

Master's Program
Slavery Studies

Module Descriptions
Winter Semester 2026/27

Date: June 2026

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MA “Slavery Studies” (One-Year Program, 60 ECTS)			
1 st semester	Slavery and Other Forms of Strong Asymmetrical Dependency: An Introduction (15 ECTS)	Slaveries in Transcultural Comparison (5 ECTS)	Compulsory Elective Modules Slaveries: Case Studies (10 ECTS)
2 nd semester	Research Problems and Debates in Slavery and Dependency Studies Today (10 ECTS)	Researching Slaveries: Preparation for MA Thesis (5 ECTS)	Master’s Thesis (15 ECTS)

Compulsory Modules

Module: Slavery and Other Forms of Strong Asymmetrical Dependency: An Introduction Module ID/Code: 570101200			 UNIVERSITÄT BONN			
1. Content and intended learning outcomes						
Content		The degree program will introduce students to the phenomenon of slavery and its various manifestations, as well as other forms of strong asymmetrical dependency. Students will learn about - definitions of slavery and forms of dependency - essential scholarship on slavery and the emerging canon on other forms of strong asymmetrical dependency - relevant methods from textual studies and material and social sciences, and empirical approaches - classical and recent theory with reference to strong asymmetrical dependencies and slavery in textual studies, material sciences and across empirical disciplines, enabling them to interrogate theory texts - academic work and research techniques Students will gain - experience in the planning and design of research projects and - the ability to present and write about their findings by acquiring presentation and writing techniques in English				
Learning outcomes (aims and objectives; key skills)		Students will acquire - a deeper level of knowledge of and reflection on forms of social dependency and asymmetrical relationships - a deeper understanding of a range of methods for investigating social dependencies and asymmetrical relationships - the ability to evaluate sources and data by applying appropriate methods - a deeper level of knowledge of and reflection on forms of dependency and slavery at different times and in different geographical areas and cultures - the ability to study theory texts and develop their own theory-informed questions to help them investigate dependencies and asymmetrical relationships - a broader knowledge of relevant theories - the ability to assess theories in terms of suitability for their own research projects.				
2. Teaching and learning methods						
	Type of instruction	Topic	Language of instruction	Group size	Course units per week	Workload [hrs]
	Seminar	Phenomena of Slavery and Other Forms of Strong Asymmetrical Dependency	English	15	2	80
	Seminar	Methodological approaches	English	15	2	80
	Seminar	Theoretical approaches	English	15	2	80
	Seminar	Academic writing	English	15	1	70
3. Prerequisites for the module						
compulsory		none				
recommended		none				

4. Degree program allocation			
	Study program	compulsory/ elective	Duration (semesters)
	M.A. Slavery Studies	required	1
5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS)			6. Credits
Course requirements (admission requirements for module exam)	Seminar 1: written or oral assessment 20 hrs Seminar 2: written or oral assessment 20 hrs Seminar 3: written or oral assessment 20 hrs		15
Module exam	oral exam (English) 80 hrs		
7. Frequency		8. Workload	9. Duration
Winter semester ☒ Winter and Summer semester ☐ summer semesters ☐		450 hrs	1 semester
Module coordination			
Taught by	Cluster members Prof. Dr. Jarzebowski, Prof. Dr. Pia Wiegink, Prof. Dr. Christoph Witzenrath		
Module Coordinator	Cluster members Prof. Dr. Jarzebowski, Prof. Dr. Pia Wiegink, Prof. Dr. Christoph Witzenrath		
Institute/Department	BCDSS		
Other			
(such as literature list)			

Module:				 UNIVERSITÄT BONN		
Slaveries in Transcultural Comparison						
Module ID/Code: 570101300						
1. Content and intended learning outcomes						
Content	In this module, students will acquire - a both theoretical and methodological basis for comparative studies - an awareness of the difficulties of transcultural comparison - ability to explore the question of what transculturality is - the chance to acquire practice by comparing case studies as a group and - competence to carry out comparative analyses of synchronous and diachronic phenomena of dependency and slavery across different cultural contexts					
Learning outcomes (aims and objectives; key skills)	Students will gain - skills to carry out comparative analyses of case studies and - an awareness of the difficulties of transcultural comparison.					
2. Teaching and learning methods						
	Type of instruction	Topic	Language of instruction	Group size	Course units per week	Workload [hrs]
	Seminar	Slaveries in Transcultural Comparison	English	15	2	70
3. Prerequisites for the module						
compulsory	none					
recommended	none					
4. Degree program allocation						
	Study program			compulsory/ elective	Duration (semesters)	
	M.A. Slavery Studies			required	1	
5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS)						6. Credits
Course requirements (admission requirements for module exam)	Seminar: oral or written assessment 30 hrs					5
Module exam	Term paper 50 hrs					
7. Frequency			8. Workload		9. Duration	
Winter semester ☒	Winter and	150 hrs		1 semester		
Summer semester ☐	summer semesters ☐					
Module coordination						
Taught by	Cluster member Prof. Dr. Christoph Witzentrath					
Module Coordinator	Cluster member Prof. Dr. Christoph Witzentrath					
Institute/Department	BCDSS					
Other						
(such as literature list)						

Module:				 UNIVERSITÄT BONN		
Research Problems and Debates in Dependency and Slavery Studies Today						
Module ID/Code: 570101400						
1. Content and intended learning outcomes						
Content	In this module, students will be introduced to current debates and challenges in Dependency and Slavery Studies and critical discussion of academic methods.					
Learning outcomes (aims and objectives; key skills)	Students will acquire the ability to - reflect on the new, interdisciplinary research field of Dependency and Slavery Studies - understand and classify current debates and challenges in Dependency and Slavery Studies, - apply theories and research methods to their own projects, and to connect with current debates.					
2. Teaching and learning methods						
	Type of instruction	Topic	Language of instruction	Group size	Course units per week	Workload [hrs]
	Seminar	Research Problems and Debates in Dependency and Slavery Studies Today	English	15	2	80
	Seminar	Case Studies from the Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture	English	15	2	60
3. Prerequisites for the module						
compulsory	Module 1: Slavery and Other Forms of Strong Asymmetrical Dependency: An Introduction Module 2: Slavery in Transcultural Comparison Elective module: Slavery: Case Studies					
recommended	none					
4. Degree program allocation						
	Study program			compulsory/ elective	Duration (semesters)	
	M.A. Slavery Studies			required	2	
5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS)					6. Credits	
Course requirements (admission requirements for module exam)	Seminar 1: Panel simulation in small groups: presentation, chairing/hosting discussions, 50 hrs Seminar 2: Written Assessment 20 hrs				10	
Module exam	Term Paper 90 hrs					
7. Frequency			8. Workload		9. Duration	
winter semester ☐	Winter and		300 hrs		1 semester	
summer semester ☒	summer semesters ☐					
Module coordination						
Taught by	Cluster member Prof. Dr. Christoph Witzenrath					
Module Coordinator	Cluster member Prof. Dr. Christoph Witzenrath					
Institute/Department	BCDSS					
Other						
(such as literature list)						

Module:		 UNIVERSITÄT BONN				
Researching Slaverys: Preparation for MA Thesis						
Module ID/Code: 570101500						
1. Content and intended learning outcomes						
Content	In this module, students will prepare their Master thesis in independently while under supervision, and research sources and scholarship. They will thus have the opportunity to develop their own academic research projects and final assignments.					
Learning outcomes (aims and objectives; key skills)	Students will acquire - ability to apply theories and methods to their own projects, and to connect with current debates, - skills to develop own research projects - competence to present and discuss own research projects					
2. Teaching and learning methods						
	Type of instruction	Topic	Language of instruction	Group size	Course units per week	Workload [hrs]
	Guided self-study	Researching Slaverys: Preparation for MA Thesis	English	15	2	95
	Colloquium	Presentation	English	15	block	15 hrs
3. Prerequisites for the module						
compulsory	Module 1: Slavery and Other Forms of Strong Asymmetrical Dependency: An Introduction Module 2: Slaverys in Transcultural Comparison Elective module: Slaverys: Case Studies					
recommended	none					
4. Degree program allocation						
	Study program		compulsory/ elective		Duration (semesters)	
	M.A. Slavery Studies		required		2	
5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS)						6. Credits
Course requirements (admission requirements for module exam)	Guided self-study: Submitting current state of research and outline for MA thesis Colloquium: Preparing presentation 40 hrs					5
Module exam						
7. Frequency			8. Workload		9. Duration	
winter semester ☐	Winter and		150 hrs		1 semester	
summer semester ☒	summer semesters	☐				
Module coordination						
Taught by	Cluster member Prof. Dr. Claudia Jarzebowski					
Module Coordinator	Cluster member Prof. Dr. Claudia Jarzebowski					
Institute/Department	BCDSS					
Other						
(such as literature list)						

Module:				 UNIVERSITÄT BONN		
Master's thesis Module ID/Code:						
1. Content and intended learning outcomes						
Content	Writing of Master's thesis					
Learning outcomes (aims and objectives; key skills)						
2. Teaching and learning methods						
	Type of instruction	Topic	Language of instruction	Group size	Courses units per week	Workload [hrs]
3. Prerequisites for the module						
compulsory	Module 1: Slavery and Other Forms of Strong Asymmetrical Dependency: An Introduction Module 2: Slavery in Transcultural Comparison Elective module: Slavery: Case Studies Module 3: Research Problems and Debates in Slavery and Dependency Studies Today Module 4 : Researching Slavery: Preparation for MA Thesis					
recommended	none					
4. Degree program allocation						
	Study program			compulsory/ elective	Duration (semesters)	
	Slavery Studies			required	2	
5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS)					6. Credits	
Course requirements (admission requirements for module exam)					15	
Module exam						
7. Frequency			8. Workload		9. Duration	
winter semester ☐	Winter and		450 hrs		1 semester	
summer semester ☒	summer semesters ☐					
Module coordination						
Taught by						
Module Coordinator						
Institute/Department	BCDSS					
Other						
(such as literature list)						

Compulsory Elective Modules

Module:				 UNIVERSITÄT BONN		
Slaveries: Case Studies – Text-based Scholarship						
Module ID/Code: 570101600						
1. Content and intended learning outcomes						
Content	Students will - acquire knowledge of concrete historical, geographical and cultural contexts of slavery and linked phenomena based on a variety of textual source materials - deploy theories and methods to select case studies - acquire experience applying concepts on the basis of methodology, theory and content to research projects - gain confidence in approaching text sources with a critical eye					
Learning outcomes (aims and objectives; key skills)	Students will - gain the ability to analyze phenomena of dependency and slavery by applying theories and methods - critically and independently evaluate sources - analyze case studies - acquire knowledge of concrete historical, geographical and cultural contexts of slavery and linked phenomena - deepen their knowledge of their own field of research (in this case textual studies) - learn to reflect about a range of sources - acquire experience in the conception of research projects					
2. Teaching and learning methods						
	Type of instruction	Topic	Language of instruction	Group size	Course units per week	Workload [hrs]
	Seminar	Slaveries: Case Studies	English	15	2	90
	Seminar	Doing Research	English	15	1	80
3. Prerequisites for the module						
compulsory	none					
recommended	none					
4. Degree program allocation						
	Study program			compulsory/ elective	Duration (semesters)	
	M.A. Slavery Studies			elective	1	
5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS)						6. Credits
Course requirements (admission requirements for module exam)	Seminar: written assessment (e.g. protocol, essay, literature review, research proposal) 30 hrs					10
Module exam	Term paper 100 hrs					
7. Frequency			8. Workload		9. Duration	
winter semester ☒	Winter and summer semesters ☐		300 hrs		1 semester	
Module coordination						
Taught by		Cluster member Viviann Wilmot				
Module Coordinator		Cluster member Viviann Wilmot				
Institute/Department		BCDSS				
Other						
(such as literature list)						

Module: Slaveries: Case Studies – Material Culture Module ID/Code: 570101700				 UNIVERSITÄT BONN		
1. Content and intended learning outcomes						
Content	Students will - acquire knowledge of concrete contexts of slavery and slavery-like phenomena on the basis of different material sources - apply theories and research methods to selected case studies - practise methodological, theoretical and content-related conception of research projects - acquire experience applying concepts on the basis of methodology, theory and content to research projects - gain confidence in approaching textual and material sources with a critical eye					
Learning outcomes (aims and objectives; key skills)	Students will - learn to analyze slavery and linked phenomena by applying theories and methods - enhance their ability to critically and independently evaluate textual and material sources - analyze case studies - acquire knowledge of concrete historical, geographical and cultural contexts of slavery and slavery-like phenomena - deepen their knowledge of their own field of research (in this case material sciences) - reflect about a range of sources - acquire experience in the conception of research projects					
2. Teaching and learning methods						
	Type of instruction	Topic	Language of instruction	Group size	Courses units per week	Workload [hrs]
	Seminar	Slaveries: Case Studies	English	15	2	90
	Seminar	Doing Research	English	15	1	80
3. Prerequisites for the module						
compulsory	none					
recommended	none					
4. Degree program allocation						
	Study program			compulsory/ elective	Duration (semesters)	
	M.A. Slavery Studies			elective	1	
5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS)					6. Credits	
Course requirements (admission requirements for module exam)	Seminar: written assessment (e.g. protocol, essay, literature review, research proposal) 30 hrs				10	
Module exam	Term paper 100 hrs					
7. Frequency			8. Workload		9. Duration	
winter semester	☒	Winter and	300 hrs		1 semester	
summer semester	☐	summer semesters				
Module coordination						
Taught by	Cluster member Luvena Kopp					
Module Coordinator	Cluster member Luvena Kopp					
Institute/Department	BCDSS					
Other						

(such as literature list)	
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Module:

Slaveries: Case Studies – Social Sciences

Module ID/Code:

570101800						
1. Content and intended learning outcomes						
Content	Students will - acquire knowledge of concrete historical, geographical and cultural contexts of slavery and linked phenomena based on a variety of data - deploy theories and methods to select case studies - acquire experience applying concepts on the basis of methodology, theory and content to research projects - gain confidence in critically and responsibly carrying out data collection					
Learning outcomes (aims and objectives; key skills)	Students will - learn to analyze slavery and linked phenomena by applying theories and methods - enhance their ability to critically and responsibly collect data - analyze case studies - acquire knowledge of concrete historical, geographical and cultural contexts of slavery and slavery-like phenomena - deepen their knowledge of their own field of research (in this case social sciences) - reflect about a range of data collection methods - acquire experience in the conception of research projects					
2. Teaching and learning methods						
	Type of instruction	Topic	Language of instruction	Group size	Course units per week	Workload [hrs]
	Seminar	Slaveries: Case Studies	English	15	2	90
	Seminar	Doing Research	English	15	1	80
3. Prerequisites for the module						
compulsory	none					
recommended	none					
4. Degree program allocation						
	Study program			compulsory/ elective	Duration (semesters)	
	M.A. Slavery Studies			elective	1	
5. Requirements for the award of credits (ECTS)						6. Credits
Course requirements (admission requirements for module exam)	Seminar: written assessment (e.g. protocol, essay, literature review, research proposal)				30	10
Module exam	Term paper				100 hrs	
7. Frequency			8. Workload		9. Duration	
winter semester	☒	Winter and	300		1 semester	
summer semester	☐	summer semesters				
Module coordination						
Taught by		Cluster member Dr. Benjamin Etzold				
Module Coordinator		Cluster member Dr. Benjamin Etzold				
Institute/Department		BCDSS				
Other						
(such as literature list)						