

Master's program European-American Studies

Objectives

1. Pursuing transnational approaches to American Studies, students acquire extensive and in-depth knowledge of the politically and culturally diverse relations and entanglements between Europe and America from the Early Modern period to the present. They are enabled to read, interpret, and contextualize a wide variety of textual, visual, and audiovisual material as well as material objects, they learn how to relate these materials to the major topics, developments, and problems of European-American relations and entanglements in past and present, and they are able to explain the relevance of the topics taught and researched in the master's program for our own present.
2. Students learn to read, compare, and reflect the theories, concepts, and methods currently circulating in the field of American Studies and European-American Studies. The program enables them to critically assess and explore the value and the reach of the theories, concepts, and methods for their own analytical work with the materials for the study of European-American relations and entanglements. These competencies and skills are especially trained in the fields of "spaces, regions, spheres," "mobilities and cultural transfers," and "politics and responsibilities."
3. Students learn how to find sources and research literature, how to use the resources and tools of academic research specific to the field, and how to read, evaluate, and process the relevant research literature. This enables them to conduct their own research and work independently on topics and issues in the field of European-American Studies.
4. Students learn how to independently develop, research, and write academic papers of different size and scope that are based on evidence and draw on current theories, concepts, and methods to analyze the materials. Students are able to demonstrate that they can conduct theory-driven and method-based investigations of topics relevant to the field of European-American Studies, and that they can critically apply the theories, concepts, and methods to these investigations. In writing their scholarly papers, preparing oral presentations, and navigating diverse academic communicational situations, students learn how to organize themselves and their workload, they enhance their media skills and information competencies, and they are trained to present the results of their research in adequate forms and formats catering to different and specific audiences. As a result, students learn how to express themselves with precision in terms of content and form, and they develop a broad range of communicative skills.
5. During the program, students develop a high degree of intercultural and interdisciplinary competence that transcends their expertise in the field of European-American Studies by far. All courses are taught in English, and they teach students how to read and interpret texts and diverse cultural materials emerging from a broad diversity of cultural contexts. Courses systematically explore the dynamics of cultural encounters and transnational knowledge negotiation and transfer. At the end of the program, graduates are able to apply their expertise and competencies in the field of cultural studies and cultural history to other world regions and cultures.