



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2018

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: North American Studies

These Course and Examination Regulations (henceforth OER) have been drawn up in accordance with the Higher Education and Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*; WHW] (henceforth the Act) and the following Leiden University regulations:

- the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document;
- the Academic Calendar;
- the Regulations for Student Registration;
- the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.

Pursuant to Article 7.14 of the Act, the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the Course and Examination Regulations and considers, for the purpose of monitoring and adjusting the study load, how much time it takes students to comply. In accordance with Article 9.18 of the Act, the departmental committee is assigned the task of annually assessing the implementation of the OER.

These Course and Examination Regulations consist of two sections: a faculty section that is the same for all programmes and a section that contains information that is specific to a particular programme, what is known as the programme-specific section of the Course and Examination Regulations. In the text below the relevant articles will refer to this section.

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Chapter 2 Description of the Programme

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 North 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,
 - the ability to clearly report academic results, both in writing and orally;
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 Learning outcomes

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, politics, and culture of the United States, with a focus on themes like emancipation struggles, global interactions, U.S. exceptionalism, and cultural identities, as well as the main scholarly and theoretical debates on these issues;
- b. knowledge and understanding of the role of the United States in relation to the rest of the world;
- c. knowledge of research methods that are used in the field of North American Studies;

2. Applying knowledge and understanding

- a. 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 multidisciplinary methodological approaches;
- b. the ability to describe and justify the adopted research methods;
- c. the ability to independently formulate a clear and well-argued research question that is based on a problem that reflects insight into the key discussions and methods of the field;
- d. the ability to identify and collect primary and secondary sources in the field of North American Studies in conventional and digital archives;
- e. the ability to critically analyse primary sources and situate them in their cultural and historical context;
- f. the ability to apply knowledge of North American history and culture to current issues and developments, nationally and internationally;

- g. the ability to apply the acquired skills of analysis, research and communication in the field 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 evaluate 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 scholarly arguments on contemporary developments in North American Studies;

4. *Communication*

- a. the ability to orally present and defend in correct academic English the result of individual and group research;
- b. the ability to effectively communicate research results in correct academic English in various formats, such as book reviews, online forums, research essays, and a master's thesis;
- c. The ability to provide constructive feedback to, and formulate criticism of, the work of others and the ability to evaluate the value of such criticism and feedback on one's own work and incorporate it;

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 Instruction¹ 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.

Chapter 3 Curriculum

Article 3.1 **Compulsory components**

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components worth a total study load of 60 credits. These compulsory components include the set components from which a student is obliged to choose.

Chapter 4 Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education

Article 4.2 **Obligatory sequence**

4.2.1 Not applicable.

Article 4.3 **Form of examination**

4.3.7 Not applicable.

¹ [Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction](#)

Chapter 5 Admission to the Programme

Article 5.2 Admission to the programme

5.2.1 Not applicable.

5.2.2 Not applicable.

5.2.3 As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning the student's command of the language of instruction, the language requirement for this master's programme is

- English IELTS7.0/TOEFL (Internet based) 100/CPE or CAE 185;
- for the 'speaking' and 'writing' components a minimum score of IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 25 is required.

The Faculty Board may request that applicants demonstrate an adequate command at this level. For more information on language tests and diplomas which are sufficient with regard to the required command of English please see <http://www.students.leiden.edu/application-admission/master/prospective/language-requirements.html>.

5.2.4 Pursuant to Article 7.30b (1) of the Act persons will be granted admission to the programme, if they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Faculty Board that they meet the following admission requirements:

- A bachelor's degree from a research 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 B, and
- possess 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 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.

For further information on the admission procedure and required application documents please see <http://www.students.leiden.edu/application-admission/master/application-admission/>.

5.2.5 Maximum capacity: not applicable.

Article 5.4 Bridging programmes (Premasters)

5.4.1 The programme has established the following premaster programme(s) in order to remove deficiencies:

This premaster programme is intended for students who

- have earned the degree of bachelor at a university of applied sciences, equivalent to the level of a Dutch HBO bachelor's degree.
- this degree is in History, English, European Studies, or Journalism

Students who successfully complete this premaster programme of 60 EC will be admitted to the Master's programme in North American Studies.

Semester	Course name	Credits
I	From the Pilgrims to the Present: An Introduction to American Studies	10
I	Literature 5a: American Literature, 1917 to the present	10
	Choose one of the following:	
I	The Transatlantic Century	10
I	The Intermestic Cold War	10
		10
		30
II	BA Thesis	10
II	Slavery and Memory in the Black Atlantic	10
	Choose one of the following courses:	
II	Minds Matter: American Public Intellectuals and their Ideas	10
II	The U.S., Land of Opportunities and Exclusions	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 2019-2020.

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

Chapter 7 Evaluation of the programme

Article 7.1 Evaluation of the programme

The programme is evaluated as follows:

- course evaluations
- programme evaluation