

Module II.1 Historical and Social Perspectives (15 LP)

The module Historical and Social Perspectives offers the possibility of specialization in one of three study areas. It prepares students for the master's thesis in terms of both content and methodology.

In this module, students take three courses all within the same study area of their choosing. Students must choose courses under **either** literary/cultural studies, linguistics, or book studies; they cannot choose a mix of courses from different focus areas and they cannot change from one specialization into another.

No matter the study area chosen, students are required to complete a **term paper** of **5,500 words** in order to complete this module.

II.1.1 Historical and Social Perspectives: Texts and Categories (15 LP)

This module consists of a seminar (with **term paper**), a seminar (with **group portfolio**), and a lecture (with **task sheets**).

In the seminar and in the lecture, students acquire knowledge of the historical development of English-language literatures and learn to assess the literary and cultural relevance of various text types. They also acquire broadening or specializing knowledge of epochs, genres or texts, which they further deepen in the assigned examination and course work through guided research-based learning. Students will further develop their ability to classify and critically examine individual topics in their overall context.

As well as a term paper in one of the two seminars, students will also be required to complete a **group portfolio** with roughly **3,000 words** written per person. The group portfolio should be done in the seminar without the term paper. In the lecture, students complete **task sheets** for course credit. The number of task sheets will be defined in the first session of the lecture.

* *Dual Master's Degree*: Dual MA BAPS/MEd Gym/Ges students are able to reduce the number of their written assignments by writing a single term paper for both BAPS and MEd credit in the field of literary studies, book studies, or linguistics. In this case, the longer of the two assignment lengths must always be used.

The QISPOS exam numbers for this module are:

14001 Seminar Literary and Cultural Studies (with term paper)

14002 Seminar Literary and Cultural Studies

14003 Lecture Literary and Cultural Studies

II.1.2 Historical and Social Perspectives: Language and Linguistics (15 LP)

This module consists of a seminar (with **term paper**), a seminar (with **project presentation**), and a lecture (with **task sheets**).

Students acquire in-depth knowledge of the linguistic history of English as well as of standard forms and variation of English and its dynamic character as an international language. In the lecture and seminars, students engage in historical, register-specific, social, dialectal, situational, and/or international variation in English, as well as in the collection and analysis of linguistic data of various written or oral forms.

Students will deepen their knowledge of the language stages of English. They will be able to handle authentic language data and recognize the historical, contextual, and social situatedness of written and oral language. They build their skills in linguistic description and analysis of the language levels of English in context. They deepen their knowledge of different types of linguistic variation. Students further develop their ability to classify and critically examine individual topics in their overall context. They refine their linguistic ability to conduct arguments.

As well as a term paper in one of the two seminars, students will also be required to give a **20-minute presentation** on their research project. The presentation must be done in the seminar without the term paper. In the lecture, students complete **task sheets** for course credit. The number of task sheets will be defined in the first session of the lecture.

The QISPOS exam numbers for this module are:

15001 Seminar Language and Linguistics (with term paper)

15002 Seminar Language and Linguistics

15003 Lecture Language and Linguistics

II.1.3 Historical and Social Perspectives: The Book (15 LP)

This module consists of a seminar (with term paper), a research workshop (with group portfolio), and a lecture (with task sheets).

In the context of media studies as well as cultural studies in the seminar and lecture, the focus is on aspects of the materiality of communication. In addition, central questions of Anglophone book trade and publishing history as well as Anglophone book culture will be addressed. Students will become familiar with research on oral/written communication, on changes in book production (invention of printing, industrialization and changes in printing processes, digitization of book production), and on media upheavals (“media revolutions”). Students will be guided to relate this knowledge to case studies on the English-language cultural field. Particularly in the research workshop, students will be able to specialize in a given era and/or theme and to explore selected aspects in depth on their own projects.

Students acquire knowledge about the historical development of the book as an artifact in the context of other print and non-print media. They are able to assess epoch-specific value discourses on books and reading as well as different forms of book communication on the respective socio-cultural background and to evaluate the effect of this communication (“the book as a cultural agent”). Students will be able to relate historical aspects of the book to questions about the (post)modern media society in a way that promotes knowledge. Students will further develop their ability to classify individual topics in an overall context and to view them critically.

As well as a term paper in one of the two seminars, students will also be required to complete a **group portfolio** with roughly **3,000 words** written per person. The group portfolio will be done as part of the research workshop. In the lecture, students complete **task sheets** for course credit. The number of task sheets will be defined in the first session of the lecture.

The QISPOS exam numbers for this module are:

16001 Seminar Book Studies (with term paper)

16002 Research Workshop Book Studies

16003 Lecture Book Studies