

Master of Arts with specialization  
Specialization Program in

# NEW AMERICAN studies



[www.unil.ch/lettres](http://www.unil.ch/lettres)

**Specialization programs are 30 credit ECTS programs which, added to the 90 credit ECTS of the Master of Arts, enable students to acquire a Master of Arts with specialization (120 ECTS credits).**

## AIMS

This MA specialization program aims to:

- deepen your understanding and knowledge of all sorts of texts belonging to American culture while focusing on its heterogeneity;
- engage with Cultural Studies, especially on subjects such as race, ethnicity, class and gender;
- study America with regard to its transatlantic relations upon which literary theory and Cultural Studies are based (notably Queer theory, Postcolonialism, Poststructuralism, Neo-Marxism, and visual culture);
- analyze the global influence of American culture, for instance in film, music, literature, media and popular culture;
- teach you to become more autonomous in your research and to value interdisciplinary work;
- prepare you for professional work in any domain where American culture and/or critical theory has had a major impact (e.g. cinema, media, music, festival planning, contemporary art).

## CONTENT

This program offers an introductory class which combines cultural theory, historical narrative, textual and rhetorical analysis, and approaches to visual culture. You will be able to choose different classes focusing on various subjects pertaining to that discipline, such as literature, drama, cinema, history, religion or racial issues. You will learn how narratives, tropes and myths are studied in relation to a national or transnational culture critique, and explore basic issues in African American culture, feminism and queer studies, decolonization, multiculturalism, identity politics, and cultural theory.

This program situates itself on the frontier of contemporary American Studies as the field is being reconceived and reconfigured from within. More international and transnational, comparative, interdisciplinary, theoretically informed and politically engaged, the New American Studies eschews the exceptionalism of the Cold War paradigm of American Studies and proposes to look at North America and its multiple cultures from a de-centered and comparativist perspective.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

"New American Studies" can be of particular interest for students wishing to pursue an academic career, as well as for students considering the possibility of a professional career in relation with the United States or, more generally, North or South America. A familiarity with American cultural politics can also be useful to students considering careers in any aspect of cultural work (media, cultural journalism, festival organization, etc.) or political activism. Finally, this program can attract students having a more personal interest. This specialization program requires a good knowledge of English (at least C1 in regard of the CEFR). It is usually addressed to students who have obtained a Bachelor's degree of Arts with English as a discipline. Students from other departments can also apply and their demand will be considered. Besides, students doing their Master in a sister university in Switzerland can also come do the New American Studies specialization at UNIL.

This program is particularly fit for students wishing to write their Master's thesis on a subject related to American studies.

### Conditions of admission:

Refer to the explanatory document about the Master of Arts with specialization.

### Registration process:

In order to register students should contact the secretariat of the Faculty of Arts during their first year of Master's. For questions and to register, please also contact the directors: agnieszka.soltysik-monnet@unil.ch or boris.vejdosvsky@unil.ch.

## COURSES – 30 CREDIT ECTS

### Part A – compulsory (12 credit ECTS)

- Module 1 : obligatory introductory course + seminar in American literature at UNIL + independent research essay

### Part B – compulsory (18 credit ECTS)

Students choose one module:

- Module 2: courses on American literature and culture offered by the English department
- Module 3: courses offered by collaborators in other departments at UNIL or nearby universities
- Module 4: participation in a conference and presentation of an original research paper
- Module 5: activities in relation to the New American Studies specialization organized by the English Department (plays, study trips, etc.)

**Information:** [www.unil.ch/lettres/spec](http://www.unil.ch/lettres/spec)