Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Englisches Seminar
www.es.rub.de

ONE-SUBJECT M.A. ENGLISH/AMERICAN STUDIES

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PRELIMINARY REMARKS

This summary of only the most important aspects of our M.A. program is a service provided by the English Department for your convenience. We guarantee neither completeness nor accuracy of the information provided here. The legally binding documents for the program are the *Gemeinsame Prüfungsordnung* and the *Modulhandbuch*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

German degree programs are usually made up of lectures, courses, and seminars which are structured into teaching units that are called "modules." These modules sometimes consist not only of courses, but also of the exams that are necessary for completion of a module or a degree program. Modules involve various activities of study (e.g. courses, labs, excursions, and self-study). Degree programs usually require that students complete a combination of compulsory modules, compulsory elective modules, and elective modules. Each module is worth a certain number of credit points, which reflects the workload that is necessary for completion of the module. Students will find an overview of the modules, their general structure, and a list of the individual courses offered with which they can fill a module in the departmental course catalog and the module handbook, both available from the department's website. Student performance is tested by means of various testing methods, including written and oral examinations and/or term papers.

SPECIALIZATION

The areas of specialization / categories that students choose their modules/courses from are:

- Linguistics
- Cultural Studies GB
- Cultural Studies US
- British Literature
- American Literature

COURSE OF STUDIES

In our M.A. degree programs (both the One- and Two-Subject M.A.), modules are defined as teaching units consisting of either a lecture (*Vorlesung*) or a course (*Übung*) and a seminar (*Seminar*) from the same area of specialization. Thus, each module consists of two courses from the same area of specialization / category. Lectures and courses are credited with three credit points; seminars are credited with five credit points. (A module is thus credited with a total of eight credit points.)

For the One-Subject M.A. nine modules from the above listed areas of specialization / categories have to be completed. At least two areas need to be represented.

Each semester the lectures, courses and seminars that make up individual modules can be chosen freely from the course catalog (*Vorlesungsverzeichnis*) for the M.A., but students have to declare a major area of specialization by choosing a majority of courses from one category, i.e. Linguistics or Cultural Studies GB or American Literature – or any other category that the student wants to pick as the focus of her/his M.A. studies. A combination of two practical English courses from our course catalog (Communication MM, Grammar MM, Translation MM) into one Language Practice module is also possible. The two practical language courses are credited with four credit points each. It is actually recommended that students take a Language Practice module, but only one Language Practice module can be chosen as part of the M.A. course work.

ADDITIONAL COURSE WORK (*ERGÄNZUNGSBEREICH*)

Throughout the course of studies, thirteen credit points must be obtained from additional courses chosen from the RUB course catalog offerings. (This is on top of the nine regular modules.) These courses should be picked from course catalogs of other academic subjects and fields (both M.A. and B.A). Students often choose to participate in practical language courses (French, Italian, Polish, Dutch etc.) offered at our university's ZFA (*Zentrum für Fremdsprachenausbildung*) to satisfy this requirement. For international students, taking German language course might be an interesting alternative option.

EXAM MODULE

In addition to the nine modules that make up the majority of the course work and the *Ergänzungsbereich*, M.A. students also have to take an exam module.

Requirements: students must have completed three regular modules and received a minimum of 70 credit points – this includes credit points obtained from additional courses (*Ergänzungsbereich*) – in order to sign up for the final oral exam.

Examiners: a list of English Department members who are qualified to examine M.A. students can be found on the website of the department.

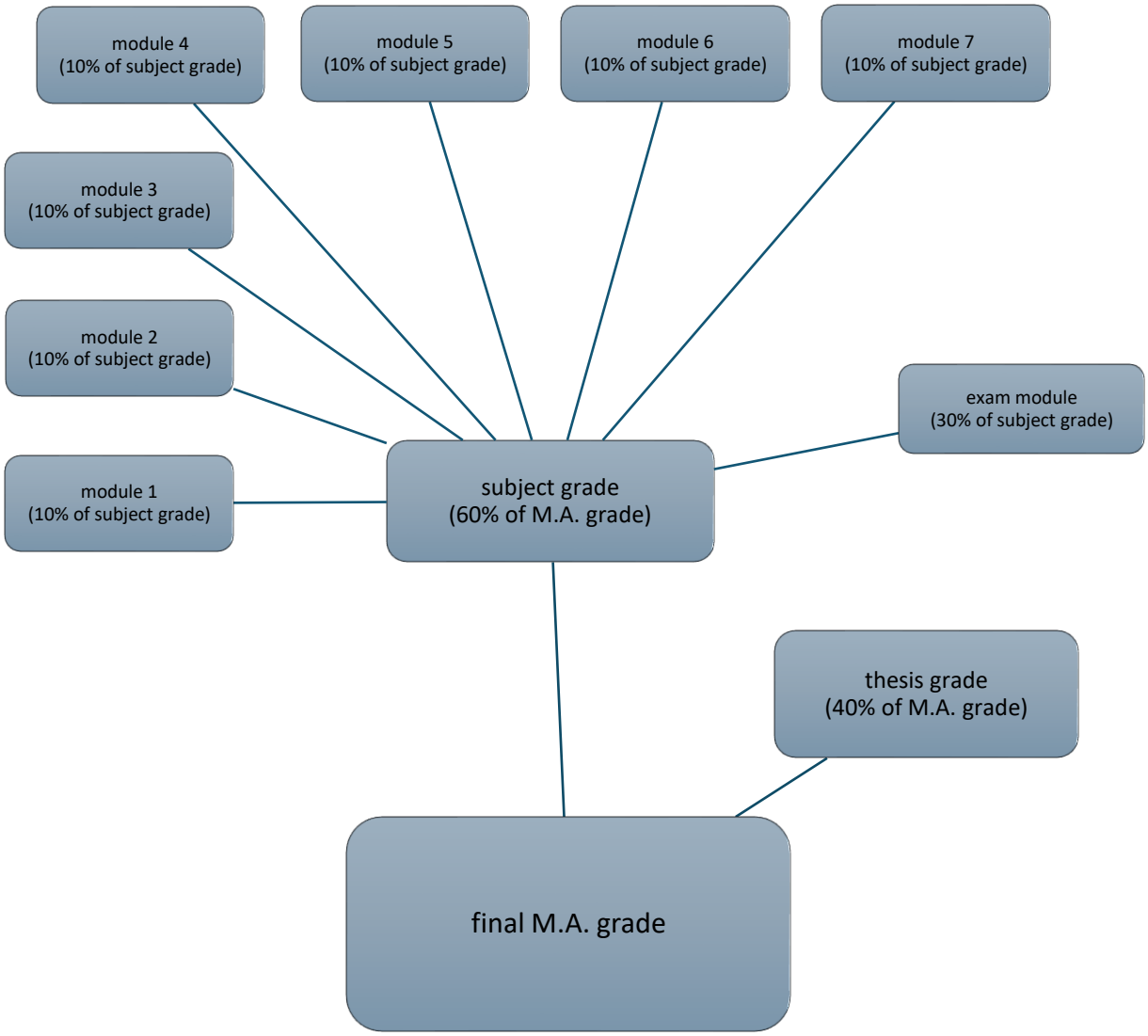
Exams: the exam phase for the One-Subject M.A. consists of the exam module seminar, a four-hour final written exam and a 45-minute final oral exam (with one examiner) which covers three different topics. The final written exam is an essay dealing with a choice of exam questions from the areas of Cultural Studies, Literature or Linguistics. A choice of two questions is given. If the field of Cultural Studies or the field of Linguistics is chosen, the exam candidate has to answer one of two questions pertaining to subjects agreed upon with their examiner. International students are allowed to use a dictionary Native Language/English – English/Native Language. [German students may use a German/English – English/German dictionary.]

M.A. THESIS MODULE (*M.A.-ABSCHLUSSMODUL*)

In their M.A. thesis module, students design a potential thesis project and present said design in the course of a colloquium (see the *Modulhandbuch* for details). Following that, students execute their project and write it up as their M.A. thesis. The thesis should be roughly 80 pages of 300 words each in length (technically at most 200.000 characters including spaces). It has to be finished within a period of four months (six months for empirical projects).

COMPOSITION OF THE OVERALL GRADE

The grades obtained in seminars make up the module grades. (The best) seven of these module grades from the different categories count for 10% each toward your subject grade. (Please note that a language practice module cannot be credited towards your subject grade.) The exam module accounts for 30% of the subject grade. This subject grade in turn accounts for 60% of your final M.A. grade, with the grade received for the M.A. thesis accounting for the remaining 40%.


module 4
(10% of subject grade)
module 5
(10% of subject grade)
module 6
(10% of subject grade)
module 7
(10% of subject grade)
module 3
(10% of subject grade)
module 2
(10% of subject grade)
exam module
(30% of subject grade)
module 1
(10% of subject grade)
subject grade
(60% of M.A. grade)
thesis grade
(40% of M.A. grade)
final M.A. grade

SPECIAL OPTIONS

The English Department's One-Subject M.A. comes with two special options. Both of these are fully voluntary, so students are free to choose one, both, or neither.

1. Double degree with Lodz:
   Students can pursue a double degree in "English and American Studies" in cooperation with the University of Lodz, Poland. In this case, a one-semester stay abroad at the University of Lodz is mandatory. The Master's thesis must be supervised and assessed by one examiner from Ruhr University and one examiner from the University of Lodz. In addition, an oral defence of the thesis is mandatory. As compensation, the written exam in the exam module (see above) is waived.
2. Study focus "Shakespeare Studies: Early English Literature and Culture":
   This specialization allows students to gain expertise in Shakespeare's writings in their historical and cultural contexts. To obtain the certificate in Shakespeare Studies, One-Subject M.A. students have to take three modules from the field of Shakespeare Studies (as part of their nine modules) and complete their exam module in the same area. Please see Prof. Roland Weidle for further details.