# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

**English: Area Studies (A703323)**

**Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020**
- Jooken, Lieve (LW22, lecturer-in-charge)
- Teeuwen, Ludo (LW22, co-lecturer)

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020**

**A (semester 1)**
- **Dutch, English**
  - Guided self-study: 15.0 h
  - Lecture: 30.0 h

**Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Offering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Applied Language Studies)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Arts in Multilingual Communication: a combination of at least two languages (main subject Dutch, English, French)</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exchange Programme Applied Language Studies</td>
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**Teaching languages**
- Dutch, English

(Approved)
Keywords
   English; Area studies

Position of the course
This unit of study continues and extends the historical and cultural insights acquired in bachelor courses on cultural history. Classes familiarize students with typical characteristics of British and American society, their political and social organisation. Topical issues and news items are regularly addressed in class in order to hone students’ reading and interpreting skills with respect to various news media. In addition, students expand their terminological command of names of institutions and social phenomena.
Exchange students may take up this course unit. They may also select one module of this course unit; one module is worth 3 credits. No prior knowledge of Dutch is required for this module.

Contents
The unit of study English: Area studies (E4MO) consists of the following parts:
• United Kingdom (E4MO_GB)
• United States (E4MO_VS)

E4MO_GB This sub-unit covers developments in recent British society from the early twentieth century onwards. Topics are introduced thematically, with the syllabus dealing with the workings and current shifts in a selection of areas i.e. the electoral system, political parties, parliament, central government, devolution, identity and citizenship, international relations, the UK and Europe, education, freedom of speech. Themes are linked to topical events and situations discussed in the press. Lessons also address the relevance and lasting impact of social class and class awareness in UK society.

E4MO_VS The sub-unit United States focuses on societal developments in the United States. Both institutional/political and economic/social perspectives are discussed. The most important debates which continue to dominate American society are examined: the role of faith, America in the world, presidential power and the Constitution, the economy, race problems, freedom of speech, the electoral system, and so on. The course contents can be changed to tie in with recent developments, which will be discussed on the basis of selected texts.

Initial competences
The students:
• are familiar with important concepts and realia from the cultural history of the language area;
• can retrieve information about the language area's cultural history, drawing on appropriate sources;
• can frame the language area's current affairs in a cultural and historical context.

Final competences
1 Having a command of English at C1/C2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for comprehension (listening and reading), and writing skills. [MVtc.1.1, assessed]
2 Having advanced knowledge of the cultural and institutional backgrounds of English language areas and based on that knowledge, critically reflecting on social developments and intercultural transfers in the UK and the US. [MVtc.1.3, assessed]
3 Reflecting on new developments within the general context of British and American language and culture critically, and placing them in a broad social and intercultural context. [MVtc.3.1, assessed]
4 Judging and acting with the necessary dose of critical self-reflection in (inter)cultural contexts [MVtc.3.3, not assessed]
5 Displaying an intellectual curiosity and a commitment to lifelong learning. [MVtc.3.4, not assessed]

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract
Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods
Guided self-study, lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods
Lectures elucidate class topics by focussing on critical reflection. Students are...
expected to participate actively in class and a number of topics/texts need to be studied independently. E4MO_VS classes require students to reflect on a weekly list of topics for discussion.

Learning materials and price

Courses:
• E4MO_GB: Reader

Learning platform:
• E4MO_GB: PowerPoint presentations, audio & video files

Other:
• E4MO_GB & E4MO_VS: occasional handouts

References


Course content-related study coaching

Office hours and, if necessary, study-progress sessions

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

(Approved)
Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written examination (100%)
E4MO_GB (50%) / E4MO_VS (50%)
The examination evaluates comprehension of links between topics covered in the course (discursive question) as well as factual knowledge of events, figures, institutions and references etc. treated in class. A list of pointer questions is distributed in the course of the semester.

Calculation of the examination mark
See assessment details

Facilities for Working Students

Class attendance is not compulsory.
The examination can be rescheduled.
Feedback can be obtained via email or during office hours by appointment.

Addendum

E4MO