

**Examination and Study Regulations
for the master's programme
African Studies: Critical Perspectives on
Society, Politics, Culture
at the University of Bayreuth
dated 15. March 2023**

Article 9 sentence 1 in conjunction with Article 80 para 1 sentence 1 and Article 84 para 2 sentence 1 BayHIG forms the framework for the following regulations issued by the University of Bayreuth.

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§ 1

Purpose of the master's examination

¹The master's examination as the conclusion of university studies in the master's program in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture will determine whether the candidate has the understanding of disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts to undertake further independent scholarly work and has acquired the comprehensive methodological, scholarly, and professional competencies in the field of African Studies provided for in the present regulations. ²Specifically, with the degree, students acquire the ability to critically analyze social, political, cultural, and societal challenges, dynamics, and processes of upheaval, and to discuss them in light of theories from the humanities and social sciences. ³At the same time it determines whether the candidate possesses the requisite understanding of subject-related and interdisciplinary connections to pursue further independent academic research. ⁴The Master's Degree in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture is taught in English, including all exams. ⁵Upon passing the master's examination, the University, by way of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, awards the academic degree "Master of Arts" (abbreviated as M.A.).

§ 2

Admission to the programme; qualification

- (1) Admission prerequisites for the master's programme are as follows.
1. a university degree from a German or foreign university with at least the examination grade "good" (2.5) in a course of study oriented towards the humanities, social sciences, sociology or history and
 2. proof of English language skills at level B2 or higher of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who did not earn their higher education entrance qualification in English.
 3. proof of German language skills at level A1 or higher of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who did not earn their higher education entrance qualification in German. Applicants who do not meet the requirements in sentence 1 will be enrolled on the condition that they submit the proof of the required German language proficiency by the end of their second semester of study at latest.
- (2) ¹The qualifications may not differ substantially in terms of the earned competences from the qualifications referred to in para 1 number 1. ²If there are substantial compensable differences, applicants may be admitted subject to the proviso that, in addition to the assessment components to be completed in the master's programme, they also successfully complete coursework and examinations in the amount of up to 20 credit points in the bachelor's program in

Interdisciplinary African studies by the end of the second semester of study at latest; otherwise, the prerequisites for admission to the programme are deemed not to have been fulfilled.

³In such cases, the examination and study regulations for the bachelor's programme Interdisciplinary African Studies (as amended) shall apply. ⁴Art. 86 BayHIG applies to determining the eligibility of domestic and foreign degrees. ⁵Such decisions as described in sentence 1 to 4 are to be made by the board of examiners established according to § 5.

- (3) ¹If the relevant initial degree certificate is not yet available, confirmation containing the individual grades for all examinations and courses up to the registration deadline must be submitted. ²Such coursework must amount to at least 150 ECTS points and correspond to a final grade of "gut" (2,5) or better. ³Applicants who fulfil the requirements of sentence 2 are to be enrolled on the condition that they submit the second certificate with a grade of "gut" [2,5] or better by the end of the second semester of study.
- (4) Upon enrolment in the Master's degree program in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture the student is considered admitted to the examinations.

§ 3

Structure of full-time and part-time study; standard period of study

- (1) ¹The Master's Degree in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture can be taken as a full-time degree or as a part-time degree. ²Upon enrolment, the applicant must decide whether he or she wants to complete the programme of study as a full-time or part-time student. ³Changing from full-time to part-time study or from part-time to full-time study is possible within the enrolment period of each new semester. ⁴The programme comprises four semesters of full-time study including the master's thesis (standard period of study). ⁵The programme comprises eight semesters of part-time study including the master's thesis (standard period of study). ⁶Unless special provisions are made in the present regulations, the deadlines specified for full-time study also apply to part-time study.
- (2) A total of 120 credit points must be earned in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
- (3) New students can begin the programme in the winter semester.

§ 4

Components of the programme of study

- (1) The Master's program African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture is modular in structure and consists of the following module areas:
 - A Interdisciplinary African Studies

B Navigating the disciplines

C/D/E/F Focal Areas

- C Focal Area Social und Cultural Anthropology
- D Focal Area Politics and Sociology
- E Focal Area African History
- F Focal Area African Religion

Of the four concentration disciplines C through F, one concentration discipline must be chosen for 20 credit hours.

G Elective classes

L Languages

P Study Project

M Master Thesis and Colloquium

- (2) ¹It is possible to take additional examinations in the module areas B and G beyond the required scope. ²There is no obligation to repeat failed examinations taken for the purpose of earning additional credits.
- (3) ¹A change of the concentration is possible once at the latest before the beginning of the third semester in the full-time degree program or the fifth semester in the part-time degree program upon written application of the student to the examination office. ²A second change is not permissible. ³If, at the time of the change, examinations have already been taken and failed in the previous concentration, these examinations do not have to be repeated after the change of concentration. ⁴A change of the concentration cannot lead to an extension of the deadlines set in the study and examination regulations.

§ 5

Board of examiners

- (1) ¹A board of examiners shall be formed to make the necessary decisions with regard to the admission to the master's programme and the organizational execution of the master's examination. ²The board of examiners shall administer the examination proceedings in accordance with the present regulations and make all decisions with the exception of the examinations and the assessment thereof. ³The board is made up of a chair and two additional members from the other disciplines; the chair and the additional members shall each have one substitute. ⁴The members of the board of examiners and their substitute representatives shall be elected by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences from among the professors (Art. 57 Para. 1 BayHIG) and the academic staff of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences for a period of four years; of these, at least two members must belong

to the group of professors. ⁵The board of examiners shall elect a chair and deputy chair from among the / professors on the board.

- (2) ¹The board of examiners constitutes a quorum if the majority of members are present and entitled to vote after an invitation had been sent to all members at least three days prior to the meeting. ²The decisions taken by the board of examiners in its meetings are to be made on the basis of majority vote. ³Vote abstention, secret voting, and proxy voting are prohibited. ⁴If votes are equally divided among its members, the chair's vote shall be decisive.
- (3) ¹The chair of examiners shall ensure that the provisions of these regulations are followed. ²He or she shall convene the meetings of the board of examiners and shall act as chair of its proceedings and decisions. ³With regard to matters that cannot be postponed, he or she is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the board of examiners. ⁴He or she must promptly inform the other members of any such decision - at the next meeting at latest. ⁵In addition, unless otherwise provided by the present regulations, the board of examiners can transfer (until revoked) the right to perform other duties of the board to the chair. ⁶The chair can delegate tasks to members of the board of examiners.
- (4) The board of examiners shall regularly report to the faculty council concerning updates to examination schedules and study periods and may make suggestions for reforming the present regulations.
- (5) ¹Any notices the board of examiners issues under the terms of the present regulations are to be published together with a rationale and information concerning how to appeal. ²Notices of appeal shall be issued by the president in consultation with the board of examiners.

§ 6

Examiners and co-examiners

- (1) ¹Any person who is authorized to administer examinations at institutions of higher education according to 85 BayHIG or HSchPrüferV, as amended, may serve as examiner. ²Any member of the University of Bayreuth who is a graduate of an equivalent or comparable programme of study may serve as co-examiner.
- (2) ¹If a member of the University of Bayreuth who is an authorized examiner leaves the University, he or she may remain an examiner for a reasonable period. ²Authorization to administer examinations shall generally remain valid for up to three years.
- (3) ¹Unless otherwise decided by the chair of examiners, the relevant supervisor shall also serve as examiner. ²If that instructor is not authorized to administer examinations as laid out in sentence 1, the chair of examiners shall appoint an examiner at the beginning of the semester in which the examination is to be held.

§ 7

Disqualification due to personal involvement; confidentiality

- (1) Disqualification from consultation and voting on the board of examiners as well as other activities relating to examinations on the basis of personal involvement is governed by Article 51 para 2 BayHIG.
- (2) The non-disclosure obligation that holds for members of the board of examiners, as well as examiners, co-examiners, and anyone else involved in the examination process is governed by Article 26 para 2 BayHIG.

§ 8

Credit transfer

- (1) The recognition and crediting of competencies shall be determined in accordance with Art. 86 BayHIG.
- (2) ¹If credits are recognized for competencies, the grades are to be carried over and included when calculating the final grade, as long as the grading systems are analogous. ²If the grading system for the competencies to be transferred does not correspond to the grading system given in § 16, the grades received at the other higher education institution are to be converted using the Modified Bavarian Formula

$$x = 1 + 3 * (N_{\max} - Nd) / (N_{\max} - N_{\min})$$
 where x is the grade to be calculated, N_{\max} is the highest possible grade, N_{\min} is the highest passing grade, and Nd is the actual grade; in this calculation, the grade to be calculated is only given to one decimal place and is not adjusted to fit the grading scale given in § 16. ³If a conversion according to sentence 2 is not possible, the board of examiners shall determine a corresponding key for the grade conversion. ⁴If a grade is not available and cannot be determined, the remark "passed" will be entered; in this case, it will not be included in the calculation of the final grade. ⁵The board of examiners in consultation with the relevant representative from the subject area shall decide whether the requirements have been met for credit transfer. ⁶If credit transfer is denied, the person concerned can appeal the decision by submitting a request for the University Governing Board to review the decision within four weeks of notification of denial. ⁷The University Governing Board shall provide the board of examiners with a recommendation on how to proceed with the request.
- (3) recognition of credit requests are to be submitted to the board of examiners as soon as possible following enrolment and in any event prior to the commencement of the examination proceedings in the relevant module.
- (4) Paragraphs 2 and 3 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the crediting of competencies, subject to the maximum limit pursuant to Art. 86 para 2 Sentence 2 BayHIG.

§ 9

Times for holding examinations; announcing examination times and examiners

- (1) The module examinations are held promptly following the conclusion of the modules.
- (2) ¹If not listed in the annex, examination times and the duration of examinations shall be determined by the relevant examiner and announced university-wide at the start of the course. ²An additional examination time may be scheduled for the beginning of the following semester. ³A change of examiner on short notice shall only take place if there are urgent grounds for doing so.
- (3) Students are to register for examinations by the published deadline, according to the process determined by the board of examiners.

§ 10

Elements of the examination

- (1) The master's examination comprises the module examinations listed in the annex and the master's thesis.
- (2) The examinations serve to demonstrate that the examinee has satisfied the desired learning outcomes of the individual modules.

§ 11

Form of examinations

- (1) ¹Examinations are taken in the form of written examinations, home examinations, oral examinations, portfolio examinations, learning portfolios, presentations, term papers, essays, written elaborations and a research report. ²The possible forms of examination in the modules are given in the annex.
- (2) ¹Assessment of examinations is to be carried out according to the process announced by the board of examiners. ²Notifications will not be sent individually. ³Students are required to familiarize themselves independently with the terms of the present regulations pertaining to repeating examinations; they are responsible for informing themselves of examination results.
- (3) ¹If an examination is assessed by more than one examiner, the grade shall be determined by taking the average of the grades assigned and truncating (not rounding) the number to one decimal digit. ²In the case described in para 7, sentence 1 does not apply. ³If a written examination is assessed as "failed" or "unsatisfactory", it must be assessed by a second examiner.

- (4) ¹Written examinations can be held over a period of at least one hour and no longer than two hours; the duration of the examination should be appropriate to the requirements of the corresponding course. ²The relevant examiner shall decide which resources may be used during the examination. ³A written record of the examination is to be made. ⁴The invigilator shall confirm the accuracy of the record by providing his or her signature. ⁵The examination record sheet is to include all aspects of the examination that are relevant to determining the grade.
- (5) ¹If a candidate arrives to the examination late, he or she shall not be given additional time to finish the examination. ²Candidates may leave the room during an examination if permission is granted by the invigilator. ³The time and duration of absence are to be noted on the question paper.
- (6) ¹Written examinations are generally graded by the examiner who was appointed by the chair of examiners. ²The relevant examiner determines the grades for the written examinations under the terms of § 16. ³An assessment of each written examination shall be provided no later than six weeks after the examination. ⁴One graded copy of the written examination shall remain in the records.
- (7) ¹Written examinations may be conducted fully or in part using multiple choice testing. ²If written examinations are conducted only in part using multiple choice testing, the terms of paragraphs 4 and 6 sentences 1,2, and 4 apply for the portion that is not multiple choice. ³The questions in the multiple choice section are to be written by the two examiners. ⁴Prior to the examination time, the examiner shall decide which answers are correct and how many points are to be awarded for each correct answer, i.e. how to weight correct answers in relation to the total points. ⁵If the written examination is conducted only in part by using multiple choice testing, weighting for the individual parts must also be stipulated. ⁶Grading of examinations may be carried out with the help of an optical mark sense reader.
- (8) ¹A multiple choice examination is considered passed, if the examinee achieves a certain absolute number of correct answers (at least 50% of the total points) or on a relative basis. ²The relative cut-off grade is to be determined by taking the average of the points achieved by those examinees taking the examination for the first time, less 10%. ³The relative cut-off grade is only to be taken into account if it is below the absolute cut-off grade. ⁴Cut-off grades that are not whole number values shall be rounded in favour of the student. ⁵An examination is considered passed if a grade of "ausreichend" [sufficient] (4,0) or better is achieved. ⁶If an examination is conducted using multiple choice testing and the lowest passing grade (the relative cut-off grade if it is below the absolute cut-off grade, otherwise the latter) or better is achieved, the grades shall be as follows:
- 1,0 ("sehr gut"/ very good), for 90% or better
 - 1,3 ("sehr gut"/ very good), for at least 80% or better but less than 90%
 - 1,7 ("gut"/ good), for 70% or better but less than 80%
 - 2,0 ("gut"/ good), for 60% or better but less than 70%
 - 2,3 ("gut"/ good), for 50% or better but less than 60%

- 2,7 ("befriedigend"/ satisfactory), for 40% or better but less than 50%
- 3,0 ("befriedigend"/ satisfactory), for 30% or better but less than 40%
- 3,3 ("befriedigend"/ satisfactory), for 20% or better but less than 30%
- 3,7 ("ausreichend"/ sufficient), for 10% or better but less than 20%
- 4,0 ("ausreichend"/ sufficient), if the pass mark is reached but less than 10%

of the possible points exceeding the minimum score have been achieved.

⁷Cut-off grades that are not whole number values shall be rounded in favour of the student. ⁸If the lowest passing grade (cut-off grade) is not reached, a grade of 5,0 ("nicht ausreichend"/ insufficient) is assigned. ⁹If an examination is conducted using multiple choice testing, the following details are to be included when determining the results:

- cut-off grades,
- grade achieved,
- percentage of the number of points exceeding the lowest passing grade or percentage of the number of points.

¹⁰If the examination is only carried out in part via multiple choice testing, grades shall be assigned for the individual parts. ¹¹In this connection, § 16 para 2 applies accordingly. ¹²The details above also apply to the multiple choice portion.

- (9) ¹Home examinations shall be processed within five to fourteen days; the examiner shall determine the exact duration. ²The examination requirement shall be appropriate to the requirements of the underlying course. ⁴Paragraphs 6 and 8 apply mutatis mutandis
- (10) ¹Oral examinations are to be held over a period of 20 to 30 minutes, depending on the requirements of the particular course soon to be. ²Oral examinations are conducted in English, and are administered by two examiners or one examiner and one co-examiner. ³If it is technically necessary, the oral examination shall be conducted in German; the examiner shall announce this. ⁴One examiner or the co-examiner shall complete an examination record sheet for the oral examination that includes the following: location, start time, and duration of the examination; examination subject-matter and results; names of the examiner and co-examiner; name of the candidate; and any noteworthy incidents. ⁵The record sheet is to be signed by the two examiners or by the examiner and co-examiner. ⁶The examiners are to determine the grades for performance in the oral examinations under the terms of § 16.
- (11) ¹If the audience for an oral examination must be limited due to room capacity, those students who wish to take the same examination within the next two semesters are to be given preference. ²The examination can be conducted without an audience if so requested by the candidate. ³Discussion and announcement of the examination results (grade) shall not be conducted in public.
- (12) ¹In a portfolio examination of a module, mutually related performances (partial examinations) on the same examination subject are performed as specified by the examiners. ²The individual partial examination performances can be written, oral and/or practical performances (according to par. 4, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18), which in their entirety form the module examination

for the module in question. ³The subject of the assessment of a portfolio examination shall be all partial examination performances in accordance with § 16 Para. 2; in deviation from this, the weighting of the partial examination performances may be as specified in the appendix.

- (13) ¹A learning portfolio is a written documentation of subject-related content according to specified criteria. ²The examiner shall communicate the form and assessment criteria of the assignment to the students at the beginning of the course. ³The size of the learning portfolio is determined by the module size; for modules of five credit points, six to eight pages are to be written, and for modules of ten credit points, fifteen pages. ⁴The performance is either to be graded according to §16 (alternative 1) or to be evaluated according to the scheme "passed" or "failed" (alternative 2). ⁵If alternative 2 of sentence 4 applies, the examination result shall not factor into the final grade. ⁶In case of a failing grade, the regulations for repeating examinations in § 19 shall apply.
- (14) ¹Term papers of 12-15 pages are written following the underlying course. ²The topic is to be assigned by the relevant examiner in consideration of the candidate's request. ³The processing period is generally six weeks. ⁴The topic of the work is to be such that it can be completed within this time limit. ⁵The chair of examiners may extend this deadline by up to one weeks at the request of the candidate and after having heard the supervisor in case of reasons beyond the candidate's control. ⁶If the candidate demonstrates via a medical certificate that he or she was unable to work on the paper, the deadline is to be extended accordingly. ⁷The thesis must be submitted to the examiner in electronic form as a PDF by the deadline; an additional paper copy must be submitted at the examiner's request. ⁸Theses that are not submitted by the stated deadline are graded as "nicht ausreichend" ["unsatisfactory"]. ⁹The examiner shall determine the grade under the terms of § 16. ¹⁰One graded copy of the term paper shall remain in the records.
- (15) ¹For presentations, the topic, type of written work involved, duration, and scope shall be clarified with the relevant instructor. ²Presentations can last between 10 and 25 minutes, depending on the workload. ⁴The performance is either to be graded according to § 16 (alternative 1) or to be evaluated according to the scheme "passed" or "failed" (alternative 2). ⁴If alternative 2 of sentence 3 applies, the examination result shall not factor into the final grade. ⁵In case of a failing grade, the regulations for repeating examinations in § 19 shall apply.
- (16) ¹Essays are written assignments in which students develop their own line of argument by discussing different points of view on a problem using secondary literature. ²An essay is usually written during the seminar and is approximately 12 pages long (8,000-11,500 characters including spaces) ³The deadline is usually four weeks. ⁴The performance is either to be graded according to § 16 (alternative 1) or to be evaluated according to the scheme "passed" or "failed" (alternative 2). ⁵If alternative 2 of sentence 4 applies, the examination result shall not factor into the final grade. ⁶In case of a failing grade, the regulations for repeating examinations in § 19 shall apply.

- (17) ¹Written papers (e.g. posters, research proposal, reaction papers) are either a written presentation or an oral presentation with written documentation of technical content according to specified criteria. ²The examiner shall communicate the form and scope of the assignment to the students at the beginning of the course. ⁴The performance is either to be graded according to § 16 (alternative 1) or to be evaluated according to the scheme "passed" or "failed" (alternative 2). ⁴If alternative 2 of sentence 3 applies, the examination result shall not factor into the final grade. ⁵In case of a failing grade, the regulations for repeating examinations in § 19 shall apply.
- (18) ¹The research report is written following the project study and serves to reflect on the course of the project study in terms of content and methodology. ²It includes 20 to 25 pages. ³The processing period is generally six weeks. ⁴The examiner shall determine the grade under the terms of § 16.

§ 12

Master's thesis

- (1) ¹The candidate's master's thesis should demonstrate that he or she is able to utilize relevant resources and adequately address and write about current issues in the field using scientific methods. ²The topic may include interdisciplinary issues.
- (2) ¹The chair or examiners shall appoint two reviewers (according to § 6), taking into account the candidate's wishes. ²The topic of the master's thesis is generally to be assigned by the first reviewer active in the appropriate field and from the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences by way of the chair of examiners. ³Record is to be made of the date on which the topic was assigned. ⁴It is recommended that the master's thesis be completed in the fourth semester (full-time study) or the sixth semester (part-time study).
- (3) ¹The master's thesis is integrated into the programme of study and corresponds to a workload of 660 hours. ²The master's thesis is to be submitted no later than six months after the topic was assigned in the case of full-time study or 12 months in the case of part-time study. ³The chair of examiners may extend this deadline by up to four weeks for full-time students or eight weeks for part-time students at the request of the candidate and after having heard the supervisor if there are reasons beyond the candidate's control; the request is to be submitted before the submission deadline for the master's thesis. ⁴If the candidate demonstrates via a medical certificate that he or she was unable to work on the thesis, the deadline is to be extended accordingly. ⁵Theses that are not submitted by the stated deadline are graded as "nicht ausreichend" ["unsatisfactory"].
- (4) ¹The Master's thesis can be submitted in English, German or, if professionally required, in French. ²The master's thesis shall contain a statement at the end in which the author confirms that he or she wrote the thesis independently and did not make use of any sources or materials

that are not cited in the thesis. It shall also be confirmed that the thesis had never before been submitted toward fulfilment of an academic degree.

- (5) ¹The master's thesis must be submitted in electronic form (printable PDF document) by the deadline. ²Submission is carried out by uploading the document via the form server. ³The Examinations Office will make a note of the date on which the thesis was submitted.
- (6) The thesis must contain a table of contents and bibliography.
- (7) ¹The candidate may return the topic to the board of examiners once within the first two weeks. ²Paragraphs 1 to 6 also apply when assigning and working on a new topic.
- (8) ¹Examinations Office shall forward the thesis to the reviewers appointed. ²The grades shall be made available no later than two months after submission of the thesis. ³Each assessor shall provide a recommendation as to whether the thesis is to be accepted or rejected and assign a grade in accordance with § 16. ⁴In special cases, the board of examiners may call upon an additional assessor, especially if the grades assigned vary by more than one point.
- (9) ¹If different grades are assigned, the grade for the master's thesis shall be the arithmetic mean of the assessments. ²In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded). ³§ 11 para 2 applies mutatis mutandis.
- (10) One copy of the master's thesis is to remain on record.

§ 13

Credit point system

- (1) ¹A record of credit points for completed modules is to be kept by the University of Bayreuth's Examinations Office for each student who is enrolled in the programme of study. ²The credit points that appear on the transcript are identical with credit points as stipulated in the European Credit Transfer System (see annex). ³One credit point corresponds to a workload of 30 hours.
- (2) The credit points for the modules are given in the annex.

§ 14

Consideration of protective provisions

- (1) ¹The utilization of protection periods of the Maternity Protection Act shall be guaranteed. ²Upon request, the claiming of parental leave in accordance with the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz), as well as periods for the care of a close relative within the meaning of § 7 para 3 of the Nursing Care Act who is in need

of care within the meaning of § 14 and § 15 of the Eleventh Book of the Social Code (Sozialgesetzbuch), shall be guaranteed. ³The appropriate evidence must be furnished; any changes in status are to be reported immediately.

- (2) ¹If duly requested, periods during which study was impossible or only possible to a limited extent for reasons beyond the student's control shall not be taken into account with regard to the examination schedule. ²Corresponding evidence must be furnished; medical certificates must be presented in the case of illness. ³Any changes in status are to be reported immediately.

§ 15

Consideration of special needs of students with disabilities or chronic illness and in special life circumstances

- (1) ¹In order to maintain their equal opportunities, the special needs of students with disabilities or chronic illnesses within the meaning of the Bavarian Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act shall be taken into account in an appropriate manner. ²Upon written request, the board of examiners shall determine on the basis of the degree of disability or chronic illness in what form the examination is to be taken; alternatively, an extension or other reasonable accommodations may be granted. ³Proof of the examination disability or chronic illness must be furnished in the form of a medical certificate stating that, due to a long-term or permanent disability or chronic illness, the examination cannot be taken in whole or in part in the intended form. ⁴The request is to be submitted together with the examination registration. ⁵If the request is submitted later, it shall only be valid for subsequent examinations.
- (2) ¹Students in special circumstances may apply to the board of examiners for compensation for disadvantages in examinations in accordance with Paragraph 1. ²The board of examiners shall decide on the existence of a special life situation and the extent of the compensation for disadvantages.

§ 16

Grading of examinations

- (1) The following grading scale will be used in the assessment of the individual assignments and examinations; the digit to the right of the comma enables a more differentiated assessment between the whole-number values.

"sehr gut" (excellent)	= 1,0 or 1,3
"gut" (considerably better than average)	= 1,7 or 2,0 or 2,3
"befriedigend" (average)	= 2,7 or 3,0 or 3,3

"ausreichend" (fulfils the minimum requirements despite deficiencies) = 3,7 or 4,0

"nicht ausreichend" (unsatisfactory due to considerable deficiencies) = 5,0

- (2) ¹If a greater module examination is made up of multiple examinations, the grade for the module shall be established by calculating the arithmetic mean after weighting the components based on credit points. ²In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded). ³Module grades are as follows:

an average of 1,5 or better = sehr gut

an average of 1,6 up to and including 2,5 = gut

an average of 2,6 up to and including 3,5 = befriedigend

an average of 3,6 up to and including 4,0 = ausreichend.

§ 17

Final grade

- (1) ¹The overall grade of the Master's examination is calculated from the average of the module grades relevant to the final grade and the grade of the Master's thesis, which are weighted with the credit points of the respective module unless a different weighting is specified in the appendix. ²In this calculation, the grade shall only be given to one decimal place; the remaining digits are to be truncated (not rounded). ³If more credit points are earned in module area B and G than are required, only the modules with the best grades will be taken into account, taking into account the required credit points. ⁴Non-graded modules are only counted after the graded modules for the purpose of obtaining the required credit points. ⁵If the last module still to be taken into account exceeds the credit points of the module area, the assessment of this module will only be included in the calculation of the overall grade on a pro rata basis with the credit points still required.
- (2) Candidates who pass the master's examination are to receive a final grade as follows: an average grade of 1,2 or better is "ausgezeichnet", up to 1,5 is "sehr gut", up to 2,5 is "gut", up to 3,5 is "befriedigend", up to 4,0 "ausreichend".
- (3) The certificate or an attached document shall indicate how the final grade was calculated.
- (4) ¹In addition to the degree certificate, an ECTS grading table will be issued as stipulated in the ECTS guidelines in the version dated 6 February 2009. ²This table displays what percentage of programme graduates in a given time frame received the same final grade as described in para 2. ³Those programme graduates who were awarded their diplomas in the previous four semesters shall serve as the reference group as long as it includes at least 30 persons. ⁴The date of the last examination shall be decisive in assigning graduates to a particular semester. ⁵If the

minimum number of graduates is not reached, the number of previous semesters is to be extended until the minimum number is reached. ⁶If the programme of study does not yet have as many graduates as the minimum number required of the reference group, an ECTS grading table will be issued as soon as the minimum number is reached. ⁷For degrees awarded before the minimum number is reached, an ECTS grading table will be issued at a later date upon request once the minimum number has been reached. ⁸The graduate's own graduating class is also to be included in the reference group. ⁹The size of the reference group and the time frame is to be included.

§ 18

Passing the master's examination

- (1) Passing the master's examination requires a grade of "ausreichend" ["sufficient"] or "bestanden" ["passed"] or better for the master's thesis and each module; in addition, all 120 credit points must be earned and all requirements mentioned in § 2 para 2 must be fulfilled.
- (2) ¹If the candidate has not fulfilled the requirements given in paragraph 1 by the end of his or her sixth semester in full-time study or twelfth semester in part-time study due to reasons under his or her control, then the candidate shall be considered as having failed the master's examination on the first attempt. ²Examinations that were taken on time and for which the candidate received a passing grade need not be repeated.
- (3) ¹If the missing examinations are not passed by the student within a year of the deadline given in para 2 sentence 1 for reasons under his or her control, or if all possibilities to repeat the examinations have been exhausted, then the candidate shall be considered as having failed the master's examination on the final attempt. ²The deadline shall not take into account periods of leave and periods during which the candidate withdrew from study. ³Notice shall be sent to inform the candidate that he or she has failed the examination on the final attempt in accordance with § 5 para 5 in conjunction with Article 41 BayVwVfG as amended. ⁴The board of examiners may grant the student an extension of the deadline stated in sentence 1 for circumstances beyond his or her control.

§ 19

Repeating examinations

- (1) ¹Any examination that was failed on the first attempt can be repeated once. ²Repeating an examination for a second time is only permitted for up to three examinations. ³Students who fail the last possible repetition of examinations are to be considered as having failed the master's examination on the final attempt.

- (2) ¹Up to two examinations may be repeated voluntarily for the purpose of improving one's grade. ²Repeating the master's thesis that received a passing grade voluntarily is not permitted.
- (3) The repetition may be held as a different form of examination in accordance with § 11; this is determined by the examiner.
- (4) ¹The master's thesis can be repeated with a new topic if the student receives a failing grade for the thesis. ²Repeating the master's thesis for a second time is not permitted. ³If a master's thesis that has been started is not passed due to the maximum duration of study according to § 18 para 2, the master's thesis can be continued as a repetition until the scheduled deadline; the student must notify the Examinations Office in writing by the end of the maximum duration of study according to § 18 para 2. ⁴If the master's thesis is then deemed "unsatisfactory", the candidate is considered to have failed the master's examination on the final attempt.
- (5) Administrative measures shall be taken to ensure that it is possible to repeat the failed examinations or a failed master's thesis within six months.

§ 20

Notice of failing the master's examination

Notice shall be sent to inform the candidate that he or she has failed the master's examination on the final attempt in accordance with § 5 para 5 in conjunction with Article 41 BayVwVfG as amended.

§ 21

Access to examination documents

- (1) Following the conclusion of the examinations process, the candidate may be granted access to his or her graded examination documents including the reviewer's report as well as the record sheets for the examination.
- (2) ¹Such requests are to be made six months after the degree certificate is awarded. ²If the candidate was prevented from meeting the deadline in sentence 1 due to reasons beyond his or her control, Article 32 BayVwVfG shall apply.

§ 22

Defects in the examination proceedings

- (1) If it is shown that there were defects in the examination proceedings which influenced the examination results, the candidate or the board on its own initiative shall request that the relevant examinations be repeated.
- (2) Any defects in the examination proceedings are to be reported to the examiner or the chair of examiners without delay, and in general, prior to notice being given of the examination results.
- (3) Claims under the terms of paragraph 1 must be made within six months of the examination's conclusion.

§ 23

Absence, withdrawal, cheating & policy violation

- (1) ¹Candidates who have registered for an examination may withdraw without providing a rationale by withdrawing by the deadline announced by the board of examiners. ²If the candidate fails to appear for an examination for which he or she was registered for reasons under his or her control or withdraws subsequent to the deadline stated in sentence 1, he or she will be considered to have failed the examination.
- (2) ¹The grounds for failing to appear - or as long as paragraph 1 sentence 1 does not apply, for withdrawal must be submitted to the board of examiners without delay and substantiated by prima facie evidence. ²The same applies to inability to take the examination due to circumstances arising during the examination. ³Inability to take the examination due to illness must be documented with a medical certificate. ⁴If the board of examiners accepts the reasons given, a new examination time is to be offered under the terms of § 9 within six months.
- (3) If withdrawal or failure to appear is caused by reasons beyond the candidate's control, examinations elements completed up to that point are to be recognized.
- (4) ¹If the candidate attempts to influence the result on an examination by cheating or making use of materials that are not permitted, he or she shall be given the grade "nicht ausreichend" ["unsatisfactory"]. ²Any candidate who causes considerable disruption to the course of an examination may be removed by the invigilator and barred from continuing the examination. In this case, he or she shall be given the grade "nicht ausreichend" ["unsatisfactory"].
- (5) ¹If cheating in the form of plagiarism is detected, the examination will be graded as "nicht ausreichend" ["unsatisfactory"]. ²The accusation of plagiarism is justified if the examinee has attempted to influence the result of the examination in a way that is favourable to him or her

by failing to specifically mark passages taken verbatim from other authors and also explanations of his or her work that are closely based on the thought processes of other authors.³The determination shall be made by the relevant examiner or invigilator and shall be recorded in the files.⁴In serious cases or in the case of repetition, the entire module examination can be declared failed and, in particularly serious cases, the right to repeat the examination can also be withdrawn and the entire module examination can be declared failed on the final attempt.⁵The decision on this is taken by the board of examiners.⁶In deciding on the imposition of the sanction, both the quantity of the plagiarism and its significance for the work must be assessed in each individual case.

§ 24

Invalidating the master's examination

- (1) If a candidate cheats during an examination and this fact does not come to light until after the degree certificate is issued, the board of examiners may retroactively change the relevant grades accordingly and declare the master's examination to be failed either in part or entirely.
- (2) ¹If the registration requirements for the examinations were not met by the candidate without this having involved any cheating on the part of the candidate, and if this fact does not come to light until after the degree is issued, then this fault shall be considered rectified via the candidate's passing of the master's examination. ²If the candidate registered by intentionally providing false information, the board of examiners shall decide whether to revoke any unlawful administrative acts on the basis of the general principles of administrative law.
- (3) The candidate shall be permitted to make a statement prior to the decision.
- (4) The inaccurate degree certificate is to be taken away and, if applicable, replaced with a new one.

§ 25

Awarding the master's degree; diploma

- (1) ¹Upon the student's request, a diploma and a degree certificate for successful completion of the master's examination are to be issued within four weeks of demonstrating completion of the required module credits. ²The diploma is to include the title of the programme of study. ³It is to be signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences and stamped with the seal of the University. ⁴Upon issuance of the diploma, the graduate is given the right to bear the title Master of Arts. ⁵This title is to be abbreviated "M.A." and placed behind the surname.

- (2) ¹The certificate is to include the title of the programme of study, the final grade, all completed modules, all module examinations undertaken (including credit points and grades achieved), as well as the topic of the master's thesis and the grade received for the thesis. ²The additional credits shall be included on the certificate as long as the student does not submit a request to the contrary. ³The certificate is to be signed by the chair of examiners. ⁴The date to be used is the day of the last examination or the date on which the last graded assignment was submitted. ⁵An English translation of the diploma and a Diploma Supplement shall be issued in addition; the Diploma Supplement shall be signed by the chair of examiners. ⁶In addition to the certificate, an ECTS grading table is to be issued under the terms of § 17 para 4.
- (3) Revoking the degree "Master of Arts" is to be carried out in accordance with the legal regulations (Article 69 *BayHIG*).

§ 26

Academic advising

- (1) General student advising is offered by the University of Bayreuth's Student Advising Office.
- (2) The programme coordinator is responsible for questions relating to the master's programme African Studies: (i.e. structure of the programme, organization of studies, course selection, and questions concerning examinations). Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture.
- (3) ¹In the course of the semester, the programme advisor shall offer advising for all students enrolled in the master's programme. ²Advising is recommended especially for the following persons
1. new students,
 2. students who recently failed an examination,
 3. students who have considerably less than 30 credit points per semester in full-time study or 15 credit points per semester in part-time study,
 4. students transferring from a different subject, degree programme, or university,
 5. before choosing a concentration or when changing the concentration
 6. those changing from full-time study to part-time study or from part-time study to full-time study.

§ 27

Effective date

- (1) ¹These regulation go into effect on 16. March 2023. ²They shall be valid for students enrolling in this programme in Winter Semester 2023/2024 or later. All other students are to carry out

their studies under the terms of the previous examination regulations for the master's programme African Culture & Society at the University of Bayreuth, dated 05 October 2011 (AB 2011/056) and last amended on 9 January 2023 (AB UBT 2023/002).

- (2) The Examination and Study Regulations for the Master's Programme African Culture & Society at the University of Bayreuth dated 05 October 2011 (AB UBT 2011/056), last amended on 09 January 2023 (AB UBT 2023/002), shall cease to apply subject to the provision in para 1 sentence 3.

Annex: Modules, Credit Points, and Examinations

The following provides an overview of the modules and corresponding examinations.

In the examination forms, the individual alternatives are distinguished by a slash "/".

Area / Modules	Se- mester hours	Credit points	Examination	Relevant to final grade
A Interdisciplinary African Studies				yes
A1 Introduction to African Studies	2	5	Home exam	
A2 Interdisciplinary Seminar	2	5	Presentation + term paper or portfolio exam (written paper + essay)	
A3 Contemporary Politics of Knowledge	2	5	Term paper	
Sum Area A		15		
B Navigating the disciplines (choice of 3 out of 4 modules)				yes (the two best module grades)
B1 Seminar in Social & Cultural Anthropology	2	5	Written examination	
B2 Seminar in Sociology and Politics of Africa	2	5	Presentation and essay	
B3 Seminar in African History	2	5	Written examination	
B4 Seminar in the Study of Religion	2	5	Presentation and essay/ term paper	
Sum Area B		15		
Concentrations C-F Of the four concentration disciplines C through F, one concentration discipline must be chosen for 20 credit hours.				yes
C Focal Area Social and Cultural Anthropology (choice of C1A or C1B (1+2); C2 and C3 are mandatory)				yes (C1A/C1B (1+2) and C2)
C1A Doing Ethnography	2	10	Learning portfolio	yes
C1B (1) Current themes in Anthropology	2	8	Term paper	yes
C1B (2) Anthropology lecture series	2	2		

C2 Practical Preparation and Research Proposal of the anthropological research project	2	5	Written assignment	yes
C3 Data analysis of the anthropological research project	2	5	Learning portfolio	no
D Focal Area Politics and Sociology				yes (the three best module grades)
D1 Social and Political Processes in Africa	2	5	Oral examination	
D2 Africa's Global Entanglements	2	5	Presentation + term paper or portfolio exam (written paper + Term paper)	
D3 Advanced Applied Methodology and Project Development in Politics and Sociology	2	5	Written assignment	
D4 Current Events, Trends and Debates in/on African Politics and Society	2	5	Presentation + written work	
E Focal Area African History				yes (the three best module grades)
E1 Seminar in African History I	2	5	Term paper	
E2 Seminar in African History II	2	5	Written examination	
E3 Advanced Applied Methodology and Project Development in History	2	5	Written assignment	
E4 Seminar in African History and Methods	2	5	Written examination	
F Focal Area African Religion				yes (the three best module grades)
F1 Seminar in the Study of Religion I	2	5	Learning portfolio	
F2 Seminar in the Study of Religion II	2	5	Essay / term paper	
F3 Seminar in the Study of Religion – Research Design	2	5	Written assignment	
F4 Seminar in the Study of Religion – Wider Perspectives	2	5	Written exam / term paper / essay / learning portfolio	
Sum Area C/D/E/F		20		
G Elective classes				no

In the course of the program, courses in the elective area G amounting to 15 LP must be taken. Additional modules with content related to the focus discipline or modules related to Africa from other courses of study at the University of Bayreuth can be selected.		15	The examination performance depends on the chosen module.	
Sum Area G		15		
L Languages				no
Two language courses must be taken during the course of study. The elective options are based on the offerings of the Language Centre of the University of Bayreuth.	2x2	2x4	Written examination	
Sum Area L		8		
P Study Project				yes (weighting with 10 LP)
P1 Study Project		20	Research Report	
Sum Area P		20		
M Master Thesis and Colloquium				yes
M1 Master's Colloquium		5	Presentation	no
M2 Master's Thesis		22	Master's thesis	yes
Sum Area M		27		
Overall total		120		