

Certificate in

AMERICAN FILM AND TELEVISION STUDIES

Certified Focus as Part of the “Free Elective Courses”
of a Degree Program at the University of Graz

§ I. Tasks and Structure of the Program

The Certificate “American Film and Television Studies,” directed and organized by the Professorship of American Studies II (at the Department for American Studies), Research Area of American Literary and Cultural History with a Focus on (Trans-)Nationality and Space, offers an additional curriculum that complements and extends a given course of study. The curriculum is organized by the Professorship of American Studies II and supported by courses at the Department of Art History and the Departments of Fundamental Theology and World Religions. Practice-oriented courses are provided by the Department of Corporate Leadership and Entrepreneurship. The certified focus can be taken as free electives and is accredited with a **certificate** from the University of Graz. The certified focus is available to **all bachelor and master students** at the University of Graz who wish to acquire qualifications in the field of U.S.-American film and television research. It is particularly aimed at those students who see their future careers in the U.S. or in employment sectors in Europe that cooperate with the U.S. entertainment industry.

§ II. Learning Objectives of the Module

The certified focus provides students with **extensive theoretical knowledge** in the field of U.S. cinema and television. In addition to theoretical, film and cultural expertise, there is a **practice-oriented focus** that generates concrete experience in the U.S. film and television industry (1-week summer study program) and emphasizes the business-related levels of project management and marketing; additionally, there is an obligatory four-week internship of 40 hours per week in a media company. Through this combination, the aim of the certified focus is to provide students with the necessary theoretical and basic historical knowledge in addition to establishing links to economic processes in general and to the American film and television business in particular.

The certified focus is designed to enhance students' familiarity with **basic elements of American cinema and television**, but also provides a useful **tool for planning and promoting film- and television-related projects**. At the same time, students learn to effectively combine creativity and methodical work in a practice-oriented workshop. Students will learn skills that are helpful for the entire duration of their studies and that increase their overall career prospects, even if they decide to work outside of film and television. The module provides insights into key aspects of the American film and television industry and offers students the opportunity to gain a foothold in a booming professional field. In addition, it substantially increases the interdisciplinary and intercultural competence of students through its broad academic offer and the possibility of a stay abroad.

§ III. Organization of the Certified Focus

(1) The certified focus is constituted primarily of free elective courses, comprising a total of 20-24 ECTS credits. A maximum of 50% of the ECTS credits required for the certificate may come from compulsory and optional courses taken as part of the student's regular major. Subject to availability, courses from the curricula of English / American studies and Art History can be utilized for this; furthermore, the Departments of Fundamental Theology and World Religions (Catholic Theology Department) and the Department of Corporate Leadership and Entrepreneurship (at the Department of Social Sciences and Economics) offer courses that can be accredited for the certificate.

(2) The teaching and learning activities of the certified focus consist of lectures and seminars (PS & SE) dealing with selected aspects of American film and television culture and their theoretical classification (modules 1-3), as well as practice-oriented elements (modules 4-5).

(3) Achievements to be completed for the American Film and Television Studies certificate:

	Courses	Course Type	ECTS Credits
1.	Introduction to Paradigms of Film Theory and Analysis		3-4 ECTS
1.1	<i>American Film and Television Studies – Analysis and Theory</i> [BA English and American Studies: PS <i>Topics in Anglophone Cultural Studies</i> , 3 ECTS]	PS	
	or		
1.2	<i>Film Analysis and Film Theory</i> [BA Art History, Module B.2, VO <i>Introduction to Current Methods and Theories</i> , 4 ECTS]	VO	
2.	Survey of Film History		3-4 ECTS
2.1	<i>Survey of American Film History</i> [MA English and American Studies: VO <i>Cultural Studies</i> , 4 ECTS]	VO	
	or		
2.2	<i>Survey of Film History</i> [BA Art History, Module H.2, <i>Photography, Film, Video Art</i> , 4 ECTS]	VO	
	or		
2.3	<i>Survey of World Cinema</i> [a.) MA Theology in a Contemporary Context, C.3, <i>Christian Iconography in Media Contexts</i> , 4 ECTS; or b.) MA World Religions, E.3, VO <i>Transformation of Religious Symbolologies I</i> , 3 ECTS]	VO	
3.	Advanced Studies in Film and Television		3-5 ECTS
3.1	<i>Comparative Analysis & Contextualization – Focus America</i> [BA English and American Studies: SE <i>Topics in Anglophone Cultural Studies</i> , 4 ECTS]	SE	

3.2	or <i>Close Readings of Cinematic Texts – Focus Global Cinema</i> [a.) MA World Religions, E.2, SE <i>Judaism/Christianity/Islam in Film, TV, and Other Digital Media</i> , 5 ECTS; or b.) MA World Religions, E.4, SE <i>Transformation of Religious Symbolologies II</i> , 5 ECTS; or c.) MA Religious Education, B.1, SE <i>Introduction to a Theology the Media</i> , 4 ECTS]	SE	
3.3	or <i>Expanded Cinema / Film and Art</i> [BA Art History, Module F.4, UE <i>Methods and Practice of Art History</i> , 3 ECTS]	UE	
3.4	or <i>Theoretical and Topological Perspectives on Film</i> [a.) MA World Religions, E.2, SE <i>Judaism, Christianity, Islam in Film, TV and Other Digital Media</i> , 5 ECTS; or b.) MA World Religions, E.4, SE <i>Transformation of Religious Symbolologies II</i> , 5 ECTS; or c.) MA Theology, C.5, <i>Media Analysis</i> , 4 ECTS]	SE/KS/AG	
3.5	or <i>Film Summer School (USA)</i> [4 ECTS]		
4.	Social and Economic Context Courses offered by the Department of Corporate Leadership and Entrepreneurship	VU/KS	5 ECTS
4.1	<i>Project Management</i> (or equivalent course) [2 ECTS]		
4.2	<i>Marketing and Law</i> a.) <i>Marketing (concise)</i> or b.) <i>Law (concise)</i> [1 ECTS] or c.) <i>Applied Corporate Communications I - (Online-) Marketing, PR & Management</i> [2 ECTS]		
4.3	<i>Creativity and Methodical Work</i> (or equivalent course) [2 ECTS]		
5.	Internship/Professional Practice		6 ECTS
	TOTAL		20-24 ECTS

§ IV. Certification

(1) After successful completion of the courses, students will receive a certificate for completion of studies in the total amount of 20-24 ECTS credits.

(2) The certificate is issued by the head of the program.

§ V. Requirements

The module is open to all bachelor and master students at the University of Graz.

§ VI. Frequency of Module Offering

All courses can be completed within one and a half years of study (3 semesters).

§ VII. Management and Organization

- (1) The direction, organization, and content coordination of the certified focus is carried out by the Professorship of American Studies II (at the Department of American Studies), Research Area of American Literary and Cultural History with a Focus on (Trans-)Nationality and Space.
- (2) The annual program of the certified focus is published on the homepage (<https://amerikanistik.uni-graz.at/de/trans-nationality-space/>).