
M.A. Study Program

African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture

Module Handbook

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General Information

This master program in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics and Culture provides students with an interdisciplinary approach to current and historical social and political processes and structures on the African continent. It also offers insights into diverse global linkages that connect, and continuously shape the continent through its entanglements with other world regions. Students learn about and evaluate current and historical debates in African Studies and related disciplines in the social sciences, and their interactions with social and political change. The focus is on acquiring an in-depth understanding of diverse knowledge systems, multiple understandings of Africa, key debates in African Studies as well as ways of current social developments in Africa, and the global contexts that constitute them.

Content and Objectives

The courses combine the disciplines of social and cultural anthropology, sociology, political science, history, and study of religion in particular but also offer ample opportunity to specialize using the vast number of Africa-related courses offered across all our faculties. The program trains students to become competent researchers and professionals who are aware of the specifics of Africa-related issues but are also able to engage the canon of various disciplines critically from their engagement with Africa. It enables students to become socially and politically engaged and to critically reflect on current social processes. It qualifies them to participate responsibly, reflectively and critically in shaping social processes in a democratic society. The study of the African continent also opens up a view of the world that differs from common sense worldviews in the Global North and critically "provincializes" and thus puts them into perspective. The guiding principle in the program is that intellectual processes and the generation of knowledge today can no longer be limited to intellectual traditions of old Europe. The examination of knowledge production in Africa is exemplary for a decentered view of knowledge production and perspectives from and with the Global South.

Career Prospects

Graduates are well prepared for academic positions in universities and research institutions as well as for non-academic careers. Graduates of the Master's program are trained for doctoral studies in the interdisciplinary field of African Studies, in other interdisciplinary areas, such as Global Studies, International Development or Peace and Conflict Studies, as well as in the disciplines that were the main focus of the Master's program (social and cultural anthropology, history, politics, sociology, or study of religion). Their experience with international research makes them particularly suited to projects involving international and intercultural cooperation, including positions in public and media relations, in non-governmental or international organizations, or in diplomacy. The degree also offers a range of career opportunities outside of academia, in domestic and international contexts. The specialized knowledge acquired in the MA, both the analytical potential and the ability to conceive and critically reflect, is in great demand at national and international institutions, which have a growing need for qualified employees with interdisciplinary, social science training. Other important fields of activity are offered in media, diplomacy, cultural institutions and in intercultural work, in tourism, in education and training, museums and archives, or corporate public relations which are looking for professionally competent and internationally oriented scholars and social scientists who are able to work beyond narrow subject boundaries.

Courses Offered

This program is characterized by interdisciplinarity and the freedom to choose your own individual study focus. Uniquely, courses are offered individually as well as co-taught by a number of different chairs from different disciplines all with a focus on Africa. In addition to 3 mandatory modules (A1, A2, A3), you have the option of choosing a major study focus (C: Focal Area) from within the social sciences, while also attending courses from the other subject areas involved in the Masters (B modules) and from across the University (G) that fit your particular interest and trajectory. At the heart of this research-oriented master is an empirical study project of your own choosing supervised in one of the focal areas, and the master's colloquium and thesis (M).

The MA starts off with an introduction to the field of interdisciplinary African Studies with a focus on the social sciences. A course that mixes lecture and seminar formats introduces core questions of African Studies, bringing together different angles from the different disciplines and researchers involved (A1). A second core module offers a seminar on current debates in the study of Africa, taking up a topical issue or research frontier that we will engage from different disciplinary angles (A2). As far as possible, seminars in this module will be co-thought by lectures from two different disciplines. A third core module offers insights in the contemporary politics of knowledge to important debates around epistemologies of the Global South. These are a reference to knowledges born within struggles against racism, enslavement, colonialism, capitalism, patriarchy, and global coloniality (A3).

Alongside these interdisciplinary modules, you will choose three core courses to get you into three of the

involved study areas: Global Political Sociology/Politics, Social and Cultural Anthropology, History, and Religion and Islamic Studies with focus on Africa (B). From these, you then choose a focal area (C-F), in which another 4 core classes are taken. These include methods training for a study project and the MA thesis.

Alongside the focal area, there is an elective module in which additional courses from the wide range of Africa-related courses at UBT, from within and beyond the participating disciplines, can be chosen in order to further deepen or complement expertise according to your individual preferences and specialization (G). Please see module G below for recommendations of elective courses. An overview of Africa-related study programs at UBT is available here: <https://www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de/en/Research-and-Teaching/Teaching/index.html>. In addition, (African) language courses can be integrated into the study program (L).

At the heart of this MA in African Studies is a study project that is carried out with supervision in the chosen focal area, and the master thesis. The study projects are conducted individually and are an excellent opportunity to practice the practice of research (P). These projects will be prepared in the focal areas including methods training and the development and writing of a research proposal. The Master's thesis rounds off the degree program and can be thematically related to the study project, but does not have to. The thesis is an independent piece of research that you develop, implement and whose results you present in writing. Topic and supervisor are chosen by each student, depending on potential supervisor's availability, and where necessary in consultation with the moderator of the MA program. Importantly, study project and MA thesis can both be designed in an interdisciplinary manner. For interdisciplinary projects, co-supervision from two different fields would be considered.

On the basis of the above, the Master's program offers training in, and critical engagement with, the interdisciplinary field of African Studies alongside thorough disciplinary training in a chosen core subject, focused on the study of society, politics and culture.

Forms of Instruction

Lectures (V) introduce selected issues in form of presentations combined with interactive elements.

In *Seminars (S)*, students engage actively with thematic, theoretical, and methodological questions. They can be taught by professors, non-professorial academic staff, or adjunct lecturers.

Colloquia (C) offer opportunities for exchange between faculty members, students, affiliated academics and visiting researchers on contemporary debates in the various disciplines.

Self-Study takes place in addition to attending courses. Students are expected to work independently to deepen their academic study. This includes preparation for and revision of course material as well as self-directed reading.

The *study project* focusses on developing and implementing an empirical research project. In many cases, this will involve fieldwork but also archival research, interviews, document analysis and other forms and methods of primary data collection. These projects are an opportunity for students to put into practice the skills they have gained through their coursework, with guidance from senior teaching staff. Students practice methods and deepen their knowledge of a thematic area through empirical research. Students can select their own topic and site but may also have the opportunity to conduct field research with onsite supervision in a site selected by the program's teaching staff.

Workload

Courses will be credited with ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credit points. ECTS points are given for the participation in seminars, and for different forms of self-study such as the independent preparation and follow-up of seminars. One ECTS point translates into 30 working hours. Hours per semester week (abbreviated SWS) determine the duration of a course – usually two SWS per seminar session. On average, one semester term covers 15 weeks of lecture period.

Following is an example calculation for a two-SWS-seminar credited with five (5) ECTS. It can be used as a reference for students' individual curricula (see [sample curriculum](#)):

Participation in the seminar	30 hours
Self-Study: Preparation for the seminar	30 hours
Self-Study: Follow-up on the seminar	30 hours
Self-Study: Exam preparation	60 hours

Total: 150 hours

Forms of assessment

Exam:	Written exam of between 60 and 120 minutes following a course.
Take-home exam:	A written examination that is not taken at the university but at home. It is a question-guided homework in which - comparable to a written exam - individual questions have to be solved independently at home within a relatively short time (max. 14 days). The use of sources is permissible, but these must be fully indicated as in a term paper.
Term paper:	Written work on an independently developed topic following a course. It answers a research question with a clear methodological approach and consists of 12-15 pages of continuous text. The term paper is related to the seminar topic.
Presentation:	Oral presentation between 10 and 30 minutes depending on course content.
Poster:	The scientific poster is a visualized presentation in the form of a poster (mind. Din A1) and combines textual and visual elements to present the learning progress or research results.
Essays:	Written work usually done during a seminar consisting of 1-2 texts of together up to 12 pages. In an essay, students develop their own line of argument by discussing different points of view on a problem using secondary literature. May also be designed as a book review.
Oral examination:	Takes 20-45 minutes following a course.
Portfolio Examination:	Written documentation of subject content according to specified criteria. The form and the assessment criteria are to be announced to the students by the respective examiner at the beginning of the course. The scope of the portfolio examination is determined by the module size.
Response Papers:	Response papers offer a short summary and a reflection of (a) scientific paper(s) or a book. They are not a mere summary of text but offer a critical analysis of an assigned set of sources.
Project proposal:	The project proposal helps the author to describe and concretize the goals and content of a project before implementation. It serves third parties as a basis for deciding whether the project should be carried out in this way.
Research report:	The research report concludes the study project. It is a written report of up to 25 pages (excluding references and appendices that sets out the aims of the research project, how the project was conducted, presents the main findings, and reflects on the researcher's positionality and the limitations of the work. Details are to be determined by the lecturer.

Module descriptions**Module Area A****A1) Introduction to African Studies**

A1	Lecture: Introduction to African Studies
Module coordinated by	Program coordinator
Language	English
Description	In this introductory lecture, key debates in African studies and the study of society, politics, culture, history and religion in Africa will be discussed drawing from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Students gain an overview of the history of African Studies and the study of Africa more broadly, and delve into core questions in regard to important debates on politics and society, culture, religion and history in/of Africa. Lecturing will be combined with interactive engagement and seminar-style discussion and engagement with core texts. Colleagues from the different focal areas of the program will contribute.
Learning Objectives	Students are familiar with the history and key debates in African Studies and the study of Africa in History, Political Sciences and Global Political Sociology, Study of Religion, and Social and Cultural Anthropology. They are aware of different disciplinary perspectives as well as interdisciplinary bodies of work. They know key texts in African Studies that speak to the social sciences and humanities.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Lecture with seminar parts (2SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h
Preparation and follow-up	60h
Exam preparation	60h
Exam information	Take home exam.
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every winter term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 1
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module A2) Interdisciplinary Seminar

A2	Interdisciplinary Seminar
Module coordinated by	Program coordinator
Language	English
Description	In this module, seminars will exemplarily take on key debates in African Studies and critically engage with takes on society politics and culture (in Africa) in contemporary social sciences and humanities. These are discussed through in-depth engagement with core scholarly works but also complemented by topical newspaper articles, blogs, podcasts or video, and exemplary engagement with case material. The seminar will cover perspectives from at least two disciplines. It will be given by lecturers from two disciplines if possible.
Learning Objectives	Students learn about central issues and debates that arise in African Studies. In addition, a problem-based approach is established, which shows that research on African dynamics and phenomena needs to be interdisciplinary. In addition, students learn the ability to transfer the phenomena studied to other regions or social processes and thus acquire the competence to study Africa in the world.
Prerequisites	None
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Oral presentation + term paper OR response papers + Essays
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every summer term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 2
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module A3) Contemporary Politics of Knowledge

A3	Seminar: Contemporary Politics of Knowledge
Module coordinated by	Chair for Epistemologies of the Global South
Language	English
Description	The contemporary politics of knowledge refers to important debates around epistemologies of the Global South. These are a reference to knowledges born within struggles against racism, enslavement, colonialism, capitalism, patriarchy, and global coloniality. This seminar introduces students to this emerging field of studies that is shaking up the world of knowledge. At the centre are the complex politics of knowledge and its redefinitions from the vantage points of the Global South. Content-wise, the seminar covers methodological, theoretical and empirical aspects of epistemologies of the Global South and their implications for reconstitution of knowledge in the 21 st century.
Learning Objectives	<p>To understand and critically engage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectivity versus subjectivity in knowledge • Debates in politics of knowledge • Cognitive empire and coloniality of knowledge • Global economy of knowledge and uneven academic/intellectual division of labour • Case studies of politics of knowledge in Africa • Theory from the South • Decolonization/decoloniality
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h
Exam information	Term paper
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every summer term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 2
Additional information	None

Module area B) Navigating the disciplines

In the following module students can choose three courses out of four provided by the disciplines. Background to the module B is that students get an overview over current disciplinary takes on African Studies, which enables them to choose their focal area.

Module B1) Seminar in Social & Cultural Anthropology

B1	Seminar in Social & Cultural Anthropology
Module coordinated by	Social and Cultural Anthropology
Language	English
Description	The seminar provides students with an informed introduction into approaches and debates in Anthropology with a special focus on Africa. It will impart foundational knowledge of core debates and theoretical strands of the discipline. Further, it will deal with the entangled histories of Anthropology and knowledge production on and within the African continent. A special focus will be on anthropologies developed at African institutions and their situatedness in the broader field of multiple global and world anthropologies.
Learning Objectives	Students can identify core debates and foundational schools of thought within Social and Cultural Anthropology. They can critically reflect and appropriately frame the specific situatedness of empirical findings, theoretical debates, and ethical questions regarding the anthropology of Africa. They know important steps in the history of Anthropology and the entanglements with knowledge production on the continent
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Written exam
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every winter term
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module B 2) Seminar in Sociology and Politics of Africa

B2	Seminar in Sociology and Politics of Africa
Module coordinated by	Chair for Sociology in Africa & Professorship of African Politics and Development Policy
Language	English
Description	The seminar deals with different aspects of politics and society in Africa, also in view of research on other regions. Engagement with key concepts and theory will be combined with engaging empirical evidence through case studies, comparison between cases, survey material etc.. Seminars in this module focus on specific topics, which may differ from year to year.
Learning Objectives	Students will acquire the ability to analyse specific aspects of the politics and sociology of Africa and critically engage different approaches to selected issues.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Presentation + Essays
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every winter term
Additional information	Changing seminar topics according to the relevant offer in the respective semester.

Module B 3) Seminar in African History

B 3)	Seminar in African History
Module coordinated by	Chair for African History
Language	English
Description	The objective of this module is to introduce students to the field of African history and to impart methods and tools from this field. It will provide students with basic knowledge of periodization in Africa History, with a critical appraisal of the conventional boundaries of African epochs (precolonial/ colonial/ postcolonial history). The module will familiarize students with the different kinds of historical sources and provide them with a basic knowledge of how to use sources on the base of one period or topic of African history. Further, students will learn that, far from being "isolated", Africa has a long history of transnational and transcontinental entanglements.
Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of selected debates in African History • Basic knowledge of historical periodization in African History • Acquaintance with the most important academic tools and handbooks of African History • Comprehension of the different types of historical sources and the different types of academic publications in African History • Basic understanding of global entanglements in African History • The ability to develop a research question • The ability to gather relevant sources and to structure the research question by developing a thorough outline • The ability to write an extended piece of work that meets academic standards
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Written exam
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every winter term
Additional information	None

Module B 4) Seminar in the Study of Religion

B 4)	Seminar in the Study of Religion
Module coordinated by	Professorship Study of Religion with Focus on Africa
Language	English
Description	<p>This module offers an introduction to the study of religion with focus on Africa. With reference to the history and present of specific religious traditions in and from Africa, the module explores key concepts and approaches to the study of religion as well as discussions on current issues.</p> <p>It includes an introduction to the post-and decolonial study of religion, a critical review of notions of religion and secularity and provides the tools for understanding processes of socio-religious transformation in an entangled world.</p>
Learning Objectives	<p>Students know the key concepts and specific theoretical and methodological approaches in the study of religion and are able to discuss these critically. They know how to describe and analyse specific socio-religious processes in a global perspective and are capable to reflect conceptual and epistemological questions in the study of religion.</p>
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Presentation + Essays or term paper
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every winter term
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module areas C, D, E, F): Focal Areas

In this module students decide to intensively study one discipline. In this regard C represents course work in the field of Social and Cultural Anthropology, D enables students to study politics and sociology, whereas E is for African History and F for African religion.

Module C1a) and b) Current Themes and Anthropological Lecture Series

Students can choose between C1A and C1B. Those who did not study Anthropology before, are highly recommended to choose C1A.

Please note: C1B includes two courses (C1B(1) and C1B(2))

C1a	Doing Ethnography
Module coordinated by	Chair of Social and Cultural Anthropology
Language	English
Description	Ethnographic fieldwork is the central research methodology in social and cultural anthropology. Here students gain insights into important conversations in anthropology around methodological questions, including matters of reflexivity, collaboration and research ethics. Moreover, they learn a variety of ethnographic tools through practical exercises, including interviews, close observations, situational analysis, and mapping.
Learning Objectives	Students are able to conceptualize a research question and a methodological approach. They can articulate the specificity of an ethnographic approach and can critically reflect on their own research practice.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	300h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	120h (S)
Exam preparation	150h (S)
Exam information	Portfolio Examination
ECTS credits	10
Pattern of offering	available to all students every winter term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 1
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

C1B (1)	Current themes in Anthropology
Module coordinated by	Professorship of Social and cultural anthropology in Africa
Language	English
Description	The module allows students to explore enduring debates and changing concepts in anthropology with a special focus on Africa. Courses introduce relevant anthropological topics and questions and contextualize them in relation to the discipline's histories and to current academic, societal, and political problems. Specific course topics are accommodating students' research interests as well as the lecturer's specializations.
Learning Objectives	Students will deepen their understanding of particular topics and debates in anthropology. They will have an understanding of the history, context, and development of particular thematic areas in anthropology and be able to situate their research interests in relation to these. They will be able to present their own arguments and ideas on contemporary theories and concepts in a critical and concise manner.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	240 h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	150 h (S)
Exam information	Term paper
ECTS credits	8
Pattern of offering	available to all students every winter term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 1
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

C1B (2)	Anthropology lecture series
Module coordinated by	Professorship of Social and cultural anthropology in Africa
Language	English
Description	The module lets students take an active part in the Anthropology Lecture series, which provides them with presentations of ongoing research and discussions. In addition to attending weekly lectures and engaging in the discussion, students have the opportunity to meet the invited speakers and network alongside their individual needs.
Learning Objectives	After completing the module, the students have an overview of current anthropological research topics and theories which they can use for their master's thesis. They are familiar with international scholars and their presentation styles, and practice active participation in academic discussions.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	60h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	30h (S)
Exam preparation	None
Exam information	None
ECTS credits	2
Pattern of offering	available to all students every term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 1 or 2
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module C2) Seminar in Social & Cultural Anthropology

C2	Practical Preparation and Research Proposal of the anthropological research project
Module coordinated by	Chair of Social Anthropology
Language	English
Description	This module prepares students to conceptualize, design, organize, and realize a research project. Students generate a research proposal that addresses the relevant literature, thematic scope, and methodological approach of their project. This includes ethical reflections on the research, for which relevant references (e.g. the guidelines of the German Anthropological Association) are taken into account.
Learning Objectives	Students learn how to successfully conduct a research project through all the planning stages. They are able to develop a research design for a specific question. They can reflect on ethical and methodological questions in relation to their planned fieldwork.
Prerequisites	A4 Seminar in Social and Cultural Anthropology
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Research proposal
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every summer term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 2
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module C3) Seminar in Social & Cultural Anthropology

C3	Data analysis of the anthropological research project
Module coordinated by	Chair of Social Anthropology
Language	English
Description	This course accompanies students in the analysis phase of their projects by facilitating discussions around research analysis and allowing them to process their research in a group setting. Guided by texts and discussions of data analysis, students compile their research findings into a report, which serves as the basis for group feedback and evaluation. Students learn to support each other and to offer constructive commentary, thus enriching each other's work.
Learning Objectives	Students will be able to process and conduct preliminary analyses of their research data. They can present the results of their research in a research report, taking into account theoretical and methodological considerations. They can critically reflect on their own process and offer constructive commentary on the work of others.
Prerequisites	A4 Seminar in Social and Cultural Anthropology
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Portfolio Examination
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every winter term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 3
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module D1) Social and Political Processes in Africa

D1	Social and Political Processes in Africa
Module coordinated by	Professorship of African Politics and Development Policy
Language	English
Description	This seminar deals with different aspects of African politics and society, also in comparison to other parts of the world, or by focussing on the interrelations with other parts of the world. Different material and methods of instruction will be used including case studies and survey data. Seminars will focus on a specific topic, which may differ from year to year.
Learning Objectives	Students will acquire the ability to deal with specific theoretical approaches and methods from politics and sociology in order to analyse phenomena in Africa and beyond, in comparative view and/or with focus on interrelations and processes between entities.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Oral exam
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	At least once a year
Additional information	Changing seminar topics according to the relevant offer in the respective semester.

Module D2) Africa's Global Entanglements

D2	Africa's Global Entanglements
Module coordinated by	Chair for Sociology in Africa
Language	English
Description	This module introduces key theories related to interconnectedness and global entanglements of and in the Global South. Seminars focuses specifically on what globality and 'the international' are in Africa and explores Africa's multiple and changing transnational entanglements. This includes to consider the manifest inequalities and postcolonial hierarchies Africa in the world is embedded in. Among others, topics include transnational mobilization and social movements, African states in international politics and Africa's inter- and trans-national relations, dynamics of regionalism, and transnational entanglements in peace, conflict and (in)security.
Learning Objectives	Students will be able to identify and explain central themes, approaches, and concepts to capture and understand Africa's inter- and transnational relations. At the same time, they will be able to think International Relations and Global Political Sociology from Africa. They will be able to describe the history, epistemologies, and debates that define these subfields and the quest for 'worlding' them with and from the Global South. They are able to critically examine the interrelationships of knowledge and power and can explain the importance of social practice in shaping human coexistence.
Prerequisites	A1
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Oral presentation + term paper or response papers + term paper
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	At least once a year
Additional information	Changing seminar topics according to the relevant offer in the respective semester.

Module D3) Advanced Applied Methodology and Project Development in Politics and Sociology

D3	Advanced Applied Methodology and Project Development in Politics and Sociology
Module coordinated by	Chair of Sociology in Africa & Professorship of African Politics and Development Policy
Language	English
Description	This module teaches applied research skills and supports students in preparing and conducting their own research project (module P). The emphasis is on designing your own research question and research design and on applying concrete empirical research methods to collect and analyse material.
Learning Objectives	In the course of the module, students will learn and improve their research skills. Seminars will teach basic skills such as project design, data collection and interpretation, ethical reflection as well as analytical skills. Following the project study, students are able to design, conduct and communicate their own research. They are able to weigh between different methods and instruments and choose the most appropriate approach to the problem they would like to study.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h
Exam information	Research Proposal
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every summer term
Course placement	To be taken semester 2
Additional information	Prerequisite for a study project and master thesis in Global Political Sociology or Political Science/International Relations.

Module D4) Current Events, Trends and Debates in/on African Politics and Society

D4	Current Events, Trends and Debates in/on African Politics and Society
Module coordinated by	Chair for Sociology in Africa & Professorship for African Politics and Development Policy
Language	English
Description	The module provides students with a deeper understanding of current socio-political trends and processes that promote, undermine or reconfigure the social fabric and/or configurations of power and authority in Africa through selected topics. Special attention is paid to social and political diversity on the African continent. Seminars in this module will be built on current political and social developments and events in Africa, or in a specific set of African countries or region, such as massive political protest and change, conflict, issues around (in)security and securitization, innovative social or political projects, or crucial electoral dynamics.
Learning Objectives	Students acquire an in-depth understanding of complex forms of political organization and processes for the analysis of African societies and states. They master the relevant terminology and know central theoretical and empirical strands of discussion. After completing the module, students will be familiar with essential similarities and differences between African societies, political systems and socio-political processes, and will be able to appropriately process relevant political science and sociological literature and systematically explore relevant empirical phenomena. Students will learn to analyse current events for which no academic literature is available yet through the lens of earlier research approaches and with the necessary prudence with regard to (potential) biases in news reports and short-term analyses.
Prerequisites	A1
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Presentation and Poster
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	At least once a year
Additional information	Students are encouraged to propose current topics of interest early in the previous semester.

Module E1) Seminar in African History I

E1	Seminar in African History I
Module coordinated by	Chair of African History
Language	English
Description	The objective of this module is to provide insights into the central debates, research approaches and findings in African history with a special emphasis on one specific historical theme or epoch in modern African history. The term paper should focus on transnational and transcontinental entanglements in African History
Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical knowledge of different episodes of the recent African History with a specific emphasis on transnational and transcontinental entanglements • The ability to connect this knowledge to the most important current research questions • The ability to recapitulate on causes and effects of historical events • The ability to develop a research question • The ability to gather relevant sources and to structure the research question by developing a thorough outline • The ability to write an extended piece of work that meets academic standards
Prerequisites	None
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	30h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Term paper
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	At least once a year
Additional information	

Module E2) Seminar in African History II

E2	Seminar in African History II
Module coordinated by	Chair of African History
Language	English
Description	The objective of this module is to provide insights into the central debates, research approaches and findings in African history with a special emphasis on one specific historical theme or epoch in modern African history. The term paper should focus on transnational and transcontinental entanglements in African History
Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical knowledge of different episodes of the recent African History with a specific emphasis on transnational and transcontinental entanglements • The ability to connect this knowledge to the most important current research questions • The ability to recapitulate on causes and effects of historical events • The ability to develop a research question • The ability to gather relevant sources and to structure the research question by developing a thorough outline • The ability to write an extended piece of work that meets academic standards
Prerequisites	None
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	30h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Written exam
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	At least once a year
Additional information	None.

Module E3) Advanced Applied Methodology and Project Development in History

E3	Advanced Applied Methodology and Project Development in History
Module coordinated by	Chair of African History
Language	English
Description	This module teaches applied research skills by supporting students in developing and preparing their own empirical research project (module P) drawing from historical and broader social sciences literatures. Instruction in research design and methodology take place in a seminar to guide students in designing a project, collecting their own data, and in analyzing it.
Learning Objectives	In the course of the module, students will learn and improve their research skills. Seminars will teach basic skills such as project design, data collection and interpretation, ethical reflection as well as analytical skills. Following the project study, students are able to design, conduct and communicate their own research. They are able to weigh between different methods and instruments and choose the most appropriate approach to the problem they would like to study.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h
Exam information	Research Proposal
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every summer term
Course placement	To be taken semester 2
Additional information	Prerequisite for a study project and master thesis in History

Module E4) Seminar in African History and Methods

E4	Seminar in African History and Methods
Module coordinated by	Chair of African History
Language	English
Description	The objective of this module is to provide methods for research in African history. The focus is on modern and contemporary African history and its interconnections with world history. At the core of the seminar are questions of methodology and theoretical approaches for the analysis of sources in African history.
Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to understand and analyse primary documentation (historical sources such as: reports, letters, epigraphics, photographs, movies, etc.) • Ability to contextualized and contrast historical documentation • The ability to write an extended piece of work that meets academic standards
Prerequisites	None
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	30h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Written Exam
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	Available in the winter term
Additional information	None.

Module F1) Seminar in the Study of Religion I

F1	Seminar in the Study of Religion I
Module coordinated by	Professorship Study of Religion with Focus on Africa
Language	English
Description	The module introduces selected religious traditions in/from African societies and looks at historical and contemporary religious practices, understandings, forms of organisation and materialities. By studying specific developments and practices for example in Christianity, Islam or indigenous religious traditions as well as the relationality of these traditions, central concepts, theories and methods of the study of religion are also explored. The module facilitates an empirically grounded critical reflection on conceptual and epistemological issues of research and theory building in the study of religion.
Learning Objectives	Students know about the history, diversity and relationality of specific religious traditions in/from Africa and develop a conceptual framework with the help of which they can approach the study of religious practices, actors, institutions and media. They know the theoretical and methodological tools to critically analyse historical and contemporary dynamics in the field of religion and can apply them.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30 h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	90h (S)
Exam preparation	30h (S)
Exam information	Portfolio Examination
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every winter term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 1
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module F2) Seminar in the Study of Religion II

F2	Seminar in the Study of Religion II
Module coordinated by	Study of Religion with focus on Africa
Language	English
Description	The module introduces selected religious traditions in/from African societies, as well as current research topics and central debates. By studying specific developments and practices for example in Christianity, Islam or indigenous religious traditions in and through their global entanglements, students explore theories and research approaches in the study of religion. The module facilitates an empirically grounded critical reflection on conceptual and epistemological issues of theory building and empirical research in the study of religion.
Learning Objectives	Students know about the history, diversity and relationality of specific religious traditions in/from Africa as well as about current research approaches and debates. They know the theoretical and methodological tools to critically analyse historical and contemporary dynamics in the field of religion and can apply them.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Essay or term paper
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every summer term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 2
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module F3) Seminar in the Study of Religion – Research Design

F3	Seminar in the Study of Religion
Module coordinated by	Study of Religion with focus on Africa
Language	English
Description	This module teaches applied research skills and supports students in preparing and conducting their own research project (module P). Students learn about research design and research ethics; they will develop their own research project and questions and apply research methods to collect and analyse material.
Learning Objectives	Students have improved their research skills and have an awareness of methodological and ethical questions of empirical research. They know different methods and instruments and can choose the most appropriate approach for their project. They are able to design, conduct and communicate their own research.
Prerequisites	
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Research proposal
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	available to all students every summer term
Course placement	To be taken in semester 2
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module F4) Seminar in the Study of Religion – Wider Perspectives

F4	Seminar in the Study of Religion
Module coordinated by	Study of Religion with focus on Africa
Language	English
Description	The module opens up the possibility of a more in-depth study of a specific religious tradition in/from African societies or a theoretical or methodological debate. Seminars can be selected from the Study of Religion, Islamic Studies or other religion-related African Studies disciplines. The module facilitates an empirically grounded critical reflection on conceptual and epistemological issues of research and theory building in the study of religion.
Learning Objectives	Students have an in-depth insight into a particular religious tradition in/from Africa and know about key concepts and current approaches in the academic study of this tradition.
Prerequisites	B4, F1
Main components and workload	Seminar (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	written exam, term paper, essay or portfolio examination
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	Winter or summer term, can be taken from second semester onwards
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

G) Elective classes

In this module students acquire knowledge and skills from neighbouring disciplines in the Africa focus of the University of Bayreuth. Alternatively, students can also study one of the disciplines involved in the MA African Studies in depth and receive credit for 15 credit points. The students decide for themselves whether they want to study a subject in depth or whether they want a broader orientation.

- International Law with focus on African Legal Studies (Faculty III)
- Political, Economic and Social Geography with focus on Africa (Faculty II)
- Economics and political economy with focus on Africa/Global South (Faculty III, VII)
- African Literature, Media Studies, Intersectionality and other Africa-focused offerings in faculty IV

Module G) Opening

G I-III	Opening
Module coordinated by	Program coordinator of course chosen
Language	English (or other, depending on course chosen)
Description	This module offers students to broaden their perspective by choosing courses from various different disciplines within African Studies in Bayreuth (from the other subjects involved in this MA program, or from the rich offerings beyond, such as in African Law, African Linguistics, Language and Literature Studies, Geography, Islamic Studies, Development Economics, or Global Politics of Nutrition and Health).
Learning Objectives	Students are able to identify and explain a disciplinary approach other than their individual focus discipline. Students can reference central theoretical debates and methodological approaches of said discipline and reflect them critically.
Prerequisites	None.
Main components and workload	Seminar, Lecture (3x2 SWS)
Total hours	450h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	3x2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Depending on the course chosen.
ECTS credits	In total 15 ECTS (3 x 5 ECTS)
Pattern of offering	Summer or winter term
Additional information	

Module L) Languages

L	Languages
Module coordinated by	UBT <i>Sprachenzentrum</i>
Language	Any of the African languages, or other languages spoken in Africa/ used in African Archives (French, English, Portuguese, Chinese, Italian).
Description	Students choose to learn a language and use the classes at UBT <i>Sprachenzentrum</i> , please check the <i>Sprachenzentrum</i> 's module handbook. In the well-justified case that a student is already proficient in two or more African languages, they could substitute the language module with an additional course + assessment adding up to 8 ECTS.
Learning Objectives	With language acquisition, students are empowered with region-specific competence and also acquire the ability to acquire linguistic knowledge. The courses are focused on oral and written language competence.
Prerequisites	
Main components and workload	2 Language Courses (4 SWS)
Total hours	150
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h (S)
Exam preparation	60h (S)
Exam information	Depending on the course chosen.
ECTS credits	8
Pattern of offering	Summer or winter term
Additional information	

Module P1) Study Project

P1	Study Project
Module coordinated by	Program coordinator & respective focal area
Language	English
Description	<p>In this module students have the opportunity to conduct a research project of their own. The study project module covers the implementation of the project including the analysis and interpretation of material and the writing up of a research report. The project will be prepared in the chosen focal area. It can be based on empirical fieldwork, archival work, academic literature or the work with media, databases or other material than texts. Methods and research procedures may vary with the respective focal area, supervisor and individual focus. Interdisciplinary projects are very welcome.</p> <p>The research can also form a basis for the master thesis. However, this is not mandatory, and the thesis needs to still be a distinct piece of research on her own.</p>
Learning Objectives	The students know how to prepare, plan, and apply for a research project. Furthermore, students will be enabled to conduct empirical research and how to analyse the material gathered. They develop the skills of writing a research report, which is characterized by an ethical reflection of chosen methods and material.
Prerequisites	A1, depending on the chosen focal area: C2, D3, E3, F3
Main components and workload	Implementation (0 SWS)
Total hours	600h
Planning and organising	60h
Research (collection of material, analysis)	450h
Writing report	90h
Exam information	Research report
ECTS credits	20
Pattern of offering	Summer or winter term
Course placement	Recommended for semester 3
Additional information	Prerequisite for further studies.

Module M1) Colloquium

M1	Master's Colloquium
Module coordinated by	Program coordinator & respective supervisor/discipline
Language	English
Description	The Master colloquium is the central discussion forum for the ongoing Master research of all students. Students participate actively, not only by once presenting their own master's project, but also by discussing and critically engaging with other Master's project that were supervised by their chosen supervisor. The students thus attend the Master colloquium their supervisor provide.
Learning Objectives	Students are able to present their master research and discuss it with an academic audience of their colleagues as well as supervisors.
Prerequisites	
Main components and workload	Interactive (2 SWS)
Total hours	150h
Lecture (V), seminar (S), tutorial (T), Active participation	2 SWS, 30h (S)
Preparation and follow-up	60h
Preparation and presentation	60h
Exam information	Presentation of students' master research
ECTS credits	5
Pattern of offering	Summer or winter term
Course placement	Recommended for semester 4
Additional information	None.

Module M2) Thesis

M2	Thesis
Module coordinated by	Program coordinator & respective supervisor from the involved disciplines
Language	English
Description	In their Master's Thesis, students will present their research findings along an expedient outline in order to answer the core research question, embedding them in current theoretical debates of their respective disciplines and reflecting them with reference to methods, ethics, positionality, and modes of knowledge production.
Learning Objectives	Students are able to compile and present empirical findings in an academically sound manner. They are capable of identifying the current state of disciplinary discourse around their topic and present it accordingly through the critical use of sources. They profess an academic yet accessible writing style and are able to make convincing theoretical arguments.
Prerequisites	A1-A3, two B-Modules, C1-2 or D/E/F 1-3
Workload (Preparation and writing of master thesis)	Self-Study (660h)
Exam information	Master's Thesis
ECTS credits	22
Pattern of offering	Any time
Course placement	to be completed in semester 4
Additional information	None.

Overview: Exemplary curriculum for a full-time study program with the different majors available (start winter semester)

This chart serves as a template for how one might organize courses as a full-time student in the MA African Studies. It is recommended that students use this as a framework for planning their courses, so as to ensure feasibility and successful completion of the degree.

Semester							Summed LPs
4. FS	M2: Master thesis (22 LP) and M1: Colloquium (5 LP)			G3: Opening (5 LP)			32
3. FS	G2: Opening (5 LP)	C/D/E/F4: Seminar in Individual Discipline (5 LP)	P1: Study Project (20 LP)				30
2. FS	A3: Politics of Knowledge (5 LP)	L1: Language (4 LP)	C/D/E/F3: Seminar in Individual Discipline (5 LP)		A2: Interdisciplinary Seminar (5 LP)	G1: Opening (5 LP)	29
			C/D/E/F2: Seminar in Individual Discipline (5 LP)				
1. FS	A1: Introduction to African Studies (5 LP)	L1: Language (4 LP)	C/D/E/F1: Seminar in Individual Discipline (5 LP)	B1/B2/B3/B4: Navigating the disciplines (choice of religion, history, ska and sociology & politics) (5 LP)	B1/B2/B3/B4: Navigating the disciplines (choice of religion, history, ska and sociology & politics) (5 LP)	B1/B2/B3/B4: Navigating the disciplines (choice of religion, history, ska and sociology & politics) (5 LP)	29