.de/international/auslandspraktikum

M. A. PROGRAMS

An M. A. program is a postgraduate program of four semesters (a total of 120 credit points). Applicants are required to hold an above-average first academic degree earned in a program with components relevant/related to their respective program of choice – usually a B. A. degree or equivalent or higher. Furthermore, they must demonstrate their aptitude for their respective program of choice via the completion of an aptitude test. Also, applicants need to possess an excellent command of the English language at level C1 or higher (or equivalent) according to the Common European Framework of References for Languages (CEFR).

Unlike the B. A. program, our M. A. programs consist of only one major instead of a combination of majors and/or minors. Their aim is to provide students with the necessary skills to engage in independent academic work. This also includes the skills to work both on an interdisciplinary as well as on a practical level.

The Department of English and American Studies offers the following M. A. programs:

British Studies (M. A.)

- BLK-M1: Module ‚Skills‘
- BLK-M2: 19th Century Studies
- BLK-M3: Cultural Studies
- BLK-M4: Elective I:
 - 4a: Early Modern Studies I
 - 4b: 18th Century Studies I
 - 4c: 20th Century Studies I /
 - 4d: New English Literatures/Postcolonial Studies I
- BLK-M5: Elective II:
 - 5a: Early Modern Studies II
 - 5b: 18th Century Studies II
 - 5c: 20th Century Studies II
 - 5d: New English Literatures/Postcolonial Studies II
- BLK-M6: Practical Module
- BLK-M7: M. A. Thesis

English Linguistics (M. A.)

- ELG-M 1: Methods and Skills in English Linguistics (I)
- ELG-M 2: Methods and Skills in Linguistics (II)
- ELG-M 3: English Linguistics: A Survey of Structure and Use
- ELG-M 4: English Linguistics: Studying Structure and Use
- ELG-M 5: Evolution and Variation in English (I)
- ELG-M 6: Evolution and Variation in English (II)
- ELG-M 7: English: Variation, Contact and Multilingualism (I)
- ELG-M 8: English: Variation, Contact and Multilingualism (II)
- ELG-M 9: Practical Module
- ELG-M 10: M. A. Thesis

European-American Studies (M. A.)

- Module 1: Theories, Approaches, Methods (EAS-M1)
- Module 2: Readings, Approaches, Sources (EAS-M2)
- Module 3: Spaces, Regions, Spheres (EAS-M3)
- Module 4: Mobilities and Cultural Transfers (EAS-M4)
- Module 5: Politics and Responsibilities (EAS-M5)
- Electives: either Professional Orientation (EAS-M6) or Professional Orientation and Electives in Independent European-American Studies (EAS-M7), or Electives in Independent European-American Studies (EAS-M8)

APPLICATION

For more information on the deadline of the application period for the M. A. program of your choice, please consult the website of our department as well as the website of the respective program.

www.uni-regensburg.de/sprache-literatur-kultur/anglistik-amerikanistik/studieninteressierte/m-a-master-of-arts/

Master studies can only be taken up in the winter semester. Applicants are required to prove their aptitude for their respective program of choice, usually by providing the selection committee with a CV and detailed information on their previous studies and work experiences as well as their future plans. You can find additional information on the application process and required documents on the website of the department as well as the website of the Chair of American Studies.

www-deas.uni-regensburg.de → Prospective Students → M. A. (Master of Arts).

www-deas.uni-regensburg.de/amerikanistik → Studies → Programs/Degrees → Master European-American Studies → Application

STUDENT ADVISORY SERVICE AND DEGREE PROGRAM COORDINATION

Thorough preparation is strongly advised to all prospective students. For general and interdisciplinary questions, you may consult the Central Department for Course Counselling (ZSB, Studentenhaus, Zi. 2.24). For subject-specific questions and any other questions pertaining to the contents of your studies, please contact the Department's Student Advisory Service. For questions on the structure and organization of your studies as well as exam registration, you may contact the Department's Degree Program Coordinators.

Student Advisory Service and Degree Program Coordination at the Department of English and American Studies:

www.uni-regensburg.de/sprache-literatur-kultur/anglistik-amerikanistik/studium/studienberatung/index.html

The contact details of the student representatives of each school/faculty can be found here:

www.ur.de/universitaet/gremien/studierendenvertretungen/fachschaften/index.htm

EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

The examination regulations (as amended by the latest amending statutes) are:

- The **B. A. Examination Regulation** for the Joint B. A. program
- The **M. A. Examination Regulations**
- The **PhD Examination Regulations**

You can find the updated version of the Examination Regulations of your study program here:

www.uni-regensburg.de/studium/pruefungsordnungen

Further detailed information, e. g. the link to the course catalog containing course descriptions, can be found on our website:

www-deas.uni-regensburg.de

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