

Module description: “Foundations of National and Transnational Studies: History, Theory and Methods” (Version: 17 February 2010)

Contents and objectives: This module gives an overview of the historical, theoretical and methodological foundations of national and transnational studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students will gain a sound knowledge of the subject area(s) by approaching problems and controversies focusing on ethnicity, gender, and class. A major concern of this module is the history of nationhood, nationalism and transnationalism as well as their theorisation in social, literary and cultural terms. The concept of the nation and the ideology of nationalism embraces a variety of traditional and new aspects of primary importance for the formation and (re)shaping of communities. Topics in the field of literature and cultural studies include fictional and symbolic constructions of nationhood and national aesthetics. Students will also acquire advanced skills for the study of the different forms of English as constituents of national and transnational identities.

On completion of this module, participants will have:

- ✓ gained knowledge of a wide range of Anglophone literatures.
- ✓ developed a critical understanding of the variety of critical and theoretical approaches to the study of culture, language and literature.
- ✓ acquired knowledge and an understanding of the concepts, terminology, and modes of thinking specific to national and transnational studies.
- ✓ acquired advanced skills for the analysis of language in context, with a focus on methods for the study of the different forms of English.

1st semester of this Master course

Status: compulsory

Entry requirements: none

Offered: annually (winter semester)

Alternative course choices within the module: none

Module coordinator: Prof. Dr. M. Diedrich

Weighting of module grade in calculation of final grade: 15 %

Course type	Participation	SWS <i>(class hours per teaching week)</i>	LP <i>(credit points)</i>	Semester	Assignments	Of which relevant for grade	Entry requirements
Orientation Week	Regular attendance & active participation	1	1	1	/	/	/
Lecture course “Hotspots: Work in progress in literature, culture and language “	Regular attendance	2	3	1	/	/	/
Seminar “Nation, nationalism, transnationalism – historical & theoretical foundations”	Regular attendance & active participation	2	7	1	/	/	/
Seminar “Language in context”	Regular attendance & active participation	2	6	1	/	/	/
Written exam (180 minutes) (& preparatory study)	100 %						
Total			17				