Studying in Germany
Studying at the University of Bonn

Britta Förster, M. A. | Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service (Zentrale Studienberatung)
March 9, 2023
WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

1. ‘STUDY CULTURE’

2. ORGANIZING YOUR STUDIES

3. COUNSELING & SERVICE
‘STUDY CULTURE’
Interactive education system

- Active learning attitude expected
- High level of autonomy & self-reliant studying expected
Research skills

• Critical selection, analysis & presentation of information

• Assessment of trustworthiness & relevance of sources (Internet sources in particular)

• Importance of transdisciplinarity
Time management

- Daily / weekly workload not controlled by anyone
- Time management = one key factor for studying successfully
Attendance & active participation

- No *universal* compulsory attendance

- Attendance regulations announced in online course catalogue “BASIS” → [basis.uni-bonn.de](http://basis.uni-bonn.de)
‘STUDY CULTURE’

Attendance & active participation

• ‘Qualification goal’ of a class often believed to be hardly achievable without regular attendance & active participation!

• Aim: Development of key skills
  → essential skills for future job
  → requires a high level of (inter)activity
‘STUDY CULTURE’

Getting in touch with teachers/ instructors

• Via consultation hours

• Urgent questions can usually be asked after (or during) class

Check out departmental website(s) for contact information!
ORGANIZING YOUR STUDIES
“Vorlesung”/ “Plenum” | Lecture

• Presentation of a particular topic

• Larger audience

• Little to no interaction between students and teacher/ instructor

• Autonomous revision of a lecture expected
“Seminar” | Seminar

- Discussion on a specific topic led by teacher/instructor
- Limited number of participants
- Discussions & active participation expected
“Übung”/ “Tutorium” | Tutorial

• Training skills in preparation for an exam

• Intensive discussion & teamwork

• Practicing subject matters taught in lecture / seminar
**s.t.** ("sine tempore") = without time = **at the stated time**

**c.t.** ("cum tempore") = with time = **15 minutes later**

_Akademisches Viertel_ = “academic quarter of an hour”

→ **Example:**
10 s.t. = 10 am
10 c.t. = 10:15 am

→ Check course announcements in BASIS (online course catalogue)!
• Bachelor & Master degree programs consist of modules

• Usually exam at the end of each module

• Completion of a module:
  • ECTS credit points (usually called Leistungspunkte / “LP”) &
  • Grade

➔ Erasmus/ Global Exchange Program students may also attend separate courses (instead of complete modules) and gain ECTS credit points & grade
• Required modules / courses listed on your **learning agreement**

• Sometimes specific requirements or exams

• You may be allowed to take an exam in another form

→ Please talk to your (Erasmus departmental) coordinator or contact person about specific regulations *beforehand*. 😊

→ You may also approach your teacher/ course instructor in addition.
German grading scale

- 1,0 – 1,5 = “sehr gut”
- 1,6 – 2,5 = “gut”
- 2,6 – 3,5 = “befriedigend”
- 3,6 – 4,0 = “ausreichend”
- 5,0 = “nicht ausreichend”
  → failed
• List of your courses

• ECTS credit points

• Individual grades

→ Issued in English by your (Erasmus departmental) coordinator
UNI-ID = your personal Uni Bonn account

Generated automatically after enrollment and payment of semester fee

Included in letter with your student ID
→ 1st page, top right corner (next to your postal address)
→ + automatically generated password

Access to all central digital services
→ personal uni email account, BASIS, eCampus, Sciebo cloud, ...

hrz.uni-bonn.de/en/all-services ➔ Uni-ID

Presentation “Digital Services at the University of Bonn”: available/coming soon on uni-bonn.de/welcome-days! 😊
ORGANIZING YOUR STUDIES – UNI EMAIL ACCOUNT

Your Uni-ID = your personal Uni Bonn email address!

→ Uni-ID@uni-bonn.de

→ To be used as soon as your Uni-ID has been activated: mail.uni-bonn.de

hrz.uni-bonn.de/en/all-services → e-mail

The HRZ IT help desk is happy to help you!

+49 (0)228 73 2751
info-hrz@uni-bonn.de
1. **Course registration within registration period**
   → With Uni-ID: via BASIS
   → Without Uni-ID: Contact instructor via email
   → Registration can be withdrawn → Mind the ‘withdrawal period’ 😊
   → **Erasmus students might** not be able to register for courses via BASIS (depends on department) → **Info by coordinator counts! 😊**
   → **Global exchange program students** can only register on BASIS for courses belonging to their program

2. **Exam registration**
   → Uni-ID required for registration via BASIS
   → No automatic or compulsory exam registration
   → Registration can be withdrawn → Mind the ‘withdrawal period’ 😊
People who may help you (register):

- Your (Erasmus departmental) coordinator
- Your teacher/ course instructor
- Other contact persons

- BASIS support & FAQ
  [basis-support.uni-bonn.de](basis-support.uni-bonn.de)
### Indigenous Religions in North America - Single View

**Nr.: 656002301**  
**Seminar** SoSe 2022  
**Language:** English  
**Präsenz/digital:** Presence Event  
**Curricula:**  
- kein Abschluss  
- PoL. Argistik  
- Bachelor of Arts  
- English Studies (B.A.)  
- Bachelor of Arts  
- English Studies (Zwei-Fach-B.A.)  
- kein Abschluss  
- PoL Institut VI  
**Lecturer:** Dr. Matt Sheedy

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>18 (c.t.) to 20 woch</td>
<td>Hauptgebäude-RFW5 - 1.003 (Übungsraum B)</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td>07.04.2022 bis 14.07.2022</td>
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**Description:**  
Indigenous religions are both easy and hard to define. In one sense, they are easy to recognize in the long history of Western representations—for example, in art, comics, and film—that have created particular associations in the popular imagination, such as shamanic rituals, smoking peace pipes, and communicating with the spirit world. When one digs beneath the surface, however, Indigenous religions are hard to define for at least two reasons. First, they have largely been represented on outsiders' terms throughout the long history of settler-colonialism and forced Christianization. In this sense, "Indigenous religions" is a relational concept that must be considered in connect to Christian cultures, including the particular forms of state secularism that are practiced in Canada and the United States. Second, as Suzanne Owen points out, many Indigenous communities reject the term "religion," preferring terms like "spirituality" in order to distance themselves from organized forms of Christianity. What is more, many Indigenous communities view the relationship between culture, "spirituality," and politics differently than is commonly understood in Euro-Western societies, and thus need to be considered on their own terms. This includes Indigenous forms of knowledge, which tend to stress the relationship between humans, animals, and the land over human-centred notions of progress and development. In this class, we will begin by looking at how Indigeneity has been defined by settler-colonial societies and how this has impacted the ways in which Indigenous communities have defined themselves. We will also explore "new age" appropriations of Native America spirituality, Native American forms of Christianity, as well as the growing resurgence in Indigenous forms of knowledge and practice that increasingly challenge Western notions of religion, science, and progress.

**Prerequisites:**  
Course Requirements (Studienleistungen)
• Electronic teaching and learning management system

• Communication tool between teachers and students

• Upload of course material
hrz.uni-bonn.de/en/for-students
COUNSELING & SERVICE
Reach out!
Advising and Service

The University of Bonn offers a wide range of advising opportunities and services for you to use at all stages of university studies. Our advising and service network is here to help you with everything related to academic orientation, application and enrollment, degree progression, academic problems, personal challenges, stays abroad, and career counseling. These services are supplemented by various student-oriented bodies and the services of Studentenwerk Bonn in the areas of funding, housing, and social affairs.

Subject-Specific Study Advisory Services

The subject-specific study advisory services provide help with detailed questions concerning program contents and progression, modules and examination regulations, and the opportunities for selecting academic priorities during your studies. They are also the point of contact if you want to discuss the possibilities of earning transfer credit for previous coursework and examinations before submitting your application.

Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service

The Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service (ZStB) guides prospective students through the process of gathering information and making decisions, offers advice on choosing a degree program and applying for admission, and helps new students get started at the University. For current students, it serves as a general resource providing guidance and support in periods of academic reorientation and when students experience doubts about their studies or personal problems.

Student Registry

The Student Registry is responsible for handling applications, admissions and enrollments. It manages issues of absence, deregistrations, date changes, and semester fee payments as well as many other issues in student management.

International Office

The University of Bonn’s International Office is the contact point for all issues relating to international and intercultural programs and activities. How and when do I plan an stay abroad? What are potential destinations? How do I pay for everything and how do I prepare myself in the best possible way? Comprehensive counseling services are also available for international students to help them structure their studies in Bonn in the best possible way.

Advice and support from fellow students

Student councils

The student councils provide information and support from the students’ perspective. Student councils are a key point of contact, especially for first-year students, because their activities at the start of studies offer good opportunities to form initial contacts and familiarize yourself with the University environment. Many student councils offer study workshops, help organize language exchanges and learning partnerships, and organize subject-related excursions.

General Students’ Committee (ASTA)

Aside from representing students’ political interests, the General Students’ Committee is a key point of contact for all students. Their expertise covers a wide range of topics, including federal financial aid (BAföG), advice for students with children, social and legal consultations, advice for international students, and advice for students in need. It is the place to go to for help and advice on just about any issue.
COUNSELING & SERVICE

- **Zentrale Studienberatung – “ZSB”**
  (Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service)
  → uni-bonn.de/study-advisory-service

- **International support group “NO WORRIES!”**
  → international@asta.uni-bonn.de

- **Gleichstellungsbeauftragte & team**
  (University gender equality commissioner & team)
  → gleichstellung.uni-bonn.de/en
LISSI – project
(Lead-In Studies – Support and Integration)

Knowledge & Skills - Offers For International Undergraduate Students

- Lectures and workshops for pro-active organization and successful completion of your studies
- Challenges and opportunities - Information on your study environment and a long stay in Germany
- Specialized language courses
- Guidance - searching for scholarships and job opportunities* to finance your studies
  (*employment regulations for Non EU-citizens)
- Assistance with all your questions or needs

www.uni-bonn.de/lissi
Writing term papers & other academic texts

- Schreibberatung (Writing Consultation)

studierendenwerk-bonn.de/en/counselling-social-affairs/writing-consultation/
Literature divided into

→ main library

→ departmental libraries
Departmental libraries

- *Specific* literature
- Free of charge
- ‘Offline use’ and ‘online use’
Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek ("ULB")
(Main library | University and State Library)

Abteilungsbibliothek MNL
(MNL branch library)
How to use the libraries

- Introductory sessions to using the libraries (digital + on-site)
- FAQs for new students

ulb.uni-bonn.de/en/information-for/first-semester-students

YouTube channel: “ULB Bonn”
→ „Using the USL Bonn“ etc.
GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS + “STUDIENKOMPASS 2022-23” (IN GERMAN)

Downloads:
→ uni-bonn.de/en/international/campus-international/welcome-days/incoming-guide_en.pdf
→ uni-bonn.de/starting-your-studies → “Studienkompass”

Get your personal printed copies at the “Infobox for studies“! 😊
→ Poppelsdorfer Allee 49
ANY QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!
HAVE A GREAT TIME IN BONN AND TAKE CARE!