

Programme Handbook

Module 1	Globalisation Geography					Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Compulsory Module					
Credit Points (CP) and Workload (hours)	8 CP = 240 hours					
Duration	1 Term					
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/Elective	Contact Time (hours/week)	Self-Study	Credit Points
Globalisation Geography	AS	1 (winter)	C	2	129 hours	6 CP
Academic Skills (I)	PS	1 (winter)	C	1	49,5 hours	2 CP
Assesment						
Attendance	PS					
Active Participation	According to § 5 section 3					
Coursework						
Examination	Oral Examination					
Objectives and learning outcomes						
<p>The aim of this advanced seminar is to critically engage and reflect on current concepts and theories of globalisation and development. Students learn to differentiate and contextualise the role of different actors and perspectives (e.g., national policies, supranational institutions, non-governmental activists, civil society, etc.) on global phenomena. Students also learn how to transfer theoretical and epistemological ideas to “real world” issues by discussing current utopias and dystopias that are at stake.</p> <p>Informed by conceptual key readings students will approach and discuss different ideas (e.g., of climate justice, geo-engineering, the sustainability paradigm, postcolonial studies, etc.) in role games, round table discussions etc. to develop a critical understanding for a multi-scalar and multi-perspective argumentation for current global topics and crises.</p> <p>Participants learn to visually illustrate complex topics and to present them in a poster.</p> <p>Acquired skills must be demonstrated in an oral examination at the end of the term.</p> <p>The related tutorial “Academic Skills I” provides orientation for advanced academic skills. It conveys scientific practice, offers guidance in the given curriculum of the Master studies programme, and helps the understanding of different types of module-related examinations. Due to the diversity of students from different international backgrounds, it also addresses intercultural skills and discussion culture.</p>						
Content						
<p>Phenomena of a globally entangled, yet fragmented world are addressed, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration and trans-locality - Neo-colonial practices (land-grabbing, extractivism, etc.) - Identity and diversity - Global commodity chains - Global urban south - etc. <p>These topics are theoretically embedded in grand theories such as Amartya Sen’s idea of global justice; Arjun Appadurai’s concept of global flows; Rainer Forst concept of transnational justice etc.</p>						
Module Prerequisites						
Language	English					
Weighting of the grade in overall grade						
Frequency	Annually					
Justification for the obligation to attend	According to § 5 section 3 the learning outcomes can only be achieved by the regular participation in the discussions as students gradually learn the necessary insights into theoretical thoughts and build up skills to coherently contribute to and engage in academic debates.					
Module Coordinator(s)	Prof. Dr. Veronika Cummings					

Eligibility of the module in other study programmes	
Other information	

Module 2	Cultural Geography						Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Compulsory Module						
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	8 CP =240 hours						
Duration	1 Term						
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/Elective	Contact Time (hours/week)	Self-Study	Credit Points	
New Approaches to Cultural Geography	AS	1 (winter)	C	2	159 hours	6 CP	
Academic Skills (II)	AS	1 (winter)	C	1	49,5 hours	2 CP	
Assessment							
Attendance	AS Academic Skills (II)						
Active Participation	According to § 5 section 3						
Coursework							
Examination	Essay						
Objectives and learning outcomes							
<p>This advanced seminar introduces students to the main theoretical debates and paradigmatic shifts in cultural geography with a specific emphasis on dynamics within <i>new cultural geography</i> since the 1990s. Students then learn about major theoretical inspirations from the social sciences and humanities and how they informed and were adapted in cultural geography. Based on key readings students learn to engage with abstract theoretical approaches and concepts, to reflect on and discuss them critically by developing clear arguments. Students learn how such theoretical ideas can be related to concrete research questions by drawing on illustrative examples. Thus, this seminar fosters a critical understanding of how to work with theories and forms a crucial component in the preparation of student research projects in the second year of the program.</p> <p>The related sessions on academic skills focus on the basic steps in developing a small research project. Based on examples from previous students as well as input given by potential supervisors, students learn about different ways and opportunities to conduct their master thesis research.</p>							
Content							
<p>Advanced Seminar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major theoretical developments in cultural geography and the neighbouring disciplines from the 1990s until today, i.e., cultural turn, post-structural theories, new mobilities paradigm, questions of representation and non-representational theories, Actor-Network-Theory and New Materialism, post-phenomenology, and others. - Key concepts in cultural geography: place, landscape, mobility, materiality, human-nature relations, etc. - Discussion of key texts; presentation of case studies <p>Tutorial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The focus lies on the preparation of students for their independent research projects, including questions regarding the development of a research focus, first contacts to potential supervisors, questions of time-management, etc. - Different supervisors introduce their thematic and conceptual interests, as well as specific opportunities for research project-related thesis topics. 							
Module Prerequisites							
Language				English			
Weighting of the grade in overall grade							
Frequency				Annually			
Justification for the obligation to attend				According to § 5 section 3; the learning outcomes can only be achieved by the regular participation in the discussions as students gradually learn the necessary insights and skills to contribute to theoretical debates.			
Module Coordinator(s)				Prof. Dr. Julia Verne			
Eligibility of the module in other study programmes							
Other information							

Module 3	Media Geography					Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Compulsory Module					
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	12 CP = 360 hours					
Duration	2 Terms					
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/Elective	Contact Time (hours/week)	Self-Study	Credit Points
Theoretical approaches to media in geography	AS	1 (winter)	C	2	159 hours	6 CP
Media Geography	PS	2 (summer)	C	2	159 hours	6 CP
Assessment						
Attendance	PS					
Active Participation	According to § 5 section 3					
Coursework						
Examination	Portfolio					
Objectives and learning outcomes						
<p>The advanced seminar introduces students to the field of media geography with a specific emphasis on the interrelations between media, space, and place. The seminar aims for students to acquire relevant theoretical fundamentals of media geography and enables them to deal critically with a globalised and media-charged world. This seminar consists of two parts: In the first part of the seminar, a focus is set on theoretical fundamentals of media geography. The participants deal with established specialist articles on various media geography-related topics. Based on key readings students will generate a sound knowledge of media-geographical thought. The students learn to engage with theoretical approaches and concepts, to reflect on them critically and develop clear discussion arguments. Therefore, theoretical concepts are connected to concrete media examples. This seminar provides students with an understanding of why media-geographic theories are relevant for understanding everyday phenomena. This aspect will be deepened in the second part of the seminar. It focuses on questions of how specific media (e.g., comic books, street art, film, music and sound, digital platforms, etc.) can be explored from a media geography perspective, and how they can be conceptually and methodologically integrated into research processes. For an applied perspective on the topics discussed in the seminar, students compile a multimedia portfolio (e.g., storytelling, blog, story map, podcast) at the end of the module, in which they critically engage with a current media geography issue. In this project, theoretical frameworks, media examples and a particular research question are combined.</p>						
Content						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key concepts of media geography and links to neighbouring disciplines. - Understanding the theoretical foundations of the interplay between media, space and place; theoretical and conceptual approaches to the concept of media and its further development in geography. - Significance of media geography theories for understanding spatial phenomena; critical and reflective examination of key texts and presentation of central arguments in an applied perspective. - Exploration of different media and media formats from a geographical perspective. - Discussion of the application of media in empirical research processes (conceptual and methodological). - Individual development of a multimedia portfolio that links theoretical approaches to media geography with applied examples and actual case studies. 						
Module Prerequisites						
Language						
English						
Weighting of the grade in overall grade						
Frequency						
Annually						
Justification for the obligation to attend						
According to § 5 section 3; the learning outcomes can only be achieved by the regular participation in the discussions as students gradually learn the necessary insights and skills to contribute to theoretical debates.						
Module Coordinator(s)						
Dr. Elisabeth Sommerlad						
Eligibility of the module in other study programmes						
Other information						

Module 4	Lecture Series						Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Compulsory Module						
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	8 CP = 240 hours						
Duration	2 Terms						
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/Elective	Contact Time (hours/week)	Self-Study	Credit Points	
Colloquium (I)	C	1 (winter)	C	1	39 hours	2 CP	
Reading Course (I)	T	1 (winter)	C	1	49,5 hours	2 CP	
Colloquium (II)	C	2 (summer)	C	1	39 hours	2 CP	
Reading Course (II)	T	2 (summer)	C	1	49,5 hours	2 CP	
Assessment							
Attendance	T + T						
Active Participation	According to § 5 section 3						
Coursework							
Examination							
Objectives and learning outcomes							
By meeting internationally renowned scientists and listening to their presentations, students gain insight into current research projects on globalisation, media and culture from a human geography perspective. Students gain the opportunity to learn and discuss current research projects directly with leading experts. By reading texts relevant to the coordinating lecture, students practice academic reading as well as analysis and critical reflection.							
Content							
Colloquium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - four internationally renowned scientists from the field of human geography or related fields with a thematic focus on globalisation, media and culture give lectures which are discussed with the audience afterwards. Reading Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The parallel reading courses I and II aim to prepare for a sound understanding of the lectures' topic - Students critically deal with texts written by the speakers or closely related to the lectures' topic. 							
Module Prerequisites							
Language	English						
Weighting of the grade in overall grade							
Frequency	Annually						
Justification for the obligation to attend	According to § 5 section 3 The attendance of the reading courses is required to build up enhanced skills to follow academic talks and to engage in the discussion afterwards						
Module Coordinator(s)	Jun.-Prof. Dr. Verena Brinks						
Eligibility of the module in other study programmes							
Other information							

Module 5	Current Debates in Globalisation, Media & Culture					Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Elective Module					
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	5 CP = 150 hours					
Duration	1 Term					
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/Elective	Contact Time (hours/week)	Self-Study	Credit Points
Current debates in Globalisation, Media & Culture	S	1 (winter)	E	2	129 hours	5 CP
Assessment						
Attendance						
Active Participation	According to § 5 section 3					
Coursework						
Examination	Academic paper					
Objectives and learning outcomes						
<p>In this module, students get the chance for an in-depth engagement with a particular research area by selecting from the different courses offered in this module. Students will learn to identify key authors in the selected field, advance their scientific reading skills and gain experience in selecting, analysing and interpreting relevant academic publications. Students will acquire knowledge of major theoretical ideas and concepts referred to in this field and develop the capacity to discuss selected case studies in light of major theoretical approaches. They will be guided to develop well-based arguments and contribute to scientific discussions on the selected topics and to structure and formulate a convincing argument in the form of an academic paper.</p>						
Content						
<p>The seminars offered in this module address current debates in the fields of globalisation studies, media geography and cultural geography. They are based on the presentation and critical discussion of major concepts and their application in selected case studies. Examples of topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration, Identity and Belonging - Maritime Geographies - Popular Geopolitics - Digital Geographies - Postcolonial Technoscience - Economic Geographies of Labour - Geo-ethics 						
Module Prerequisites						
Language	English					
Weighting of the grade in overall grade						
Frequency	Annually					
Justification for the obligation to attend	According to § 5 section 3 the learning outcomes can only be achieved by the regular participation in the discussions as students gradually learn the necessary insights and skills to contribute to theoretical debates.					
Module Coordinator(s)	Prof. Dr. Julia Verne					
Eligibility of the module in other study programmes						
Other information						

Module 6	Human Geography in Practice					Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Elective Module					
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	5 CP = 150 hours					
Duration	1 Term					
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/ Elective	Contact Time (hours/ week)	Self-Study	Credit Points
Selection of mandatory seminars	P/S	2 (summer)	E	2	129 hours	5 CP
Assessment						
Attendance	P/S					
Active Participation	According to § 5 section 3					
Coursework						
Examination	Portfolio					
Objectives and learning outcomes						
Students learn current methods, techniques and practical skills for exploring current phenomena on globalisation, media and culture and to critically reflect on processes and consequences of contemporary globalisation and mediatisation, e.g., by producing their own media content. Students know about the potentials and limitations of selected methods/techniques and can employ them in an applied context.						
Content						
The seminars are organised as applied tutorials. Based on a current topic (e.g. “communities in the digital age”), students learn about specific methods or techniques in practice and conduct their own empirical research. Methods and techniques may include (but are not limited to):						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Film documentation - Creative mapping - Participatory approaches - Digital methods/Social media research 						
Module Prerequisites						
Language	English					
Weighting of the grade in overall grade						
Frequency	Annually					
Justification for the obligation to attend	According to § 5 section 3 the learning outcomes can only be achieved by the regular participation in the seminars as students have to apply the gained methodological skills instantly.					
Module Coordinator(s)	Jun.-Prof. Dr. Verena Brinks					
Eligibility of the module in other study programmes						
Other information						

Module 7	Specialisation						Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Elective Module						
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	5 CP = 150 hours						
Duration	1 Term						
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/Elective	Contact Time (hours/week)	Self-Study	Credit Points	
Selection of seminar from Module 5 or 6	S or P/S	2 (summer)	E	2	129 hours	5 CP	
Assessment							
Attendance	P/S						
Active Participation	According to § 5 section 3						
Coursework							
Examination	Academic paper or Portfolio						
Objectives and learning outcomes							
<p>Students select to either strengthen their methodological (M6) or conceptual (M5) skills by selecting a seminar from Module 5 or 6. Depending on their selection, the learning objectives are:</p> <p>M5: In this module, students get the chance for an in-depth engagement with a particular research area by selecting from the different courses offered in this module. Students will learn to identify key authors in the selected field, advance their scientific reading skills and gain experience in selecting, analysing and interpreting relevant academic publications. Students will acquire knowledge of major theoretical ideas and concepts referred to in this field and develop the capacity to discuss selected case studies in light of major theoretical approaches. They will be guided to develop well-based arguments and contribute to scientific discussions on the selected topics and to structure and formulate a convincing argument in the form of an academic paper.</p> <p>M6: - Insights into ongoing methodological debates - Capability to apply research methods for analysing an empirical phenomenon - Knowledge about potentials and limitations of specific methods - Practical skills, e.g., producing maps or media content</p>							
Content							
<p>Regarding M5: The seminars offered in this module address current debates in the fields of globalization studies, media geography and cultural geography. They are based on the presentation and critical discussion of major concepts and their application in selected case studies. Examples of topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration, Identity and Belonging - Maritime Geographies - Popular Geopolitics - Digital Geographies - Postcolonial Technoscience - Economic Geographies of Labour - Geo-ethics <p>Regarding M6: The seminars are organised as research-practice oriented tutorials. Based on a current topic (e.g., “communities in the digital age”), students learn about specific methods or techniques in practice and conduct own empirical research. Methods and techniques may include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Film documentation - Creative mapping - Participatory approaches - Digital methods/Social media research - Design methodologies 							
Module Prerequisites							
Language	English						
Weighting of the grade in overall grade							
Frequency of offer	Annually						

Justification for the obligation to attend	According to § 5 section 3; the learning outcomes can only be achieved by the regular participation in the discussions as students gradually learn the necessary skills to contribute to the conceptual debates.
Module Coordinator(s)	Jun.-Prof. Dr. Verena Brinks, Prof. Dr. Julia Verne
Eligibility of the module in other study programmes	
Other information	

Module 8	Research Workshop					Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Compulsory Module					
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	18 CP = 540 hours					
Duration	1 Term					
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/Elective	Contact Time (hours/week)	Self-Study	Credit Points
Research Workshop + Seminar	P	2 (summer)	C	4	258 hours	10 CP
Research Report	PS	3 (winter)	C	2	219 hours	8 CP
Assessment						
Attendance	P + PS					
Active Participation	According to § 5 section 3					
Coursework						
Examination	Portfolio + Report					
Objectives and learning outcomes						
<p>This module prepares the participants to engage in small groups on their first research project. Students learn (and extend) a critical understanding of empirical methodology to choose an appropriate research design for a given topic or field of interest. This way, the students are empowered to formulate their own research question, choose a suitable method for collecting empirical data and work with a theoretical or conceptual framing that provides essential categories for the research project.</p> <p>On a multi-day field excursion the students are requested to conduct their own empirical field work. The core objective of this module is to enable the students to analyse local, regional or global problems and to transfer those findings to different settings. Furthermore, students are prepared to conduct empirical research autonomously and to find appropriate methods. Finally, students have a solid understanding of the options as well as the limitations of social and cultural theories and know how to provide a sound argumentation for them. Students learn how to interpretate empirical data grounded in theoretical categories.</p>						
Content						
The module tackles variable topics of current research debates while combining the thematical pillars of the study programme globalisation, culture and media.						
Module Prerequisites	successful participation in module 6					
Language	English					
Weighting of the grade in overall grade						
Frequency	Annually					
Justification for the obligation to attend	According to § 5 section 3 the participation is compulsory as the students conduct their own fieldwork in presence.					
Module Coordinator(s)	Prof. Dr. Veronika Cummings					
Eligibility of the module in other study programmes						
Other information						

Module 9	Professional Skills & Specialisation					Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Elective Module					
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	15 CP = 450 hours					
Duration	1 Term					
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/Elective	Contact Time (hours/week)	Self-Study	Credit Points
Vocational internship (minimum of 4 month or 2x4 month)		3 (winter)	E			15 CP
Study abroad (study achievements in relevant academic events)		3 (winter)	E			15 CP
Domestic exchange programme or RMU (study achievements in relevant academic events)		3 (winter)	E			15 CP
Assessment						
Attendance						
Active Participation	According to § 5 section 3					
Coursework	Internship report (Vocational internship) or coursework (Study abroad and domestic exchange programme or RMU)					
Examination						
Objectives and learning outcomes						
<p>The module aims for the individual advanced qualification of students, which can relate either to professional qualifications (professionalisation – vocational internship) or to academic training (specialisation – study abroad or domestic exchange/RMU). Competencies and skills acquired previously in the study programme are applied, deepened and further developed. This enables students to develop and consolidate their own interests, establish contacts in the working world and prepare their own career within the curriculum.</p>						
Content						
<p>There are three options to choose from within the module. The options may not be combined with each other:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Vocational internship: The four-month vocational internship aims to provide students with insights into the world of work, practical experience and preparation for their own professional career. Preferably, the internship should be completed in a field that appropriately interfaces with the study programme. Domestic or international internships are possible. This internship must be full-time (38 hrs/week) and last a minimum of 4 months. Alternatively, two full-time internships of two months each are permissible. This internship is prepared, organised and implemented autonomously by the student. It is essential to have the internship approved in advance and, after successful completion, recognised by the assigned professor. Vocational internships are to be completed in institutions, authorities, companies and other organisations, where students carry out tasks and activities commensurate with the career paths they intend to follow later. 2) Study abroad: Within the framework of a study abroad programme, students deepen their subject-specific and methodological knowledge. The exchange semester comprises a combination of activities in the field of Geography or a suitable related discipline (journalism, media studies, sociology, political science, visual anthropology/ethnology, etc.). During their semester abroad, students broaden the scope of their studies, gain insights into different academic cultures and can expand their social and cultural competences. Studying abroad is possible both through the ERASMUS partnerships of the institute as well as through an independently organised exchange with a German university or a university in a European or non-European country. Each seminar requires a final examination. A total of 15 credit points must be accumulated, that will be recognised after successful completion. This option requires agreement with the module representative prior to the start of the semester abroad. 3) Domestic exchange programme at JGU/RMU: This option enables students to take coursework beyond the field of geography. This provides them with the opportunity to deepen their own study interests or to expand their disciplinary and methodological knowledge. Courses should be chosen from six areas that are contextually relevant to the study programme. For this purpose, students can enroll in seminars at other institutes at JGU. For this purpose, students independently contact student offices at 						

<p>other institutes to ascertain whether participation in a seminar is feasible. Alternatively, courses can be chosen from the program offered by the RMU alliance. Each seminar requires a final examination. A total of 15 credit points must be accumulated, that will be recognised after successful completion. A list of the selected seminars needs to be coordinated in advance with the module representative.</p>	
Module Prerequisites	
Language	
Weighting of the grade in overall grade	
Frequency	Annually
Justification for the obligation to attend	According to § 5 section 3
Module Coordinator(s)	Dr. Elisabeth Sommerlad
Eligibility of the module in other study programmes	
Other information	

Module 10	Research Skills					Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Compulsory Module					
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	6 CP = 180 hours					
Duration	1 Term					
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/Elective	Contact Time (hours/week)	Self-Study	Credit Points
Proposal Master's Thesis		3 (winter)	C			3 CP
Colloquium	C	3 (winter)	C	1	79,5 hours	3 CP
Assessment						
Attendance						
Active Participation	According to § 5 section 3					
Coursework	Proposal and presentation					
Examination						
Objectives and learning outcomes						
Students can plan a research project in its substantive focus (research question, theoretical foundation, methodical design) and feasibility (time schedule, availability and accessibility of data; strategies of data collection...).						
Content						
Students consider topics for possible master's theses and are advised to submit an outline of a thesis topic indicating a preliminary title, aims, possible methodology and sources to be examined and the name of preferred supervisor. Over the course of the third term, in the colloquium, organised by the respective supervisor, students present their proposal to the supervisor (and possibly further members of the working group), as well as to other students at a similar stage of the study programme. Ideas, potential challenges and research strategies are openly discussed and enable students to get valuable feedback regarding the design of their master's thesis. Before official registration of the thesis students submit a formal proposal of about 2.000 to 3.000 words indicating the specific title, aims, academic context, methods and timetable proposed for the research.						
Module Prerequisites						
Language	English					
Weighting of the grade in overall grade						
Frequency	Annually					
Justification for the obligation to attend	According to § 5 section 3					
Module Coordinator(s)	Jun.-Prof. Dr. Verena Brinks, Prof. Dr. Veronika Cummings, Prof. Dr. Julia Verne					
Eligibility of the module in other study programmes						
Other information						

Module 11	Master's Thesis					Module-No.
Compulsory or Elective Module	Compulsory Module					
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	30 CP = 900 hours					
Duration	1 Term					
Courses	Course Type	Semester	Compulsory/Elective	Contact Time (hours/week)	Self-Study	Credit Points
Master's Thesis		4 (summer)	C			27 CP
Oral defense		4 (summer)	C			3 CP
Assessment						
Attendance						
Active Participation						
Coursework						
Examination	Master's thesis and Oral defense					
Objectives and learning outcomes						
<p>In successfully undertaking the master's thesis, students will have developed and undertaken a substantial independent research project related to the overall theme of this master programme. They will have successfully identified a significant research question based on a thorough engagement with relevant literature and designed a research project accordingly. Under the guidance of a supervisor, they will have developed the necessary research skills and practices to address the research question in the given time frame. Students will have developed expertise to present their results in written and oral form and develop clear arguments based on their research.</p>						
Content						
<p>The module comprises the completion of a written (or equivalent visual media formats, complemented by a written synopsis) master's thesis within the time specified in the examination regulations. The individually chosen supervisor supports the MA candidates in the formulation of their research topic as well as their planning of a suitable research design for successful conduction of the project.</p> <p>The oral defense must be successfully passed, i.e., the written thesis must be defended in front of a scientific audience (min. 2 persons, supervisor and 2nd reviewer).</p>						
Module Prerequisites						
Language	English					
Weighting of the grade in overall grade						
Frequency	Annually					
Justification for the obligation to attend	According to § 5 section 3					
Module Coordinator(s)	Jun.-Prof. Dr. Verena Brinks, Prof. Dr. Veronika Cummings, Prof. Dr. Julia Verne					
Eligibility of the module in other study programmes						
Other information						