

MAIAS Module Handbook “major area linguistics” /FPSO 2026

Module area	A Intercultural Anglophone Studies in Literature and Language – Foundations
Modules & credits	A 1 Seminar (HS) Theoretical Approaches to Language, Variation and Culture (2 SWS; 5 ECTS) A 2 Seminar (HS) Core Issues (2 SWS; 10 ECTS) A 3 Style and Register (Ü) (2 SWS; 5 ECTS) A 4 Elective Seminar I (PS or HS) (2 SWS; 5 ECTS)
Module Coordinator	Chair English Linguistics
Content	Seminar A 1 “Theoretical Approaches to Language, Variation and Culture” focuses on key concepts and critical terminology in contemporary research on the global uses of English in a variety of different cultural contexts and media, on the history of their emergence, structural developments and pragmatic differences; it prepares students for the application of theoretical insights into the analysis of spoken and written linguistic data. Seminar A 2 “Core Issues” furthers students’ theoretical and methodological skills by addressing a topic centrally related to the inter- and transcultural core concept of “diversity” in language. Discussions of its historical, social and cultural-cognitive meanings and effects will be applied to Englishes in various social, cultural, institutional and medial contexts. Übung A 3 “Style and Register” enhances the ability to write complex academic texts in English, with adequate command of style and register. Seminar A 4 “Elective Seminar I” allows students to develop their knowledge of language structure as well as the regional, social and cultural diversity of language usage. It can be chosen from the range of seminars offered in the fields of English Linguistics and other Anglophone Studies.
Learning objectives	Module area A consists of 4 interlinked classes that together are designed to (1) secure a solid grounding in linguistic theory and in some of the field’s central methodologies and current debates; (2) guide students to independently apply these theories and methods; (3) enhance their ability to write academic texts in English; and (4) provide early orientation as to the scope, interconnections, and possible future specialization in the areas of Anglophone language studies and the inter- and transcultural processes involved in the global contexts of the use of English.
Prerequisite	None
Assessment	A 1: pass/fail; essay of c. 3.500 words A 2: pass/fail; essay of c. 3.500 + oral defense (20 min) A 3: graded; written exam A 4: pass/fail; written assignment

Workload	A 1: 5 ECTS, 150 h; active participation (60 h); credit work: see assessment (90) A 2: 10 ECTS, 300 h; active participation (60 h); oral exam (150) credit work: see assessment (90) A 3: 5 ECTS, 150 h; active participation (60 h); credit work: see assessment (90 h) A 4: 5 ECTS, 150 h; active participation (60 h); credit work: see assessment (90 h)
Frequency:	A1: each winter semester A2, A3, A4: each semester

Module area	B Second Foreign Language
Modules & credits	Option B 1 (2 x Grundkurs (8 ECTS), 1 x Aufbaukurs (2 ECTS) = 10 ECTS Option B 2 (1 x Grundkurs (4 ECTS), 3 x Aufbau-/Spezialisierungskurse (6 ECTS) = 10 ECTS) Option B 3 (5 x Aufbaukurs/Spezialisierungskurs (5 x 2 ECTS) = 10 ECTS)
Module Coordinator	Director / Language Center
	Courses / Option B 1 serve to acquire and consolidate the oral and writing skills in the chosen language Courses / Option B 2 serve to acquire, consolidate and improve the student's oral and writing skills in the chosen language Courses / Option B 3 serve to improve and expand the student's oral and writing skills in the chosen language
Learning Objectives	Module area B is designed to help acquire, consolidate, and improve the ability for oral and written communication in the chosen language, at the level of skill which can be obtained in the type of course taken (either "Grundkurs," "Aufbaukurs," or "Spezialisierungskurs").
Prerequisite	Willingness to acquire or improve one's skills in the chosen language. Note: A module already validated with credits in an undergraduate program cannot be validated again in a graduate program.
Assessment	Option B 1: graded; written exam Option B 2: graded; written exam Option B 3: graded; written exam
Workload	Option B 1: 10 ECTS, 300 h Option B 2: 10 ECTS, 300 h Option B 3: 10 ECTS, 300 h
Frequency	Option B 1: each semester Option B 2: each semester Option B 3: each semester

Module area	C Intercultural Anglophone Studies in Literature and Language – Intermediate Level
Modules & credits	C 1 Intensive Course (HS) / Lecture (V) (2 SWS; 5 ECTS) C 2 Intensive Seminar (HS) (2 SWS; 10 ECTS) C 3 Elective Seminar II (PS or HS) (2 SWS; 5 ECTS) C 4 Independent Studies I (10 ECTS)
Module coordinator	Chair English Linguistics
	Course C 1 “Intensive Course” addresses questions pertaining to the cultural development of the various Anglophone regions of the world from a wider range of perspectives, including interdisciplinary perspectives. It also serves to broaden students’ knowledge base concerning the various Anglophone literatures and cultures. Courses can be chosen from linguistics and literary studies (including Anglophone Studies, German, African, and Arabic Studies), media studies, history, sociology, geography and other disciplines. Seminar C 2 “Intensive Seminar” consolidates the theoretical and methodological knowledge acquired in Module A and intensify the application of analytical and interpretative skills by addressing further core concepts of linguistic intercultural Anglophone studies such as inter- and transcultural perspectives of written and spoken communication (C 1) and diversity, diaspora and globalism (C 2) as they pertain to the study of English language contexts. Seminar C 3 “Elective Seminar II” allows students to further broaden their knowledge about language structure as well as the regional and social diversity of language usage. It may also serve to gradually develop a topical specialization. It can be chosen from the range of seminars offered in the fields of English Linguistics and other Anglophone Studies. The topic can be developed from the seminars taken in module C (from seminars C 1, C 2, C 3). C 4 Independent Studies I enables students to further expand their theoretical and methodological knowledge, their skills of analyzing linguistic data, and their knowledge about a specific area of linguistic study by developing a topic for a 3-hour written exam.
Learning objectives	Module area C consists of 3 interlinked classes and the written exam and is designed to (1) consolidate knowledge in linguistic theory basic to the field of Anglophone studies and strengthen students’ independent application of methodological skills; particular emphasis is given to the relevance of core concepts such as inter- and transcultural perspectives of written and spoken communication, diversity, diaspora and globalism in English language contexts. (2) broaden students’ knowledge of the scope, interconnections, and possible future specialization in the area of English Linguistics in its specialization area within Intercultural Anglophone studies.
Prerequisite	Completion of Module area A; students should demonstrate a solid theoretical and methodological grounding, deepened knowledge of the linguistic structural and intercultural analytical core concept of “diversity” and of the social, cultural and regional diversity of English language usages.

Assessment	C 1: pass/fail; essay of c. 3.500 words C 2: graded; term paper (c. 9.000) (relevant for final grade) C 3: pass/fail; written assignment C 4: graded; 3-hour written exam (relevant for final grade)
Workload	C 1: 5 ECTS, 150 h; active participation (60 h); credit work: see assessment (90) C 2: 10 ECTS, 300 h; active participation (60 h); credit work: see assessment (240) C 3: 5 ECTS, 150 h; active participation (60 h); credit work: see assessment (90) C 4: 10 ECTS, 300 h (written exam)
Frequency	C1, C2, C3, C4: each semester

Module area	D Intercultural Anglophone Studies in Literature and Language – Advanced Level
Modules & credits	D 1 Advanced Seminar I (HS) (2 SWS; 5 ECTS) D 2 Advanced Seminar II (OS) (2 SWS; 5 ECTS) D 3 Independent Studies II (10 ECTS)
Module Coordinator	Chair English Linguistics
Content	Seminar D 1 “Advanced Seminar I” strengthens students’ theoretical and methodological understanding acquired in Modules A and C, placing emphasis on methods of eliciting and analysing English language data. Seminar D 2 “Advanced Seminar II” further expands students’ knowledge of the history and variety of an inter- or transcultural approach acquired in Modules A and C by focusing in a concentrated and exhaustive way on one central theoretical sociolinguistic, text linguistic, anthropological or pragmatic approach in the realms of English language contexts. D 3 Independent Studies II “Independent Studies II” enables students to further expand their theoretical and methodological knowledge, their analytical skills, and their knowledge about several linguistic fields by developing three topic areas for a 60-minute oral exam. The topic areas can be developed from classes taken in module D as well as in modules A and C.
Learning objectives	Module area D is designed to (1) further strengthen students’ capabilities in terms of an informed theoretical approach and independent application of methodological skills to obtaining and working with empirical English linguistic data in the fields of sociolinguistic, text linguistic, anthropological and pragmatic approaches to language analysis. (2) further expand students’ knowledge of the specificities of inter- and transcultural approaches in the fields of linguistic Intercultural Anglophone Studies.
Prerequisite	Completion of Module areas A and C; students should demonstrate enhanced analytical and interpretive skills, based on a consolidated theoretical and methodological basis. They should demonstrate a broadened knowledge of the social, regional and cultural diversity of English language contexts.

Assessment	D 1: pass/fail; essay of c. 3.500 words D 2: pass/fail; essay of c. 3.500 words D 3: graded; 60-minute exam, 3 topics (relevant for final grade)
Workload	D 1: 5 ECTS, 150 h; active participation (60 h); credit work: see assessment (90) D 2: 5 ECTS, 150 h; active participation (60 h); credit work: see assessment (90) D 3: 10 ECTS, 300 h (oral exam)
Frequency	D1: (at least) each summer semester D2: (at least) each winter semester D3: each semester

Module area	E Intercultural Anglophone Studies in Literature and Language – MA Thesis Level
Modules & credits	E 1 Master Seminar (OS) (2 SWS; 5 ECTS) E 2 Master Thesis + Thesis Defense (30 ECTS)
Module Coordinator	Chair English Linguistics
Content	Seminar E 1 “Master Seminar” supports students with the independent writing of their MA thesis by discussing the project in terms of its contextualization in the relevant research contexts, in terms of its theoretical and methodological approach, and in terms of structuring the thesis. E 2 Master Thesis The master thesis (25.000 to 33.000 words) demonstrates the student’s ability to independently address a chosen, circumscribed topic in literary/cultural studies. It pursues a pertinent theoretical and methodological approach, documents comprehensive knowledge of related research, and develops a coherent argument in appropriate academic language. Submission and grading of the master thesis is followed by a thesis defense (15 minutes presentation of thesis + 30 minutes discussion).
Learning Objectives	Module E is designed to support the students in terms of developing, structuring, and writing their MA Thesis.
Prerequisite	Completion of modules A, B, C, D; students should demonstrate their capability for an independent, theoretically informed analysis of literary or other cultural texts, developing an intercultural perspective.
Assessment	E 1: pass/fail; thesis proposal (c. 4.000 words) E 2: graded; Master Thesis (25.000 – 33.000 words) and Thesis Defense (15 min. presentation, 30 min. discussion) (relevant for final grade – ¾ - ¼).
Workload	E 1: 5 ECTS, 150 h; active participation (60 h); credit work: see assessment (90) E 2: 30 ECTS, 900 h (Master thesis and Thesis Defense).
Frequency	E 1: each semester E 2: each semester

