

Cultural Studies: Culture and Organization

The programme comprises modules in four different areas: core modules, electives, Cultural Studies integration and Complementary Studies.

The **Cultural Studies integration modules** address overarching issues and debates in the field of cultural studies. The students take the following **three compulsory modules** (5 CP):

- History of Cultural Studies and its Methods I
- History of Cultural Studies and its Methods II
- Current debates in the field of Cultural Studies

The **core modules** encompass the following specialisations (10 CP modules):

- Cultural Entrepreneurship
- Digital Media and Social Organization
- Fields of Culture and the Arts
- Sociology of Culture

Alongside these core modules, students can choose from a wide range of **electives** run jointly by the various Masters programmes at the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences. Electives add an interdisciplinary element to the field of digital cultures. The following electives (**5 CP**) are offered:

- Auditory Culture
- Contemporary Issues in Management & Entrepreneurship
- Democracy and the Public
- Digital Sound Cultures
- Gender, Queerness, Bodies
- Violence and Social Protest
- Capitalist Dynamics and Social Change
- Crises and Upheaval in a Global Context
- Management & Change
- Migration and Circulation
- Organization: Space, Aesthetics, Materiality
- Organization: Structure, Power, Economies
- The Arts in Practice
- Technology and Culture
- Urban Culture and Space
- Knowledge and Research in Digital Cultures

The integration modules, core modules and electives are accompanied by the **Complementary Studies**. An additional area in which students move beyond their immediate field of study to expand their understanding of today's key challenges for culture and society through interdisciplinary exchange with students from all Masters programmes. The aim is to give students an understanding of knowledge, science and research in context and to

promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration.

The four components prepare students for the research-based Masters dissertation and the Masters forum, the accompanying colloquium at which students present and discuss their dissertations.

Semester 4	Masters Forum 5 CP	Masters dissertation 25 CP			
Semester 3	Current debates in the field of Cultural Studies 5 CP	Fields of Culture and the Arts 10 CP	Elective 5 CP	Elective 5 CP	Complementary Studies 5 CP
Semester 2	History of Cultural Studies and its Methods II 5 CP	Digital Media and Social Organization 10 CP	Elective 5 CP	Elective 5 CP	Complementary Studies 5 CP
Semester 1	History of Cultural Studies and its Methods I 5 CP	Sociology of Culture 10 CP	Cultural Entrepreneurship 10 CP		Complementary Studies 5 CP

	Core modules
	Cultural Studies integration modules
	Electives
	Complementary Studies

Descriptions of Content

The **integration modules** consist of the following compulsory classes:

- **History of Cultural Studies and its Methods I**
The module gives students a theoretical, methodological and empirical understanding of the historical dimension of Cultural studies. Students will gain an insight into the archaeology and genealogy of Cultural Studies throughout the history of the sets of problems that shape the discipline and of the specific ways in which they are problematised.
- **History of Cultural Studies and its Methods II**
The module focuses on scenes, projects and sets of authors, problems, etc. that are central to theory and creative drive and the development of methodology, in which new problems emerge, and which are particularly relevant today to the redefinition of the critical role of cultural studies.
- **Current debates in the field of Cultural Studies**
The module provides an in-depth understanding of areas of discourse and new, potentially paradigmatic concepts in the field of cultural studies. Students will reflect in particular on the course of current debates.

The **core modules** focus on the following areas:

- **Cultural Entrepreneurship**
Students gain an in-depth understanding of the theoretical and empirical knowledge of different forms of entrepreneurship in the creative and cultural industries (broadly defined) and will be able to move between sociological, managerial, and critical perspectives in order to contextualize this knowledge. Furthermore, they will gain practical knowledge of starting a business in the creative and cultural industries (Cultural Entrepreneurship 1) and will practice their research skills analyzing real-life or fictional accounts of labour and (self-) entrepreneurship in the culture sector (Cultural Entrepreneurship 2).
- **Digital Media and Social Organization**
Students engage with key writings on the threshold and interstices of media (theory) and organization (theory) including approaches from science and technology studies. They engage with classic investigations of bureaucratic technologies as well as contemporary critiques of digital labour and conduct their own investigations of the nexus of media and social organization.
- **Fields of Culture and the Arts**
Students explore and discuss the interrelatedness of the organization of culture and the arts as competitive and/or collaborative processes of producing, distributing, and consuming of arts and culture. They conduct empirical studies of fields of culture and the arts in the real world of artistic organization.
- **Sociology of Culture**
Students engage with key approaches to the sociology of culture and to cultural sociology. They acquire an understanding of historically pivotal and contemporarily influential theories of cultural development and transformation. In doing so, students learn to distinguish between different paradigms or schools of thought, and to reflexively apply different paradigms to the sphere of culture and organization and its contemporary manifestations.

In the **electives**, the following elective modules are on offer:

– **Auditory Culture**

The module covers selected topics, the current state of research, and methods and objects from the field of auditory culture. It focuses on the wide range of analytical and discursive perspectives on auditory culture, from media aesthetics to aspects introduced by cultural studies and sound studies such as interculturality, globalisation, sound art, sound ecology, sound anthropology and sound ethnology.

Contemporary Issues in Management & Entrepreneurship

Current issues in the field of Management & Entrepreneurship are highlighted from an interdisciplinary perspective. A specific perspective can also be addressed as a specialisation.

– **Democracy and the Public**

The module teaches students theoretical, methodological and empirical knowledge and skills for the critical examination of democracy and the public and the relationship and interaction between the two in the course of cultural change. Students will develop an understanding of the importance of the public and the public sphere in democracy and what is required for the public to fulfil its role as a critical institution.

– **Digital Sound Cultures**

The module primarily covers an area of auditory sound and media culture, shaped by digital media and their specific culture, rather than a technically defined genre. Key topics: media aesthetics strategies, genealogies, artistic practice and aesthetics, and the discourses of contemporary auditory design in a media context.

– **Gender, Queerness, Bodies**

The module explores the practices, discourses, ideologies, social relationships and aspects and perceptions of identity that shape our understanding of gender, sexuality, the body and embodiment, and how these various aspects relate to each other. It takes a critical look at how political, economic, social and cultural circumstances can change our understanding of gender, sexualities and embodiment.

– **Violence and Social Protest**

The students gain in-depth insights into the wide-ranging debates surrounding the concept of violence and the question of the possibility to explain violence. In this respect, the role of protest and the events that crystallize around forms of protest are key instruments in the acquisition of knowledge. In order to critically question ethnocentric assumptions, the students analyse protest events from different regions of the world.

– **Capitalist Dynamics and Social Change**

The students gain in-depth insights into the debates surrounding capitalism and social structures in the field of economic, social and cultural studies, whereby a global historical approach is taken to open up historical perspectives, particularly in the structures of the European regions and the regions of the modern world system which are connected with Europe.

Crises and Upheaval in a Global Context

The students gain in-depth insights into the discourses surrounding modernity, whereby the global historical approach highlights the asynchronicity of concurrent events. – Experiences of crisis in one part of the world

are not necessarily shared in other regions, as the 2008 financial crisis, which was largely a crisis of what is referred to as the West, demonstrated.

– **Management & Change**

Providing tools, methods and contexts to meet the increasing expectations of the stakeholders for change, adaptability and agility in the field of management.

– **Migration and Circulation**

The module gives students an in-depth understanding of historical and current developments in migration research, introduces students to key concepts and findings, and enables them to put into context and critically to assess current debates on migration.

– **Organization: Space, Aesthetics, Materiality**

The organization of contemporary cultures is increasingly shaped by aesthetic and atmospheric design, by the modulation and capture of affect and by a host of objects and artefacts. This module is dedicated to studying and understanding these phenomena. It emphasizes contemporary approaches to organization largely in conversation with fields such as art, urban studies, human geography, literary studies, science and technology studies and gender studies.

– **Organization: Structure, Power, Economies**

Studying forms and processes of organization is key to an understanding of contemporary capitalist cultures. This module focuses on some of the classic sociological themes of organization in conversation with fields such as philosophy, cultural theory, political economy or critical management studies. These themes include the structure of organization and organizational forms such as bureaucracy and post-bureaucracy, the question of power and resistance in organization, and questions around labour and value.

– **The Arts in Practice**

Working on a strong theoretical basis, the module gives students a practical insight into the fields of the arts, contemporary artistic production and artistic research, and into organizational forms and institutions. Students develop curatorial and art criticism skills, develop research techniques specific to the arts, and learn to work together with different players in the field.

– **Technology and Culture**

Students will reflect on the core cultural studies thesis of the technical conditionality of culture. They will study examples of historical and contemporary fields that are important to the establishment of the modern relationship between technology and culture and/or its deconstruction, and will reconstruct the historical genesis of this thesis, reflecting on key moments in the development of cultural theory.

– **Urban Culture and Space**

Students will acquire an in-depth knowledge of urban situations and circumstances, and reflect on fundamental concepts, theoretical contexts and concepts and issues in the relationship between culture and urban space. The module creatively develops new forms of communication based on a deep cultural understanding of the town, its architecture and its complex relationship with society. Students will gain the ability to reflect upon, systematise and evaluate theoretical concepts, and an understanding of empirical research and its theoretical basis.

– **Knowledge and Research in Digital Cultures**

This module addresses the changes in and challenges of cultural studies methodology and knowledge production in and about digital cultures. These relate to the entire working process, for example the choice of topic, sources, literature research and evaluation, empirical research, presentation of results and the scientific or academic public. The module covers both the history of research in the field and current debates surrounding open access, digital humanities and digital methods.