

# MA in North American Studies from 2022

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Basic information: training and degree requirements

Name of the foundation training: English Studies major (other Humanities majors may also be eligible; please enquire)

Level of qualification: Master of Arts degree (MA)

Orientations: American literatures; ethnic and multicultural studies

Degree: MA in North American Studies

Qualification: Philologist in English

Area of training: humanities, modern philology

Mode of study: full time

Faculty responsible for training:

Faculty of Humanities Duration: 4 semesters

Number of credits required for a degree: 120

Number of contact classes: 1200

Launch date of the program: 2008

**Short description:** Disciplinary MA program in the broadly interpreted field of American Studies, with opportunities for specialization in ethnic and multicultural studies or American literature. Students will professionalize in American English; acquire theoretical, methodological, and pragmatic skills and competencies; study all the significant aspects of culture, literature, sociopolitical life, and history of the USA, Canada, Mexico, and Australia, past and present. The program may be continued at doctoral (PhD) level. Coursework is conducted in English. MA Graduates in American Studies may seek employment in fields requiring in-depth, hands-on knowledge of culture and communication (oral and written), in business, media, publishing, diplomacy, tourism, education management and various levels of government.

**Detailed description:** Besides offering a wide range of teaching in American literature, history, politics, art, and popular culture, including film, the North American Department, within its “New Literatures/Cultures in English” subfield, operates a full-fledged history, literature + culture program (extending hereby ‘American’ to ‘North American’ Studies) and selected modules in Canadian, Mexican, as well as Australian Studies. Since 1987, the Department has been authorized by the International Council for Canadian Studies to serve as a Canadian Studies Centre. It is also a designated Australian Studies Centre. Emphasizing that areas of knowledge are interdependent and that different disciplines illuminate each other, the Department places a high priority on interdisciplinarity. Therefore, our MA program is especially strong in studying the historical, cultural, literary phenomena of minorities (gendered, indigenous, ethnic, national) and migrations, while not neglecting mainstream, canonized American literature and culture. The Institute’s North American Department was the first American Studies university department set up in Hungary (1991), the first to gain accreditation for a doctoral (Ph.D.) program in American Studies (1993), and, most recently, also the first to have its MA program in North American Studies accredited (2008).

## **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

### **Foundation courses (17 credits)**

Code	Course	Hours	Requirement	Credits	Prerequisite	Semester
BTAN3023MA-K3	American Literary Culture 1	2	exam	3	--	1.
BTAN3024MA-K3	American History and Political Culture	2	exam	3	--	1.
BTAN3029MA	American Culture through Language	2	sem	4	--	1.
BTAN3030MA	Literary and Cultural Theory	2	sem	4	--	1.
BTAN3025MA-K3	American Literary Culture 2	2	exam	3	--	2.

### **Core modules (18 credits)**

Code	Course	Hours	Requirement	Credits	Prerequisite	Semester
BTAN3026MA-K5	Introduction to the Profession of American Studies	4	sem	5	--	1.
BTAN3027MA	American Popular Culture	2	sem	5	--	1.
BTAN3028MA	North American History and Political Culture in the 20th century	2	exam	5	--	2.
BTAN3031MA	Mentoring, Volunteering, Organizing Skills	2	sem	3	--	1

### **Disciplinary courses (55 credits)**

Code	Course	Hours	Requirement	Credits	Prerequisite	Semester
BTAN3008MA	Topics in North American Cultural History	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)
BTAN3009MA	Topics in North American Criticism/Literary Form	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)
BTAN3010MA	Topics in North American History	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)
BTAN3011MA	Topics in North American Art, Visual and Popular Culture	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)
BTAN3012MA	Topics in North American Political Culture	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)
BTAN3013MA	Topics in North American Literature before 1900	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)
BTAN3014MA	Topics in North American Literature after 1900	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)
BTAN3015MA	Regionalism in North American Culture and Literature	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)
BTAN3016MA	Ethnic and Multicultural Contributions to North America	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)
BTAN3017MA	Aspects of Gender in North American Culture and Literature	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)
BTAN3018MA	New Literatures/Cultures in English	2	sem	5	--	(2-4)

## **OPTIONAL MODUL (10 credits)**

To complete optional courses for the sum of 10 credits, students may choose from the full range of courses on offer in the Institute of English and American Studies, as well as courses from elsewhere in the University of Debrecen.

## **Diploma Work (20 credits)**

Code	Course	Hours	Requirement	Credits	Prerequisite	Semester
BTAN3019MA-K5	Thesis Writing 1	2	sem	5	--	3.
BTAN3020MA-K5	Thesis Writing 2	2	sem	5	--	4.
BTAN3021MA	Thesis	-		10	--	4.
	Thesis defence	-	exam	0	--	

## **ASSESSMENT**

The exact details of the grading and evaluation policy are always found in the relevant syllabi of the courses that should be downloaded from the institute website.

1. A SEMINAR is evaluated with a GRADE on a scale from 1 to 5.
2. A LECTURE is evaluated with an oral or a written EXAM.
3. At the end of the fourth semester the MA training concludes with a comprehensive final exam that consists of the following parts:
  - a) state exam
  - b) thesis defense
    - i) the thesis supervisor includes two questions at the end of his/her written evaluation and the student is required to answer these in front of the defense committee
    - ii) the second reader: the chair of the department assigns a second reader who is competent in the field of the thesis

## **American Studies MA final exam topics**

- American literature and literary culture until 1900
- American literature and literary culture after 1900
- American history
- Literary and cultural theory
- American Politics
- American, Canadian, and Australian English
- Minority issues in the US
- Minority issues in Canada
- New literatures and cultures in English: Canada, Mexico, and Australia
- American art and (popular) culture

”American Literary and Cultural Theory.” AN3009MA03 course packet.

Berry, J. W. and J. A. Laponce, eds. *Ethnicity and Culture in Canada: The Research Landscape*.  
Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1994.

Goatly, Andrew. *Washing the Brain: Metaphor and Hidden Ideology*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2007.

Jones, Maldwyn A. *The Limits of Liberty. American History, 1607-1992*, 2nd ed. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Kalbach, A. Madeline and Warren E. Kalbach. *Perspectives on Ethnicity in Canada*. Toronto: Harcourt Canada, 2000.

Kivistö, Peter and Georganne Rundbald, eds. *Multiculturalism in the United States*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2000.

LaFeber, Walter. *The American Age: U.S. Foreign Policy at Home and Abroad, 1750 to the Present*, 2nd ed. New York and London: W. W. Norton & Co., 1994.

Leitch, Vincent B., ed. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2001.

Nile, Richard, ed. *The Australian Legend and Its Discontents: Australian Studies Reader*. St.Lucia, Qld: University of Queensland Press, 1998.

Országh, László and Zsolt Virágos. *Az amerikai irodalom története*. Budapest: Eötvös József Könyvkiadó, 1997.

Virágos, Zsolt. *Portraits and Landmarks: The American Literary Culture in the 19th Century*. 6th rev. ed. Debrecen: Institute of English and American Studies, 2010.