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**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
as amended on 5 June 2025**

Pursuant to Art. 9 sentence 1 in conjunction with Art. 80 para 1 sentence 1 and Art. 84 para 2 sentence 1 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG), the University of Bayreuth hereby issues the following regulations:

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§ 1

Purpose of the Master's examination

¹Through the Master's examination, as the culmination of the Master's programme African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture, it is determined whether the candidate possesses the understanding of subject-specific and interdisciplinary contexts required to undertake further independent academic work, and has acquired the comprehensive methodological, academic and professionally relevant competences in the field of African Studies as set out in these regulations. ²Specifically, upon completion of the programme, students acquire the ability to critically analyse social, political, cultural and societal challenges, dynamics and processes of change, and to discuss these taking into account theories from the humanities and social sciences. ³Similarly, it is assessed whether the candidate has a sufficient grasp of the subject-specific and interdisciplinary contexts to be capable of undertaking further independent academic work. ⁴The Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture is conducted in English, including all examinations. ⁵Upon passing the Master's examination, the University, through the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, confers the academic degree of Master of Arts (abbreviated: M.A.).

§ 2

Admission to the programme, qualifications

- (1) The requirements for admission to the Master's programme are:
1. a degree from a domestic or foreign higher education institution with a minimum grade of 'good' (2.5) in a degree programme focused on cultural, social, societal or historical studies, and
 2. proof of English language proficiency at least at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who did not obtain their university entrance qualification in English, and
 3. proof of German language proficiency at least at level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages for applicants who did not obtain their university entrance qualification in the German language. Applicants who do not meet the requirements set out in sentence 1 will be enrolled on condition that they submit proof of the required language proficiency by the end of the second semester at the latest and
 4. the submission of a one- to two-page cover letter in English explaining the reasons for choosing the Master's programme in African Studies. This should outline the specific skills on the basis of which the student considers themselves particularly suited to the intended

programme. Examples of such skills may include previous areas of study, relevant regional experience, work placements, professional experience or similar, as well as a demonstrated interest in the methodological and theoretical approaches of the social and cultural science disciplines involved.

- (2) ¹The qualifications must not differ significantly from those referred to in paragraph 1(1) in terms of the competences acquired. ²Where there are significant differences that can be compensated for, applicants may be admitted on condition that, in addition to the requirements of the Master's programme, they successfully complete coursework and examinations worth a maximum of 20 credit points from the Bachelor's programme in Interdisciplinary African Studies or equivalent modules by the end of the second semester at the latest; otherwise, the entry requirements for the programme shall be deemed not to have been met. ³In this regard, the provisions of the Examination and Study Regulations for the Bachelor's programme in Interdisciplinary African Studies at the University of Bayreuth, in their currently valid version, shall apply. ⁴Article 86 of the Bayreuth Higher Education Act (BayHIG) shall apply to the determination of the eligibility for recognition of domestic and foreign qualifications. ⁵Decisions in the cases referred to in sentences 1 to 4 shall be taken by the Examination Board established in accordance with § 5.
- (3) ¹If the certificate for the relevant first degree is not yet available, a confirmation stating the individual marks for all examinations and coursework completed up to the registration deadline must be submitted. ²These achievements must comprise a total of at least 150 ECTS credits and, based on the overall grade calculation, must correspond to at least a 'good' (2.5) grade. ³Applicants who meet the requirements set out in sentence 2 shall be enrolled on condition that they submit their degree certificate with a grade of at least 'good' (2.5) by the end of the second semester.
- (4) Upon enrolment in the Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture, the student shall be deemed to have been admitted to the examinations.

§ 3

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

- (1) ¹The Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture may be undertaken as a full-time or part-time programme. ²Upon enrolment, the applicant must decide whether they wish to undertake full-time or part-time study. ³A change from full-time to part-time study or from part-time to full-time study is only possible within the enrolment deadlines for the new semester. ⁴The full-time programme comprises four semesters, including the

Master's thesis (standard duration of study). ⁵Part-time study comprises eight semesters, including the Master's thesis (standard period of study). ⁶Unless specific provisions are made in these regulations, the deadlines set for full-time study shall also apply to part-time study.

- (2) The number of credit points (CP) to be earned is 120 in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
- (3) The programme may be commenced in the winter semester.

§ 4

Sub-areas of the degree programme

- (1) The Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture is structured in modules and comprises the following module areas:

A Interdisciplinary African Studies

B Navigating the disciplines

C/D/E/F Focus Areas

- C Focal Area: Social and Cultural Anthropology

- D Focal Area: Politics and Sociology

- E Focal Area: African History

- F Focal Area: African Religion

From the four focus disciplines C to F, one focus discipline worth 20 credits must be selected.

G Elective classes

L Languages

P Study Project

M Master's Thesis and Colloquium

- (2) ¹It is possible to sit additional examinations in modules B and G beyond the required scope. ²There is no obligation to retake additional examinations that have been failed.

- (3) ¹A change of focus discipline is permitted once, no later than before the start of the third semester in the full-time programme or the fifth semester in the part-time programme, upon written application by the student to the Examinations Office. ²A second change is not permitted. ³If examinations have already been taken and failed in the previous focus discipline at the time of the change, these examinations do not need to be retaken after the change of focus discipline. ⁴A change of major subject cannot lead to an extension of the deadlines set in the Study and Examination Regulations.

§ 5

Examination Board

- (1) ¹An Examination Board shall be formed to take the necessary decisions regarding admission to the Master's programme and to organise the conduct of the Master's examination. ²The Examination Board shall conduct the examination procedure in accordance with these regulations and shall take all necessary decisions, with the exception of the examinations themselves and their marking. ³It shall consist of one member as chairperson and two further members from other major disciplines; the chairperson and the other members shall each have a deputy. ⁴The members of the Examination Board and their deputies 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 term of four years; at least two of these members must be professors. ⁵The Examination Board shall elect a Chair and a Deputy Chair from among its members who are professors.
- (2) ¹The Examination Board shall constitute a quorum if, following written notice to all members with a notice period of at least three days, the majority of members are present and eligible to vote. ²It shall take decisions by a majority of the votes cast at meetings. ³Abstentions, secret ballots and the delegation of voting rights are not permitted. ⁴In the event of a tie, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.
- (3) ¹The Chair of the Examination Board shall ensure that the provisions of these Statutes are observed. ²He or she shall convene meetings of the Examination Board and preside over all deliberations and decision-making of the Examination Board. ³He or she is authorised to take urgent decisions alone on behalf of the Examination Board. ⁴He or she shall inform the other members of the Examination Board of this without delay, at the latest at the next meeting. ⁵Furthermore, unless these Statutes provide otherwise, the Examination Board may revocably delegate the performance of individual tasks incumbent upon the Examination Board to the Chair. ⁶The Chair may delegate tasks to members of the Examination Board.
- (4) The Examination Board shall report regularly to the Faculty Council on the progress of examinations and study periods and shall make suggestions for the reform of these Statutes.
- (5) ¹The Examination Board shall issue the decisions required under these Statutes in writing, stating the reasons and providing information on the right of appeal. ²Decisions on appeals shall be issued by the President after consultation with the Examination Board.

§ 6

Examiners and assessors

- (1) ¹Examiners may be any person authorised to conduct university examinations in accordance with Article 85 of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHIG) and the Higher Education Examiners Ordinance (HSchPrüferV), as amended. ²Any member of the University of Bayreuth who has successfully completed a relevant or comparable academic degree programme may be appointed as an assessor.
- (2) ¹If a member of the University of Bayreuth authorised to conduct examinations leaves the University, the Examination Board may, upon their request, decide that they may continue to act as an examiner for a reasonable period of time. ²As a rule, the authorisation to conduct examinations shall remain valid for up to three years.
- (3) ¹Unless otherwise determined by the chair of the examination board, the relevant lecturer shall also be the examiner. ²If the lecturer does not belong to the group of persons authorised to conduct examinations in accordance with paragraph 1, the chair of the examination board shall appoint an examiner at the beginning of the relevant semester.

§ 7

Exclusion due to personal involvement, duty of confidentiality

- (1) Exclusion from deliberations and voting in the Examination Board, as well as from examination duties, on grounds of personal involvement shall be governed by Art. 51 para 2 of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHIG).
- (2) The duty of confidentiality of members of the Examination Board, examiners, assessors and other persons involved in examination matters is governed by Art. 26 para 2 of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHIG).

§ 8

Recognition and crediting of competences

- (1) The recognition and crediting of competences are governed by Art. 86 of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHIG).
- (2) ¹Where competences are recognised, the marks – provided the marking systems are comparable – shall be adopted and included in the calculation of the overall mark. ²If the marking system for the competences to be recognised does not correspond to the marking system set out in

§ 16, the marks from the other higher education institution shall be converted by the Examination Board using the modified Bavarian formula

$$x = 1 + 3 \cdot (N_{\max} - N_d) / (N_{\max} - N_{\min})$$

with the desired conversion mark x , the highest achievable mark N_{\max} , the lowest passing mark N_{\min} and the mark achieved N_d ; in this process, only one decimal place is taken into account for the calculated marks and no adjustment is made to the grading scales specified in § 16. ³If conversion in accordance with sentence 2 is not possible, the Examination Board shall establish a corresponding conversion scale for the marks. ⁴If a mark is not available and cannot be determined, the notation 'pass' shall be recorded; in this case, it shall not be included in the overall examination mark. ⁵The Examination Board shall decide on the fulfilment of the requirements for recognition in consultation with the relevant subject representative. ⁶If recognition is refused, the person concerned may, within a period of four weeks of notification of the refusal, request a review of the decision by the University Management. ⁷The university management shall provide the Examination Board with a recommendation on how to proceed with the application.

- (3) Applications for the recognition of prior learning must be submitted to the Examination Board as soon as possible after enrolment, but no later than before the announcement of the examination results for the final possible resit of the relevant module.
- (4) Paragraphs 2 and 3 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the recognition of prior learning, subject to the maximum limit set out in Article 86(2), second sentence, of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHIG).

§ 9

Examination dates, notification of examination dates and examiners

- (1) Module examinations shall take place shortly after the completion of the module.
- (2) ¹The examination dates and, unless specified in the Annex, the respective examination format and the duration of an examination shall be determined by the relevant examiner and, as a rule, announced to the university community at the start of the course. ²A further examination date may be set at the start of the following semester. ³A change of examiner at short notice is only permitted for compelling reasons.
- (3) Registration for individual examinations must be completed within the announced deadline in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Examination Board.

§ 10

Examination components

- (1) The Master's examination consists of the module examinations listed in the Annex and the Master's thesis.
- (2) The examinations serve to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved the respective learning outcomes of the individual modules.

§ 11

Forms of examination

- (1) ¹Examinations shall take the form of written examinations, oral examinations, portfolio assessments, learning portfolios, presentations, coursework, essays, written assignments and a research report. ²The possible forms of examination in the modules are set out in the Annex.
- (2) ¹Examination results shall be announced in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Examination Board. ²Individual notifications shall not be issued. ³Students are obliged to inform themselves independently of the resit regulations set out in these Statutes; it is their responsibility to inform themselves independently and in good time of their examination results.
- (3) ¹If an examination performance is assessed by several examiners, the mark is calculated as the average of the marks awarded; only the first decimal place is taken into account; all subsequent decimal places are disregarded without rounding. ²In cases covered by paragraph 7, the provision in sentence 1 does not apply. ³If a written examination is marked as 'fail' or 'unsatisfactory', it must be assessed by a second examiner.
- (4) ¹Written examinations may last between one and two hours; the duration of the examination should be appropriate to the requirements of the relevant course. ²The permissible aids shall be determined by the respective examiner. ³A record of the examination must be drawn up. ⁴The invigilator must confirm the accuracy of the record by signing it. ⁵All incidents that may be relevant to the determination of the examination results must be included in the record.
- (5) ¹If a candidate arrives late for the examination, they may not make up for the time lost. ²Leaving the examination room is permitted with the invigilator's permission. ³The time and duration of the absence must be noted on the examination paper.
- (6) ¹Written examinations are generally marked by the respective examiner, who is appointed by the chair of the examination board. ²The marks for the written examinations are determined by the respective examiner in accordance with § 16. ³The assessment shall be available no later

than four weeks after the completion of the respective written examination. ⁴A marked copy of the written examination paper shall remain in the examination file.

(7) ¹Written examinations may be conducted wholly or partly using the multiple-choice method. ²If written examinations are conducted only partly using the multiple-choice method, the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 6, sentences 1, 2 and 4, shall apply only to the part not conducted using the multiple-choice method. ³The questions using the multiple-choice format must be set by two examiners. ⁴Before the examination date, the examiners must determine which answers are correct and the mark awarded for correctly answered questions, i.e. how the individual questions are weighted in relation to the total marks available. ⁵If the written examination contains only some questions based on the multiple-choice method, the weightings of the individual parts must also be determined. ⁶Marking may be carried out using an optical mark reader.

(8) ¹An examination based on the multiple-choice method is passed if the candidate has achieved the absolute pass mark (at least 50 per cent of the maximum possible marks) or the relative pass mark. ²The relative pass mark is calculated as the average marks of those candidates taking the examination for the first time, minus 10 per cent. ³The relative pass mark shall only be taken into account if it is below the absolute pass mark. ⁴A pass mark that is not a whole number shall be rounded up in favour of the student. ⁵In all other respects, an examination is passed if the mark is at least 'sufficient' (4.0). ⁶In the case of an examination using the multiple-choice method, where the minimum number of points (relative pass mark, if this is lower, or absolute pass mark) has been achieved, the mark is

- 1.0 (very good) if at least 90 per cent
- 1.3 (very good) if at least 80 per cent but less than 90 per cent
- 1.7 (good), if at least 70 but less than 80 per cent
- 2.0 (good), if at least 60 but less than 70 per cent
- 2.3 (good) if at least 50 but less than 60 per cent
- 2.7 (satisfactory) if at least 40 but less than 50 per cent
- 3.0 (satisfactory) if at least 30 but less than 40 per cent
- 3.3 (satisfactory) if at least 20 but less than 30 per cent
- 3.7 (sufficient) if at least 10 but less than 20 per cent
- 4.0 (sufficient), if the pass mark is reached but less than 10 per cent

of the possible marks in excess of the minimum mark have been achieved.

⁷A non-integer grade threshold shall be rounded up in favour of the student. ⁸If the minimum mark (pass mark) has not been achieved, the grade shall be 5.0 (unsatisfactory). ⁹In the case of an examination using the multiple-choice method, the following details must be provided when determining the result:

- pass thresholds,
- score achieved,
- Percentage of the score exceeding the pass mark or percentage of the score achieved relative to the pass mark.

¹⁰If only part of the examination is conducted using the multiple-choice method, marks must be awarded for the individual parts. ¹¹§ 16 para 2 applies accordingly in this case. ¹²The preceding provisions apply accordingly to the part conducted using the multiple-choice method.

- (9) ¹In the case of an oral examination, the duration of an examination may be between twenty and forty-five minutes, depending on the requirements of the relevant course. ²The oral examination shall be conducted in English by two examiners or by one examiner with the assistance of an assessor. ³Where required for subject-specific reasons, the oral examination shall be conducted in German; this shall be announced by the examiner. ⁴An examiner or the assessor shall draw up a record of the oral examination, which shall include: the place, time and duration of the examination, the subjects and result of the examination, the names of the examiners or the examiner and the assessor, the candidate, and any special incidents. ⁵The record shall be signed by the examiners or the examiner and the assessor. ⁶The marks for the oral examinations shall be determined by the examiners or the examiner in accordance with § 16.
- (10) ¹During the oral examination, students who intend to sit the same examination within the next two semesters shall, where space permits, be admitted as observers. ²Observers shall be excluded at the candidate's request. ³ The deliberations and the announcement of the examination result shall take place in camera.
- (11) ¹In a portfolio examination for a module, work items (partial examination components) that are thematically interrelated shall be submitted for the same examination subject, in accordance with the examiners' instructions. ²The individual partial examination components may be written, oral and/or practical components (in accordance with paragraphs 4, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17), which together constitute the module examination for the module in question. ³The subject

of the assessment of a portfolio examination shall be all partial examination components in accordance with § 16 para 2; notwithstanding this, the weighting of the partial examination components may be carried out as specified in the Annex.

- (12) ¹A learning portfolio is a written record of subject-specific content based on specified criteria. ²The format and assessment criteria must be communicated to students by the relevant examiner at the start of the course. ³The length of the learning portfolio is determined by the module size; for modules worth five credit points, six to eight pages must be written, and for modules worth ten credit points, fifteen pages. ⁴The work must either be graded in accordance with §16 (Option 1) or assessed using the 'pass' or 'fail' scheme (Option 2). ⁵In the case of sentence 4, Alternative 2, the result of the examination does not count towards the overall mark. ⁶If the work is assessed as 'fail', the repeat regulations of §19 apply accordingly.
- (13) ¹Term papers of between twelve and fifteen pages in length are to be written following the relevant course. ²The topic is set by the relevant examiner, taking into account the candidate's suggestions. ³The deadline for submission is generally six weeks. ⁴The topic of the paper must be such that it can be completed within this period. ⁵In exceptional circumstances, the chair of the examination board may, upon application by the candidate and after consulting the supervisor, extend this deadline by a maximum of one week. ⁶If the candidate provides a medical certificate proving that they are prevented from completing the thesis due to illness, the completion period shall be extended in line with the period of illness certified by the doctor. ⁷The thesis must be submitted to the examiner in electronic form as a PDF by the deadline; at the examiner's request, an additional hard copy must be submitted. ⁸If the paper is not submitted by the deadline, it shall be graded as 'unsatisfactory'. ⁹The examiner shall determine the mark in accordance with § 16. ¹⁰A marked copy of the relevant term paper shall remain in the examination file.
- (14) ¹For presentations, the topic, format, duration and scope must be agreed with the relevant lecturer. ²Depending on the workload, a presentation may last between 10 and 25 minutes. ³The performance shall either be graded in accordance with § 16 (Option 1) or assessed as 'pass' or 'fail' (Option 2). ⁴ In the case of sentence 3, Alternative 2, the result of the examination does not count towards the final mark. ⁵If the performance is assessed as 'fail', the repeat examination regulations of §19 apply accordingly.
- (15) ¹Essays are written pieces in which students develop their own line of argument by discussing various viewpoints on a problem using secondary literature. ²An essay is usually written as part of a seminar and is approximately 12 pages in length (8,000–11,500 characters including spaces) ³The deadline for submission is usually four weeks. ⁴The work is to be marked either in accord-

ance with §16 (Option 1) or assessed on a 'pass' or 'fail' basis (Option 2). ⁵In the case of sentence 4, Alternative 2, the result of the assessment shall not be included in the overall mark. ⁶If the assessment is graded as 'fail', the repeat regulations of §19 shall apply accordingly.

- (16) ¹Written assignments (e.g. posters, research proposals, response papers) may take the form of either a written presentation or an oral presentation accompanied by written documentation of subject-specific content in accordance with specified criteria. ²The format and scope of the assignment, as well as the assessment criteria, must be communicated to students by the relevant examiner at the start of the course. ³The work is to be marked either in accordance with § 16 (Option 1) or assessed on a 'pass' or 'fail' basis (Option 2). ⁴In the case referred to in sentence 3, Alternative 2, the result of the examination shall not be included in the overall mark. ⁵If the performance is assessed as "failed", the repeat regulations of §19 shall apply accordingly.
- (17) ¹The research report is written following the project-based study and serves to reflect on the course of the project-based study in terms of content and methodology. ²It comprises 20 to 25 pages. ³The deadline for submission is generally six weeks. ⁴The examiner determines the mark in accordance with § 16.

§ 12

Master's thesis

- (1) ¹In the Master's thesis, the candidate shall demonstrate that they are capable of independently addressing a topic within the discipline using scientific methods, with the aid of appropriate resources, and presenting it in writing in an appropriate manner. ²Interdisciplinary issues may be incorporated into the topic.
- (2) ¹The chair of examiners shall appoint two external examiners (in accordance with § 6), taking into account the candidate's preferences. ²The topic of the Master's thesis shall be assigned by the primary external examiner of the relevant subject area within the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences via the chair of examiners. ³The date of allocation must be recorded in the files. ⁴It is recommended that the Master's thesis be written in the fourth semester (full-time study) or after the sixth semester (part-time study).
- (3) ¹The Master's thesis is integrated into the course of study and involves a workload of 660 hours. ²The period from the allocation of the topic to the submission of the Master's thesis is six months for full-time study or twelve months for part-time study. ³In cases where the candidate is not responsible for exceeding the deadline, the chair of the examination board may, upon the candidate's request and after consulting the supervisor, extend the submission deadline by a maximum of four weeks for full-time study or a maximum of eight weeks for part-time study; the

request must be submitted before the deadline for the Master's thesis expires. ⁴If the candidate provides a medical certificate proving that they are prevented from working on the thesis due to illness, the completion period shall be extended in accordance with the period of illness certified by the doctor. ⁵If the thesis is not submitted by the deadline, it shall be graded as 'unsatisfactory'.

- (4) ¹The Master's thesis may be submitted in English, German or, where required by the subject matter, in French. ²The Master's thesis must include, at the end, a declaration by the author stating that they have written the thesis independently, have used no sources or aids other than those cited, and have not previously submitted the thesis for the award of an academic degree.
- (5) ¹The Master's thesis must be submitted in electronic form (printable PDF document) by the deadline. ²Submission is to be made by uploading the document to the form server. ³The submission deadline must be recorded by the Examinations Office.
- (6) The thesis must include a table of contents and a bibliography.
- (7) ¹The candidate may return the topic to the Examination Board once within the first two weeks. ²Paragraphs 1 to 6 apply mutatis mutandis to the allocation and processing of a new topic.
- (8) ¹The Examinations Office shall forward the thesis to the appointed examiners. ²The reports and marks shall be available no later than two months after receipt of the thesis. ³Each examiner shall recommend to the Examination Board that the thesis be accepted or rejected and shall at the same time award one of the marks listed in § 16. ⁴In special cases, the Examination Board may consult a further examiner, in particular where the different marks differ by more than one grade.
- (9) ¹In the event of differing assessments, the mark for the Master's thesis shall be calculated as the arithmetic mean of the assessments. ²In doing so, only the first decimal place shall be taken into account; all subsequent places shall be disregarded without rounding. ³§ 11 para 2 shall apply mutatis mutandis.
- (10) A copy of the Master's thesis shall be retained in the examination file.

§ 13

Credit Point System

- (1) ¹For every student enrolled on the degree programme, a 'credit points' account is set up at the Examinations Office to record the module credits earned. ²The respective credit points are identical to the credit points under the European Credit Transfer System (see Annex). ³One credit point is based on 30 hours of work.
- (2) The credit points for the modules are set out in the Annex.

§ 14

Consideration of protective provisions

- (1) ¹The right to take protective periods under the Maternity Protection Act must be guaranteed. ²Upon application, the taking of parental leave in accordance with the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act, as well as periods for the care of a close relative within the meaning of § 7 para 3 of the Care Leave Act, who is in need of care within the meaning of §14 and §15 of Book XI of the Social Code, must be guaranteed. ³The relevant evidence must be provided; any changes to the conditions must be notified immediately.
- (2) ¹Upon application, periods of study during which study is not possible or only possible to a very limited extent for reasons beyond the student's control shall not be counted towards the examination deadlines. ²The relevant evidence must be provided; in the event of illness, medical certificates must be submitted. ³Any changes to the circumstances must be reported immediately.

§ 15

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

- (1) ¹To ensure equal opportunities, appropriate consideration must be given to the special needs of students with disabilities or chronic illnesses within the meaning of the Bavarian Disability Equality Act. ²Upon written application by the candidate, the Examination Board shall determine, depending on the severity of the proven examination impairment or chronic illness, the form in which the examination is to be taken, or shall grant an extension of the examination time or other compensation for disadvantage. ³Proof of the examination disability or chronic illness must be provided by means of a medical certificate stating that, due to a long-term or permanent disability or a chronic illness, the examination cannot be taken in the prescribed

form, either in whole or in part. ⁴The application must be enclosed with the examination registration. ⁵If the application is submitted at a later date, it shall apply only to future examinations.

- (2) ¹Students in special circumstances may apply to the Examination Board for reasonable accommodations in accordance with paragraph 1 for examinations. ²The Examination Board shall decide on the existence of special circumstances and the extent of the compensation for disadvantage.

§ 16

Examination grades

- (1) The following grading scale is used to assess individual examination performances; the intermediate grades are intended to allow for a differentiated assessment of examination performances:

'very good' (an outstanding performance)	= 1.0 or 1.3
"good" (a performance that is significantly above average requirements)	= 1.7 or 2.0 or 2.3
"satisfactory" (a performance that meets average requirements)	= 2.7 or 3.0 or 3.3
"sufficient" (a performance which, despite its shortcomings, still meets requirements)	= 3.7 or 4.0
"unsatisfactory" (a performance which, due to significant failures, does not meet requirements)	= 5.0

- (2) ¹If a module examination consists of several examination components, the module mark is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the marks weighted by the credit points. ²Only the first decimal place is taken into account; all subsequent places are discarded without rounding. ³The module mark is:

for an average of up to and including 1.5	= very good
for an average of 1.6 up to and including 2.5	= good
for an average of 2.6 up to and including 3.5	= satisfactory
for an average of 3.6 up to and including 4.0	= sufficient.

§ 17

Overall examination mark

- (1) ¹The overall mark for the Master's examination is calculated as the average of the module marks relevant to the final mark and the mark for the Master's thesis, weighted by the credit points of

the respective module, unless a different weighting is specified in the Annex.²In this calculation, only the first decimal place is taken into account; all subsequent decimal places are disregarded without rounding.³If more credit points are earned in module areas B and G than are required, only the modules with the highest marks are taken into account, subject to the required credit points.⁴Unmarked modules are only counted towards the required credit points after the marked modules.⁵If the credit points for the module area are exceeded by the last module to be taken into account, the grade for this module is included in the calculation of the overall mark only on a pro rata basis with the credit points still required.

- (2) For the overall mark of the passed Master's examination, candidates with an average mark of up to 1.2 receive the mark 'Excellent', up to 1.5 the mark 'Very Good', up to 2.5 'Good', up to 3.5 'Satisfactory', and up to 4.0 'Sufficient'.
- (3) The calculation of the overall examination mark must be clearly evident from the certificate or from a record attached to the certificate.
- (4) ¹In addition to the certificate, an ECTS grading table in accordance with the ECTS Guidelines in the version dated 6 February 2009 shall be issued. ²This table specifies, for each level of the overall examination mark as per paragraph 2, the proportion of graduates of the degree programme who completed their studies with that mark during the reference period. ³The comparison group shall consist of the degrees awarded in the programme over the previous four semesters, with a minimum of 30 degrees. ⁴The date of the last assessment shall determine the allocation to the respective semester. ⁵If the minimum number of graduates has not been reached, the comparison group shall be extended by one semester at a time until this is the case. ⁶If the degree programme has not yet produced the number of graduating cohorts required for the comparison group, an ECTS grading table shall be issued as soon as the minimum number of graduates has been reached. ⁷For degrees awarded before the minimum number of degrees has been reached, an ECTS classification table shall be issued retrospectively upon request as soon as the minimum number of degrees has been reached at the end of a semester. ⁸For this purpose, the semester in which the degree was awarded shall also be included in the comparison group. ⁹The size of the respective comparison group and the period used to form it must be stated.

§ 18

Passing the Master's examination

- (1) The Master's examination is passed if the grade for the Master's thesis and each module is at least 'sufficient' or 'pass', all 120 required credit points have been attained, and any conditions set out in § 2 para 2 have been met.

- (2) ¹If, by the end of the sixth semester of full-time study or by the end of the twelfth semester of part-time study, a candidate has not met the requirements set out in paragraph 1 for reasons for which they are responsible, the Master's examination shall be deemed to have been failed on the first attempt. ²Examinations that have already been passed and taken within the prescribed time limit do not need to be retaken.
- (3) ¹If the outstanding examinations are not passed within one year of the deadline specified in paragraph 2, sentence 1, for reasons attributable to the student, or if the opportunities to retake the examinations have been exhausted beforehand, the Master's examination shall be deemed to have been failed definitively. ²The deadline is not interrupted by de-registration or leave of absence. ³A decision on the final failure shall be issued in accordance with § 5 para 5 in conjunction with Art. 41 of the Bavarian Administrative Procedure Act (BayVwVfG) in its currently valid version. ⁴The Examination Board may grant the student an extension of time upon application, to be submitted before the expiry of the period referred to in sentence 1, on the grounds of special reasons for which the student is not responsible.

§ 19

Repeating an examination

- (1) ¹Any examination failed on the first attempt may be retaken once. ²A second retake is permitted for only three examinations. ³If examinations are not passed after the final permitted retake, the Master's examination is deemed to have been failed definitively.
- (2) ¹Up to two passed examinations may be retaken voluntarily in order to improve grades. ²A voluntary retake of the passed Master's thesis is not permitted
- (3) Exams may be retaken in a different format in accordance with § 11; this is determined by the examiner.
- (4) ¹If the Master's thesis is failed, a resit with a new topic is possible. ²A second resit of the Master's thesis is not possible. ³If the Master's thesis that has been commenced is failed due to the maximum duration of study under § 18 para 2, the Master's thesis may be continued as a resit until the end of the scheduled period of study; the student must notify the Examinations Office of this in writing by the expiry of the maximum duration of study in accordance with § 18 para 2. ⁴If the Master's thesis is then graded as 'unsatisfactory', the Master's examination is definitively failed.
- (5) Measures relating to the organisation of studies must ensure that the retake of a failed examination or a failed Master's thesis is, as a rule, possible within a period of six months.

§ 20

Certificate of failure of the Master's examination

A decision on the final failure of the Master's examination shall be issued in accordance with § 5 para 5 in conjunction with Art. 41 of the Bavarian Administrative Procedure Act (BayVwVfG).

§ 21

Access to the examination files

- (1) Once the examination procedure has been completed, the candidate may inspect their examination papers, the relevant examination reports and the examination records.
- (2) ¹Inspection is possible for up to six months after the certificate has been issued. ²If the candidate was prevented, through no fault of their own, from meeting the deadline in sentence 1, Article 32 of the Bavarian Administrative Procedure Act (BayVwVfG) shall apply.

§ 22

Deficiencies in the examination procedure

- (1) If it transpires that the examination procedure was marred by deficiencies which influenced the examination result, the relevant examination shall be ordered to be repeated, either at the request of a candidate or ex officio.
- (2) Any deficiencies in the examination procedure must be raised immediately, as a rule before the examination result is announced, with the chair of the examination board or with the examiner.
- (3) Six months after the examination has been completed, orders pursuant to paragraph 1 may no longer be made.

§ 23

Absence, withdrawal, deception, breach of regulations

- (1) ¹Candidates who have registered for an examination may withdraw without giving reasons by a date specified by the Examination Board at the latest. ²An examination shall be deemed to have been failed if the candidate, for reasons for which he or she is responsible, fails to attend an examination date for which he or she has registered, or withdraws after the deadline specified in sentence 1 has expired.

- (2) ¹The reasons for the absence or, unless paragraph 1, sentence 1 applies, for the withdrawal must be notified to the Examination Board in writing without delay and substantiated. ²The same applies to an inability to sit the examination arising before or during the examination. ³In the event of absence due to illness, a medical certificate must be submitted. ⁴If the Examination Board accepts the reasons, a new examination date must be offered within six months in accordance with § 9.
- (3) In the event of absence or withdrawal for reasons beyond the candidate's control, any examination results already achieved shall be recognised.
- (4) ¹If a candidate attempts to influence the result of an individual examination by cheating or using unauthorised aids, the examination performance in question shall be graded as 'unsatisfactory'. ²A candidate who significantly disrupts the proper conduct of the examination may be excluded from continuing the examination by the relevant examiner or by the invigilators; in this case, the examination performance in question shall be deemed to have been assessed as 'unsatisfactory'.
- (5) ¹If deception in the form of plagiarism is established, the examination performance shall be graded as 'unsatisfactory'. ²An allegation of plagiarism is justified if the candidate has attempted to influence the outcome of the examination in a manner favourable to them by failing to clearly mark passages taken verbatim from other authors or sections of their work that closely follow the lines of thought of other authors. ³The finding shall be made by the relevant examiner or invigilator and recorded in the examination records. ⁴In serious cases or in the event of a repeat offence, the entire module examination may be declared failed; in particularly serious cases, the right to retake the examination may also be revoked and the entire module examination declared definitively failed. ⁵The decision on this matter shall be taken by the Examination Board. ⁶When deciding on the appropriate sanction, both the extent of the plagiarism and its significance for the work must be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

§ 24

Invalidity of the Master's examination

- (1) If a candidate has cheated in an examination and this fact only comes to light after the certificate has been issued, the Examination Board may subsequently correct the relevant marks accordingly and declare the Master's examination to have failed in whole or in part.
- (2) ¹If the requirements for admission to the examinations were not met, without the candidate having intended to deceive in this regard, and if this fact only becomes known after the certifi-

cate has been issued, this deficiency shall be remedied by the successful completion of the Master's examination. ²If the candidate has intentionally obtained admission unlawfully, the Examination Board shall decide on the revocation of unlawful administrative acts in accordance with the general principles of administrative law.

- (3) The candidate shall be given the opportunity to comment before a decision is made.
- (4) The incorrect examination certificate shall be withdrawn and, where appropriate, replaced by a new one.

§ 25

Award of the Master's degree, certificate

- (1) ¹Upon application by the student and once all module requirements have been met, a certificate and a degree certificate shall be issued within four weeks to confirm that the Master's examination has been passed. ²The certificate shall state the name of the degree programme. ³It shall be signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences and bear the University's seal. ⁴Upon receipt of the certificate, the graduate shall be entitled to use the academic title Master of Arts. ⁵This title shall be placed after the surname, abbreviated as M.A.
- (2) ¹The transcript shall contain the name of the degree programme, the overall examination mark, all module and module component examinations with their respective marks and credit points, as well as the topic and mark of the Master's thesis. ²Additional examination results shall be included in the transcript unless the student requests otherwise. ³The transcript shall be signed by the chair of the Examination Board. ⁴The date to be stated is the day on which the final assessment was completed. ⁵An English translation of the certificate and a Diploma Supplement shall be issued in addition; the Diploma Supplement shall be signed by the chair of the Examination Board. ⁶In addition to the certificate, an ECTS grading table shall be issued in accordance with § 17 para 4.
- (3) The withdrawal of the Master of Arts degree is governed by Art.101 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act.

§ 26

Student Advising

- (1) General academic advising is provided by the University of Bayreuth's central Student Advising Office.

- (2) For questions concerning the Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture – i. e. the structure of the programme, academic organisation, choice of modules and examination matters – the relevant programme coordinator for the Master's programme in African Studies: Critical Perspectives on Society, Politics, Culture will provide advice.
- (3) ¹During the semester, the programme coordinator holds a study guidance session for all students on the Master's programme. ²Students should make use of this guidance in particular
1. by first-year students,
 2. after failing an examination,
 3. if the number of credits earned falls significantly short of 30 credits per semester for full-time students or 15 credits per semester for part-time students,
 4. in the event of a change of subject, degree programme or university,
 5. before choosing a specialisation or when changing specialisation
 6. before switching from full-time to part-time study or from part-time to full-time study.

§ 27

Entry into force

- (1) ¹These regulations shall enter into force on 16 March 2023. ²They shall apply to students commencing this degree programme from the 2023/2024 winter semester onwards. ³The remaining students shall organise their studies in accordance with the previous Examination and Study Regulations for the Master's programme in African Culture and Society at the University of Bayreuth dated 5 October 2011 (AB UBT 2011/056), as last amended by the Statutes of 9 January 2023 (AB UBT 2023/002).*)
- (2) Upon the entry into force of these regulations, the Examination and Study Regulations for the Master's programme in African Culture and Society at the University of Bayreuth dated 5 October 2011 (AB UBT 2011/056), as last amended by the Statutes of 9 January 2023 (AB UBT 2023/002), shall cease to have effect, subject to the provision in paragraph 1, sentence 3.
- *) The amending statute of 5 June 2025 contains the following provision regarding entry into force

These Statutes shall enter into force on 6 June 2025. They shall apply to all students commencing their studies from the 2026/2027 winter semester onwards.

Appendix: Modules, credit points and examinations

The following overview lists the modules and the associated examination requirements.

For the examination formats, the individual alternatives are distinguished by a slash “/”.

Section Modules	SWS	CP	Examination	Counts to- wards final mark
A Interdisciplinary African Studies				yes
A1 Introduction to African Studies	2	5	Exam	
A2 Interdisciplinary Seminar	2	5	Presentation + Term Paper or Portfolio assessment (written assignment + es- say)	
A3 Contemporary Politics of Knowledge	2	5	Term paper	
Total for Area A		15		
B Navigating the disciplines (Choose 3 out of 4 modules)				yes (the two best module grades)
B1 Seminar in Social & Cultural An- thropology	2	5	Exam	
B2 Seminar in Sociology and Politics of Africa	2	5	Presentation and essay	
B3 Seminar in African History	2	5	Exam	
B4 Seminar in the Study of Religion	2	5	Presentation and essay / term paper	

Section Modules	SWS	CP	Examination	Counts to- wards final mark
Total for Section B		15		

Section Modules	SWS	CP	Exam	Counts towards final mark
Focal Areas C–F From the four focus disciplines C to F, one focus discipline worth 20 credit points must be selected.				Yes
C Focal Area: Social and Cultural Anthropology (Choice between C1A or C1B (1+2); C2 and C3 are compulsory)				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 for 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 assessment (written paper + term paper)	

Section Modules	SWS	CP	Exam	Counts to- wards final mark
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 assignment	

Section Module	SWS	CP	Exam	Counts to- wards final mark
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	Exam	
E3 Advanced Applied Methodology and Project Development in History	2	5	written assignment	
E4 Seminar in African History and Methods	2	5	Exam	
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	Exam / Term paper / Essay / Learning portfolio	
Total for sections C/D/E/F		20		
G Elective classes				No
During the course of study, students must take courses totalling 15 ECTS credits in the compulsory elective		15	The examination require- ments depend on the chosen module.	

Section Module	SWS	CP	Exam	Counts to- wards final mark
section G. Students may choose additional modules related to the core disciplines or modules with an African focus from other degree programmes at the University of Bayreuth.				
Total for Section G		15		

Section Modules	SWS	LP	Exam	Counts to- wards final mark
L Languages				No
Two language courses must be taken during the course of study. The options available are based on the programme offered by the University of Bayreuth's Language Centre.	2x4	2x4	Exam	
Total for Area L		8		
P Study Project				yes (weighted at 10 credits)
P1 Study Project		20	Research report	
Total for Area P		20		
M Master's Thesis and Colloquium				yes
M1 Master's Colloquium		5	Presentation	no
M2 Master's Thesis		22	Master's thesis	yes
Total for Area M		27		
TOTAL		120		