



Universiteit Leiden

# Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2016

Programme-specific section:

## Master's Programme: North American Studies

These course and examination regulations have been drawn up in accordance with Section 7.13 of the Higher Education and Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*] (WHW) (henceforth the Act) and additional quality marks as set out in the framework document Leiden University Register of Study Programmes [*Leids universitair register opleidingen*].

Pursuant to Section 7.14 of the Act the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the course and examination regulations and assesses, for the purpose of monitoring and, if necessary, adjusting the study load, the time it takes students to comply with the regulations. In conformity with Section 9.18 of the Act, the department teaching committee is assigned the task of annually assessing how the course and examination regulations are implemented.

These course and examination regulations consist of two sections: a general section that is the same for all programmes and a section that contains information that is specific to a particular programme. This programme-specific section forms a whole with the general section, and only contains the articles with content that is specific to a particular programme.

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### Appendices

Appendix D – Curriculum

Appendix E – E-prospectus (see <https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl>)

## Article 2.1 **Objectives of the Programme**

The programme has the following objectives:

1. to enable students to acquire academic knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of scientific methods in the field of American Studies;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
  - independent academic reasoning and conduct,
  - the ability to analyse complex problems,
  - academic reporting;
3. to prepare students for an academic career and further education;
4. to prepare students for a career outside academia.

## Article 2.2 **Specialisations**

Not applicable.

## Article 2.3 **Achievement Levels**

Graduates of the programme have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors:

### *1. Knowledge and understanding*

- a. comprehensive knowledge and understanding of major issues in the history, literature and culture of the United States, such as the struggle for civil rights, immigration, ethnic/racial identity, and U.S. foreign policy, as well as the main scholarly and theoretical debates on these issues;
- b. a critical understanding of theories of U.S. exceptionalism;

### *2. Applications of knowledge and understanding*

- a. the ability to critically analyse American historical and literary texts and place them in their cultural and historical context;
- b. the ability to conduct independent research in the area of North American Studies, thereby showing the ability to comprehend and apply relevant theoretical insights and methodological approaches;
- c. the ability to identify and collect primary and secondary sources in the area of North American Studies by means of conventional and electronic databases;
- d. the ability to apply knowledge of North American history, literature and culture to contemporary developments;
- e. the ability to apply the acquired skills of analysis, research and communication in the area of North American Studies to other fields and professional contexts in which academic training at master's level is necessary or useful;

### *3. Judgment*

- a. the ability to critically assess and utilise primary and secondary sources to construct an extended argument in the form of a master's thesis in the area of North American Studies;
- b. the ability to judge the relative merits of academic opinions and arguments on contemporary developments in North American Studies;

### *4. Communication*

- a. the ability to orally present and defend the result of individual research in a group context;

- b. the ability to effectively communicate research results in written academic English in various formats, such as book reviews, essays and a master's thesis;

#### 5. Learning skills

- a. the learning abilities required to be able to follow post-master's professional training or a PhD training of a largely self-determined or autonomous nature.

### Article 2.5 Study Load

The programme has a study load of 60 credits.

### Article 2.8 Language of Instruction

In compliance with the Code of Conduct regarding Language of Instruction [*Gedragcode voertaal*<sup>1</sup>] the language of instruction and examination of the programme is English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language of instruction of the programme.

### Article 3.1 Compulsory Components

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components totalling a study load of 60 credits. These compulsory components include the optional courses [*keuzevakken*] from which a student is obliged to choose.

### Article 4.2 Obligatory Order

4.2.1 Not applicable.

### Article 4.3 Examination Formats

4.3.7 Not applicable.

### Article 5.2 Admission to the academic year 2016-2017 and following years

5.2.1 Not applicable

5.2.2 The Board of Admissions may, on request, grant admission to the programmes to persons who do not meet the requirements specified in 5.2.1 but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board of Admissions that they possess an equal level of knowledge, understanding and skills as the holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1, possibly under conditions to be further determined, without prejudice to the requirements in 5.2.4.

5.2.4 Alongside the requirements specified 5.2.2, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b, second paragraph, of the Act:

- have earned the degree of Bachelor at a university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, or demonstrate to meet the requirements for such a degree, including the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix C; and
- are sufficiently proficient in the language of instruction, to be assessed by the faculty board (English IELTS 7.0, TOEFL 100 (internet-based) or Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE); for the 'speaking' and 'writing' components a minimum score of IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 25 is required); and
- possess comparable qualities in the field of knowledge, understanding and skills, specifically knowledge and understanding of the defining events and developments in the history and culture of the United States and/or knowledge and understanding of the canonical works of American literature; applicants should, for example, have a Bachelor's degree in the field of American Studies

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<sup>1</sup> The Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction and Examination [*Gedragcode voertaal*] was adopted by the Executive Board on 28 May 2013 and can be found on the following website: [media.leidenuniv.nl/legacy/language\\_of\\_instruction.pdf](http://media.leidenuniv.nl/legacy/language_of_instruction.pdf).

or another Bachelor's degree in Humanities or Social Sciences that includes components in the field of American Studies worth at least 30 credits;

Applicants who have a Bachelor's degree in Humanities or Social Sciences and who have completed the minor in American Studies at Leiden University are considered to have fulfilled this requirement.

Applicants with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from Leiden University who

- have completed all area courses for North America, and
- wrote their BA Thesis on North America and/or completed at least one optional course worth 10 credits which is included in the premaster program in American Studies (as specified in article 5.4)

are considered to have fulfilled all of the requirements mentioned above.

5.2.5 If the Executive Board has determined a maximum capacity for the programme, the order of admission will be determined by the qualitative admission requirements as referred to in Article 5.2.4 and Appendix F.

#### Article 5.4 Bridging Programmes (Premasters)

5.4.1 The programme has established the following bridging programmes (for the following target groups) in order to remedy deficiencies:

Students who have earned a Bachelor's degree at a university of professional education [*HBO*] in History, English, European Studies, or Journalism will be admitted to the Master's programme in North American Studies if they have successfully completed the following premaster programme of 60 credits.

Semester	Course name	Credits
I	From Bradford to Obama: An Introduction to American Studies	10
I	Literature 5a: American Literature, 1917 to the present	10
	Choose one of the following:	
I	Nieuwe cursus Sackler leerstoelhouder, n.t.b.	10
I	The American Political System	10
		30
II	BA Thesis	10
II		
	Choose two of the following courses:	
II	Afrikanen in Amerika: Slavernij en emancipatie in de Verenigde Staten, 1619-1877	10
II	Global Perspectives on the American Civil War	10
II	Slavery and memory in the Black Atlantic	10
		30

All courses, except one, are in English.

Depending on course offerings, there may be some minor changes in the pre-master programme of 2017-2018

5.4.2 Information regarding the bridging programmes can be requested from the coordinator of studies of the programme.