
Shanghai International Studies University and University of Bayreuth: MA Dual degree structure

Intercultural Anglophone Studies: MA students from Bayreuth

Module descriptors: LITERATURE as major area

1st MA year at UBT

See module handbook MA Intercultural Anglophone Studies, at the web site for the degree program

2nd MA year at SHISU

Unless otherwise stated, the courses have no formal prerequisites. They are offered annually, and the aim is to build competence in the learning contents as specified by means of readings, discussion of the readings, and tests to ascertain comprehension of the reading assignments. Beyond such tests, there is a written examination which may be replaced where specified by a seminar paper. The workload in each course equals 5 ECTS: average 120 hours devoted to active participation and preparatory reading, and 30 hours to preparation for the exam (or 110 participation and 40 preparation of paper). The course contents may be subject to change owing to curricular developments.

Courses in Linguistics, English and American Literature, British and American Culture, and Intercultural Communication

- English and American Literature

Core Courses:

Modern American Fiction

This course will be concerned primarily with a close study of modern American fiction and relate the developing concerns of important American writers to major changes in the modern sensibility. Problems faced by the modern reader of fiction will be discussed, and trends in literary criticism observed.

Modern British Fiction

This course is designed to provide the students with an opportunity to study modern British fiction and discuss the literary achievement of such important writers as James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and D.H. Lawrence, so as to heighten the students' sensibility and critical awareness.

British Fiction Since 1945

This course is designed to examine the living masterpieces of contemporary British novelists (including George Orwell, Samuel Beckett, Doris Lessing, John Fowles, V S Naipaul, David Lodge, Salman Rushdie, Martin Amis, Julian Barnes, Ian McEwan, Kazuo Ishiguro, A S Byatt). It touches upon many important issues, such as realism, experimentalism, feminism, postmodernism, postcolonialism, political novel, academic fiction, metafiction, parody, intertextuality, etc.

American Poetry

This course introduces a host of eminent American poets from an early time to the early twentieth century with detailed interpretations of their most acknowledged poems.

American Drama

This course focuses on major American playwrights and their best plays which cover a wide spectrum of American life and ideology. In-class discussions centre on key elements of drama and extend to relevant aspects of America. Films will be provided for better understanding of the theatrical features of each play and academic papers will be analyzed with a view to help students develop research ability in drama.

Optional Courses:

A Critical History of English Poetry

This course is a historical study of English Poetry. Students shall read intensively certain selected and prescribed masterpieces of poetry and literary criticism, as the basis of discussion in class, in which they are expected to join. In addition, each student should read a list of books especially prepared by the teacher for his or her individual purpose and interest, with a view to writing a thesis setting for his or her own conclusions and findings in literary study and life experience.

American Jewish Literature for MA

This course is designed to provide students with a general idea of American Jewish literature and some basic knowledge of Jewish culture. It will also do some close reading of American Jewish literary texts, paying particular attention to textual/structural analysis from a cultural perspective so as to enable students to have a good understanding of American Jewish literature.

English Poetry

This course is designed to trace the development of English poetry with emphasis on classicism, romanticism and modernism and their relationship. Reading and analytical criticism are combined to improve students' capability of reading, understanding and criticizing English poetry.

Literature & Writing

This course is designed to train students' ability to write and cultivate the postgraduates majoring in English language and literature to comprehend English and American literature and culture, and to acquaint themselves with all kinds of English writing styles. It is also designed to lay the foundations for the students to write scientific thesis and graduation thesis during their study for MA degree.

English Drama of the Renaissance

This course involves a historical study and a close reading of British drama in the Renaissance period. Particular attention will be given to some influential playwrights and their masterpieces. It aims at developing graduate students' further understanding of English drama of the Renaissance as well as their skills in critical analysis and interpretation of various drama works and performances.

Shakespeare Research

This research area is based on a textual perusal of Shakespeare's four major tragedies Hamlet, Othello, King Lear and Macbeth, and his 154 Sonnets, exploring the dominant thoughts, artistic features and language styles while encompassing a myriad of citations from a sea of literary works that echo the rich emotional experience and profound contemplations seeping through the lines of Shakespeare's works.

- **British and American Culture**

Core Courses:

American History & Culture

This course is designed primarily to examine and discuss American culture, focusing particularly on issues like mainstream culture, core values, cultural regions, cultural pluralism, social class, racial tension, family, education, and ethnic identity.

American Politics

This course is intended to highlight some of the most important political thoughts in America, discussing and analyzing them in the context of actual political operation of American political system. In this connection, the course examines in detail such important issues as U.S. Constitution, power structure, political parties, interest groups, civil rights, and democratic process.

British Politics

This course is designed especially to provide students with information about British political system, focusing particularly on issues like general election, political parties, pressure groups, the media, British parliament, Prime Minister and Cabinet, system of government, civil service, and the Queen.

Religion in the Western Culture

This is a two-part, two-semester graduate course on religion in Western culture and society from the ancient period to the contemporary era. The first semester consists of a broad, interdisciplinary survey of Western religions in the cultural and historical context from the ancient period to the age of the Renaissance and the Reformation. The second semester focuses likewise on Western religion and culture from the Renaissance and Reformation to the contemporary era. Reading materials consist of background texts and contemporary readings, to be supplied by the instructor. Grading criteria for the course each semester include attendance, participation, and a research paper on religion in Western culture and society due at the end of the semester.

Optional Courses:

Modern American Women Studies

This course is twofold in its approach, one historical and the other theoretical. By “historical”, it is meant to provide a historical examination of the changes American women have experienced over the past 160-plus years; by “theoretical”, it is meant to analyze some of the most important feminist theories in relation to feminist movements in the U.S.A.

British History

British past is enshrined in its landscape, its institutions and the character of its people. Centuries of environmental, climatic, social and political interplay have produced a historical tapestry of great intricacy and color. This course is therefore designed primarily to study British history and British social development, discussing and analyzing in detail such important issues as Beginnings, Conquest, Dynasty, Nations, King Death, Burning Convictions, the Body of the Queen, the British Wars, Revolutions, Britannia Incorporated, the Wrong Empire, Forces of Nature, Victoria and her Sisters, Empire of Good Intentions and the Two Winstons.

Ethnic Studies

This is a graduate course on ethnic diversity and race relations in America organized chronologically from the colonial period to the present. The first part of our course consists of a broad overview of race and ethnicity in America from the colonial period to the civil rights era. The second part focuses on the civil rights era of the 1950s and 1960s. The third part examines race and ethnicity in America since the 1960s, focusing particularly on the “Age of

Obama.” Reading materials consist of background texts and contemporary readings, to be supplied by the instructor. Grading criteria for the course each semester include attendance, participation, and a research paper on ethnic diversity and race relations in America due at the end of the semester.

- **Intercultural Communication**

Core Courses

Intercultural Communication Competence: Theory & Practice

This course introduces the key concepts and applied theories of intercultural communication (IC) to help students become more aware, perceptive, and effective intercultural communicators. It applies various active learning strategies to help students reflect on their own cultural backgrounds, consider ways of dealing with Others, and develop intercultural skills that can be applied to their academic and personal development and competent interaction.

Seminal Readings in Intercultural Communication Research

This course trains post-graduates to identify, read and evaluate the important journal articles of the field. Through what leading scholars have written, students will be exposed to the influential theoretical foundations and research areas of the IC field. They will learn how to understand quantitative and qualitative research reports, consider the validity of hypotheses and results, and evaluate the design and conclusions of each type of study toward improving their own research.

Foundations of Intercultural Research: History & Status

This course traces the varied disciplines and perspectives that stimulated research on IC, focusing on cultural anthropology, social and cross-cultural psychology, speech and interpersonal communication, media and mass communication studies, social linguistics and translation. It also provides an overview of the influential texts and journals, potential thesis topics and specific research interests related to each of the sub-fields to provide an academic orientation for IC students.

Modern Communication Theories and Cultural Studies

This course introduces and focuses on methodologies and practices of modern communication theories and cultural studies, and investigates on how to apply phenomenology, hermeneutics, semiotics, and critical theories to intercultural research. This course constructs research subjects based on the broad definition of intercultural

communication. By integrating methodologies and theories, this course dives deep into the power relationship among media, communication, and culture in a dynamic and broad way.

Cross-cultural Research Methods

This course introduces the process of careful, systematic, scientific, and interpretative research and exposes students to the varied analytical tools or approaches used in cultural comparison. Practical presentations provide training in the common types of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method studies and suggests strengths and limitations of each. These are then applied to the student's own thesis design, development, writing, and analysis.

Optional Courses:

Intercultural Education & Training

This course addresses the theory, research and application of intercultural education and training in both international and domestic contexts. Students will understand the nature of intercultural education and intercultural training, know various models and instruments for intercultural training, and learn to design intercultural training programs aimed at improving intercultural communication competence of professionals working in various contexts.

Intercultural Business Communication (IBC)

This course introduces the concept of culture at the organizational level and its implications for business communication specifically. Students are exposed to a variety of intercultural business communication issues and the current state of research and practice in the field. Empirical and discourse methods of inquiry are contrasted to give students a better grounding in the methods they may use for their own research and preparing for future work, training or consulting opportunities.

Contrastive Culture and Translation

This course provides an interdisciplinary study across a number of areas in culture studies and a systematic introduction of culture in general and Chinese and Western cultures in particular, thus serving as an integrated part of the theoretical background and academic training of the IC students. It lays special emphasis on cultural factors that interact with various levels of communication between Chinese and Western cultures.

Cross-cultural & Indigenous Perspectives on Values & Identity Research

This course examines cultural dimensions as a way of explaining cultural variations, and their development into intercultural values frameworks in cross-cultural psychology. It then considers indigenous culture studies as well as work on constructed or construed identities in diverse contexts. By exposing students to contrastive etic and emic paradigms and the

various levels at which “culture” can be compared and analyzed, the course provides an awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of both Western and local theoretical models in describing or contrasting “cultures.”



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