

## WWU Münster

### MA National and Transnational Studies: Literature, Culture, Language External Module (Semester 3) – Information for students and teachers

(Version: 14. Oct. 2016)

I.) Planning of students' individual course combination for this module:

1) Some time before the start of semester 3 (e.g. at the end of the previous semester when the new course announcements come out and course registration begins), students look through the online course catalogues of departments they are interested in (e.g. other literatures and languages, history, sociology, politics, anthropology, philosophy, communication and media studies, etc.)

and identify courses which are relevant to their programme of study and to their individual interests. Many courses outside the English Department are taught through the medium of German, but courses taught through the medium of English are also available. Students whose German-language skills are limited can thus complete the module in English. Some departments also teach courses through other languages.

If students are interested in a course outside the English Department which is run at B.A. rather than M.A. level, please contact Dr. Markus Schmitz (at the English Dept.) for advice.

Courses outside the English Department which have already been studied without credit in a previous semester of this MA NTS programme may count towards the External Module if their contents are relevant to NTS programme.

Normally, all courses for the External Module are done outside the English Department. However, in exceptional cases students may also be allowed to choose a course in the English Department.

For instance: A) If a student's previous degree was in a subject other than English, and s/he feels a need to deepen her/his knowledge of English Studies. As his/her previous degree would already guarantee a sufficiently interdisciplinary profile, s/he may be allowed to pursue further study in the English Department for this module. B) If a student does not have sufficient knowledge of German and finds that the current range of courses taught through the medium of English does not match his/her interests or timetable at all, so that s/he prefers to attend one of the many Anglophone courses offered by the English Department.

2) After having identified the courses of his/her choice, each student enters information about these courses in an "External Module Planning Form" (Excel sheet, available online for download).

3) The completed form is submitted (on paper, in two copies) to a staff member of the English Department who is responsible for the approval of course choices in this module (currently this is Dr. habil. Markus Schmitz). The staff member discusses choices with the student and, if necessary, requests changes. Once the course choices are agreed, the staff member signs his/her approval on the two copies of the form and retains one copy for our archives. The other copy is returned to the student, who should retain this copy for future reference.

4) In addition to approval from the MA NTS programme administrators at the English Department (Dr. habil. M. Schmitz), students also need the approval of the teachers outside the English Department whose courses they wish to join. From our experience, most teachers will be supportive; however, there can sometimes be limitations of capacity which make it impossible to open certain classes to all students. Again, it is best to seek approval as early as possible, to facilitate planning and (if necessary) adjustments.

5) After the courses for this module have been completed, the teachers of these courses give the students a written confirmation (e.g. Schein on paper) of their result (grade or pass/fail) or fill and stamp the respective section of the external module planning form.

6) Students present these written confirmations to Ms. Silja Fehn at the English Department, along with their copy of the approved & signed "External Module Planning Form." Ms. Fehn compares this planning form with the results, determines the total grade for the module, and enters this grade into the electronic QISPOS system.

## II.) Grading

Students must complete at least one GRADED assignment within the External Module in order to enable us to assign a total module grade. The following options are available:

a) Students complete only one graded assignment and course, while the other assignments and courses are ungraded (only pass/fail, i.e. Teilnahmeschein). In this case, the grade of the one graded assignment/course would also be the module grade.

OR

b) Students complete several graded assignments/courses, all of which are counted for the module grade.

OR

c) Students complete several graded assignments/courses, but use only some of them as a basis for the module grade.

Students choose between these options themselves, but their choice must be approved by a staff member of the English Department (currently, Dr. habil. Markus Schmitz). The choice between these 3 options need to be made in advance.