

Degree Program and Examination Regulations for the Master's Degree Program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts within the Department of History and Cultural Studies at Freie Universität Berlin

Disclaimer: Please note that only the German version of this document is legally binding. This translation is intended for the convenience of the non-German-reading public and is for informational purposes only.

Preamble

On the basis of Section 14.1.1.2 of Freie Universität Berlin's supplemental rules and regulations (*Teilgrundordnung [Erprobungsmodell]*) from October 27, 1998, published in *FU-Mitteilungen* No. 24/1998 (the official bulletin of Freie Universität Berlin), the Department Council (*Fachbereichsrat*) of the Department of History and Cultural Studies at Freie Universität Berlin issued the following degree program and examination regulations for the master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts within the Department of History and Cultural Studies on February 6, 2023.*

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* The Executive Board of Freie Universität Berlin approved these regulations on February 21, 2023.

Section 1 Scope

These degree program and examination regulations define the objectives, content, and structure of the master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts within the Department of History and Cultural Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. These regulations apply in conjunction with Freie Universität Berlin's framework regulations for degree programs and examinations (*Rahmenstudien- und Prüfungsordnung*, RSPO) as they outline the requirements and processes necessary to complete coursework and assessments toward completion of a master's degree program.

Section 2 Learning Objectives

(1) Graduates possess an extensive and in-depth knowledge of writing systems, languages, and/or stages in the evolution of languages, text cultures, and text transmission. Depending on the chosen profile area, this knowledge will relate to texts and languages of ancient and late antique Egypt or the ancient Near East. Graduates are capable of carrying out comprehensive analyses of texts and language. They are able to take a critical approach to categorizing and situating textual and linguistic phenomena within their social and historical contexts. They can use computer-aided or computational methods to work on subjects and current research questions within their chosen profile area, which enables them to conduct smaller research-oriented projects more or less by themselves. They are also able to independently acquire new knowledge and skills in the field of data literacy and their chosen profile area. Graduates are acquainted with the foundations and basic general principles of academic work and good scientific practice and are able to apply them to their own academic activities.

(2) Graduates have a range of research, presentation, and argumentation strategies at their disposal with which to carry out relevant analyses, as well as to communicate and critically discuss subject-specific content. Graduates will have developed the ability to take on responsibilities within group projects, to present results verbally and in writing, and to explain their position in a debate with solid arguments. By dealing with a range of source material on the historical, societal, cultural, and/or linguistic developments in the ancient Near East and in ancient Egypt, students strengthen their intercultural skills; their ability to work creatively, independently, and responsibly; and their openness toward research questions surrounding gender and diversity. Furthermore, graduates are aware that they occupy an important position at the intersection between ancient studies and digital humanities and/or computer science, and are able to apply their subject-specific expertise from these fields in communication and knowledge sharing processes between the disciplines. They have the skills required to assess the potential and limits of a range of digital methods applicable to ancient studies and can critically reflect on their own role in this process.

(3) Successful completion of the master's degree program qualifies students to commence a doctoral studies program (depending on the respective admission requirements) and opens up access to additional fields of work in the broad field of science and research: in higher education; in university and non-university research institutions; in research data management; in media outlets, journalism, publishing, archives, and museums. In addition, the skills and abilities acquired in the master's degree program open up career paths to professions in the field of digital humanities in general. The international character of the master's program also increases graduates' chances on the global job market.

Section 3 Curriculum Contents

(1) The master's degree program equips students with a variety of skills for the digital processing and evaluation of ancient languages and texts within their chosen profile area of ancient Egypt or the ancient Near East. Students become acquainted with ongoing research on original sources from ancient Egypt and the ancient Near East. They acquire knowledge on the cultural history of ancient Egypt and the ancient Near East in all its diversity and complexity and gain an

understanding of the philological and linguistic methods used within Egyptology and ancient Near Eastern studies. Along with methods from ancient studies, special attention is given to developing and expanding students' data literacy. The master's degree program addresses philological questions related to textual and linguistic research and connects them with tried-and-tested processes of computer-based modeling and the computational analysis of research data as well as new and innovative processes. In particular, the course content covers the following subjects: (a) creating, modeling, curating, archiving, and disseminating linguistic data and/or text corpora; (b) qualitative and quantitative analysis of said data (paleography, lexicography, semantics, grammar, semantic field research, etc.) while applying digital methods; (c) natural language processing, annotation (tagging), and commenting as the basis for interpreting texts and/or the relevant languages and their development. Given the international character of the subjects represented in the course, the master's program introduces students to international scholarly practices and international academic standards and allows them to develop an awareness for the cultural components of gender and identity construction.

(2) The master's degree program provides students with the skills needed to gather information using means appropriate to the particular subject, to analyze that information within a comparative context, and to present it in suitable written and digital formats to the public. Students learn how to develop their digital research scenarios (workflows) and use digital research instruments and platforms in multi- and interdisciplinary contexts, especially within the area of philological research and computational data analysis. Developing this skill area requires students to perform independent research based on feedback and advising from instructors/professors and according to project plans that they have developed individually. Graduates leave the program with their own independent academic profile and an expanded knowledge of interdisciplinary focal areas thanks to a subject-specific specialization in their chosen profile area and complementary subjects as well as special skills related to work with computer-aided processes.

Section 4 General Academic Advising and Departmental Advising

(1) The Center for Academic Advising and Psychological Counseling at Freie Universität Berlin provides general academic advising for students.

(2) Instructors who teach courses offered in the master's degree program provide departmental advising during their office hours. A student aid is also available to offer additional advising support. Students should make an advising appointment with a departmental adviser at least once per semester in order to discuss their coursework and grades so far and the next steps in their degree program.

Section 5 Examination Board

The examination board is appointed by the Department Council of the Department of History and Cultural Studies, Freie Universität Berlin. The board is responsible for organizing examinations and the other tasks stipulated by the framework regulations for degree programs and examinations (RSPO).

Section 6 Standard Time to Degree

The standard time to degree is four semesters.

Section 7 Structure and Components; Distribution of Credit Points

(1) Students need to earn 120 credit points in order to complete the master's degree program. The various components of the master's degree program include:

1. An introductory area totaling 35 credit points,

2. A subject-specific specialization area totaling 30 credit points,
 3. A complementary area totaling 30 credit points, and
 4. A master's thesis worth 25 credit points.
- (2) The introductory area consists of the following modules and requires 35 credits of coursework:
- Module: Data Literacy in Ancient Studies (15 credit points),
 - Module: Methods of and in Digital Ancient Studies (15 credit points), and
 - Module: Presenting and Communicating Digital Methods in Ancient Studies (5 credit points).
- (3) In the subject-specific specialization area, students must complete one of two profile areas in the master's degree program:
1. Egyptology with the following modules for a total of 30 credit points:
 - Module: History and Cultural History of Ancient Egypt (10 credit points),
 - Module: Traditions of Texts and Knowledge in Ancient Egypt (10 credit points),
 - Module: Approaches to the Study of Ancient Egypt (5 credit points), and
 - Module: Egyptian Philology and Linguistics: Hieratic (5 credit points).
 2. Ancient Near Eastern Studies with the following modules for a total of 30 credit points:
 - Module: Methodology of Textual and Editorial Analysis (10 credit points),
 - Module: Evaluating Primary Sources from a Cultural-Historical Perspective (10 credit points), and
 - Module: Proficiency in the Study of Primary Sources (10 credit points).
- (4) In the complementary area, students select from among the following modules for a total of 30 credit points:
- a) Internship module (10 credit points), and/or
 - b) One or more modules in the acquisition of a relevant language based on departmental advising, and/or
 - c) One or more modules in the areas of Iranian studies, Semitic studies, global history, interdisciplinary studies of the Middle East, history of knowledge, and/or
 - d) Modules from the profile area they did not choose, and/or
 - e) other modules from other subject areas.
- It is recommended that students seek out academic advising from their department before selecting the modules they wish to study in the complementary area.
- (5) The module descriptions in Appendix 1 provide information on the prerequisites, the contents and learning objectives, the modes of instruction, the workload, the different types of active participation, the various assessments that students must take during the program, information on participation requirements in the different modes of instruction, the standard duration, and how often courses are offered.
- (6) Appendix 2 features standard curriculum plans for completing the master's degree program.

Section 8

Modes of Instruction

The courses offered through the program include the following modes of instruction:

1. Lectures (V), including lecture series, impart knowledge to students about an area of study, research issues in that area, and the current relevance of the field. The main mode of instruction is a presentation prepared by the respective instructor followed by a discussion.
2. Specialization lectures (VV) impart in-depth knowledge about an area of study and related research questions. The main mode of instruction is a presentation prepared by the respective instructor. Participants have the opportunity to interact with the instructor and engage in discussions at the end of individual sections.
3. Introductory courses (EK) provide students with an overview of the methodological and theoretical fundamentals of a given subject. The main mode of instruction is a presentation prepared by the respective instructor, accompanied by exercises in which they can apply their newly acquired knowledge.

4. Advanced seminars (HS) provide students with a chance to engage intensively with defined areas of study, as well as to acquire the skills they need to carry out independent academic work.

5. Methodology practice sessions (MÜ) instill practical knowledge and skills in students as well as techniques related to a specific subject area. The main mode of instruction is the methodical reinforcement of different techniques, language skills, and practical knowledge, as well as in-depth conversations, group work, and the practical application of subject-specific skills. Practice sessions are often offered in conjunction with a lecture, introductory course, or internship. The instructor leads students in the various activities and evaluates them.

6. Language courses (sprÜ): These are designed to provide students with communicative skills in the different stages of evolution of ancient Egyptian language. Students primarily learn by carrying out practical written and verbal exercises and expanding their language skills under the guidance of an instructor.

7. Elective courses (WV) provide students with knowledge and skills from a specific discipline. Students are given free choice of their electives from the entire range of courses on offer.

8. An internship (P) is a set period of time during which practical activities in an organization, a work process, or an institution lead to a deepening of already existing knowledge or the acquisition of new knowledge and skills and the ability to apply these in practice.

9. Colloquia (KO) give students the chance to present and discuss the results of their independent study, mainly regarding work on their master's thesis as well as current topics in international research.

(2) The modes of instruction as outlined in Section 8.1 can be implemented through blended learning formats. Blended learning combines on-site education with digital, internet-based media (e-learning). In this context, certain educational activities can be offered through Freie Universität Berlin's central e-learning applications. Students can work on these activities individually or in groups. They can complete them on their own or with the guidance of an instructor. Blended learning can be used both as part of the active learning phase (discussing educational materials, sharing solutions to assignments, in-depth communication between instructors and students), and for follow-up activities (evaluating students' progress, applying and transferring knowledge).

Section 9 Master's Thesis

(1) The master's thesis should demonstrate that a student can work independently on a research issue from the field of the digitalization of ancient Egyptian and/or ancient Near Eastern data at an advanced academic level. They should be able to present their findings in a form that is appropriate to the topic and situate them within an academic context, as well as document and contextualize/integrate their findings with respect to the digital structures and in writing.

(2) Students will be admitted to work on a master's thesis by submitting a request, provided that

1. they were most recently enrolled in a master's degree program at Freie Universität Berlin, and
2. they have already completed modules totaling at least 60 credit points in the course of the master's degree program, including 15 credit points from the introductory area and 15 credit points in at least one other module from the subject-specific specialization area.

(3) The admission request for the master's thesis must be accompanied by proper documentation of the prerequisites listed under Section 9.2, as well as confirmation from an instructor who is an authorized examiner that they are willing and able to act as supervisor for the master's thesis. This confirmation must be no older than four weeks old at the time the request is submitted. The relevant examination board is responsible for approving requests. If the request does not include confirmation from a supervisor as described above, the examination board will appoint the student a supervisor. Students have the opportunity to propose topics for their thesis; however, there is no guarantee that their proposed topics will be approved.

(4) The examination board assigns the topic of the master's thesis in coordination with the thesis supervisor. The topic and assignment must be designed in such a way as to ensure the work can be completed by the deadline. The assignment and compliance with the submission deadline must be documented and kept on file.

(5) The master's thesis should be approximately 18,000 words in length. Code written for the purposes of the master's thesis will be counted toward the thesis length. Students have 20 weeks to complete and submit the master's thesis. The thesis should be written in English. If a student is hindered from working on their master's thesis for more than three months due to mitigating circumstances, the examination board will decide whether the student must start the master's thesis process again. If the examination board demands that the master's thesis be submitted again, the previous steps in the master's thesis process shall not be counted as an official examination attempt.

(6) The work period for the master's thesis begins with the date that the topic is assigned by the examination board. The topic can be declined once within two weeks of being assigned, in which case it will be deemed not issued. When the student submits their master's thesis, they must include a written statement confirming that they alone are responsible for the content of the thesis and that they only used the sources or references listed in the thesis. Students must submit three typewritten and bound copies of the written section of their master's thesis, as well as an electronic copy in Portable Document Format (PDF). The PDF file of the master's thesis must be machine-readable and digitized. Furthermore, it may not be subject to any rights restrictions. Digital components of the master's thesis are to be submitted on a stable data carrier type (currently a CD or DVD) that has been authorized by the examination board.

(7) The master's thesis is to be assessed by two authorized examiners appointed by the examination board. Examiners have eight weeks in which to submit their written evaluations. The supervisor for the master's thesis must be one of the authorized examiners. At least one of the evaluations should be from an instructor from the Department of History and Cultural Studies who is authorized to administer exams and whose primary employer is Freie Universität Berlin.

(8) The master's thesis is considered passed if the overall grade awarded is "sufficient" (4.0) or higher.

(9) A student's work on a master's thesis elsewhere can be recognized/transferred to Freie Universität. The recognition request should be submitted to the examination board. In order for the master's thesis to be recognized, the examination conditions and the assignment of the submitted work must not differ substantially in terms of quality, level, learning outcomes, scope, and profile when compared to the examination conditions and the assignment of a master's thesis completed in this master's program, which characterize the type of professional qualification this master's degree program in particular provides.

Section 10 Retaking Exams and Assessments

(1) If a student does not pass their master's thesis, they can attempt the assessment a second time. For all other exams and assessments in the program, they can retake them three times.

(2) Exams and assessments that receive a grade of "sufficient" (4.0) or better cannot be retaken.

Section 11 Study Abroad

(1) Students are encouraged to study abroad. While studying abroad, students should complete coursework that is transferable to the module that they would otherwise be working on if they were at Freie Universität Berlin.

(2) A learning agreement is required in order to study abroad. This is drafted and approved by the student, the chair of the examination board for the degree program, and the responsible office at the host institution abroad. The agreement contains provisions on the duration of the study abroad, the coursework to be completed while studying abroad, which must equate to the

coursework of the master's degree program, and the number of credit points to be awarded for the coursework. Coursework completed in accordance with this agreement will be recognized.

(3) The third semester in the program lends itself well to study abroad, and students are encouraged to study abroad then.

Section 13 Degree Completion

(1) In order to graduate, students must complete the coursework and assessments outlined in Sections 7 and 9.

(2) A student is not eligible for graduation if they have definitively failed some coursework or assessment or are involved in a pending examination procedure at another university in the same course of study or in a module that is identical or comparable to one of the modules to be completed in the master's degree program here and that will be taken into account when determining their overall grade.

(3) The application request for the award of a degree must be accompanied by documentation showing the student has completed the requirements mentioned in Paragraph 1 (of this Section) as well as a guarantee that the applicant is not subject to any of the eligibility restrictions mentioned in Paragraph 2 (of this Section). The relevant examination board is responsible for approving the application.

(4) Upon successful completion of the assessment, the student will receive a Master of Arts (M.A.) university degree. Students receive a degree certificate and a certificate of academic record in English (Appendices 3 and 4), in addition to a diploma supplement (English and German versions). In addition, a degree certificate supplement with details of the individual modules and their components (transcript) is prepared. They will also receive German versions of their degree certificate and certificate of academic record.

Section 14 Entry into Force

These regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in *FU-Mitteilungen* (the official bulletin of Freie Universität Berlin).

Appendix 1: Module Descriptions

Explanatory notes:

These module descriptions address the following aspects for each module in the master's degree program, unless otherwise noted that another set of regulations applies:

- The name of the module
- The person responsible for the module (module coordinator)
- The prerequisites needed in order to take a particular module
- The module's content and learning objectives
- Modes of instruction used in the module
- The amount of work required by students to successfully complete a module
- Types of active participation
- Types of assessments
- Whether or not regular attendance is required
- Credits awarded for the module
- Standard duration of the module
- Frequency
- Applicability

The information provided on student workload takes the following factors into account:

- Active participation during class sessions
- Time needed to complete small assignments during class sessions
- Students' preparations before class and follow-up work
- Work on study units in online learning sections
- Preparation time required specifically for assessments
- The time needed for the assessment itself

The amount of time indicated for independent study (including preparing for class, follow-up work, preparing for an exam) are only approximations meant to help students organize their time when planning their workload for modules. The information on the workload corresponds to the number of credit points assigned to the respective module, which serves as a unit of measurement for the amount of work required to successfully complete the module. One credit point equals 30 hours.

If regular attendance is required for the specific type of instruction, then regular attendance, along with active participation in the instruction and successful completion of assessments, is necessary in order to receive credit points for the specific module. Regular attendance means that a student has attended at least 75% of the instruction in the module. If regular attendance is not required in a module, students are still strongly encouraged to attend classes regularly. Instructors teaching courses in which regular attendance is merely encouraged cannot decide that attendance should be required. For modules that include alternative forms of active participation, the type of participation, which must correspond to the workload allotted for active participation in the respective semester, must be determined by the instructor in charge of the course during the first class period at the latest.

To complete each module, the student must complete the module assessment for that module if the module has one. In order to complete a graded module, only one assessment (module assessment) must be completed. The module assessment is based on the module's learning objectives and serves as a way to test whether the objectives have been achieved. The scope of the assessment covers the components necessary to this end. For modules that include alternative assessment forms, the type of assessment for the respective semester must be determined by the responsible instructor before the first day of class.

Active and (if applicable) regular participation in the instruction and successful completion of assessments are necessary in order to receive credit points for the specific module. If a module does not involve a module assessment, then active and regular participation in the instruction is necessary in order to receive credit points for the specific module.

Appendix 1: Module Descriptions

Explanatory notes:

These module descriptions address the following aspects for each module in the master's program unless otherwise noted that another set of regulations applies:

- The name of the module,
- The person responsible for the module (module coordinator),
- The prerequisites needed to take a particular module,
- The module's content and learning objectives,
- Modes of instruction used in the module,
- The amount of work required by students to complete a module successfully,
- Types of active participation,
- Types of assessments,
- Whether or not regular attendance is required,
- Credits awarded for the module,
- Standard duration for the module,
- Frequency,
- Applicability.

The information provided on student workload takes the following factors into account:

- Active participation during class sessions,
- Time needed to complete small assignments during class sessions,
- Time needed for students' preparations before class and follow-up work,
- Work on study units in online learning sections,
- Preparation time required specifically for assessments,
- The time needed for the assessment/examination itself.

The amount of time indicated for independent study (including preparing for class, follow-up work, preparing for an exam) are only approximations meant to help students organize their time when planning their workload for modules. The information on the workload corresponds to the number of credit points assigned to the respective module, which serves as a unit of measurement for the amount of work required to complete the module successfully. One credit point equals 30 hours.

If regular attendance is required for the specific type of instruction, then regular attendance, along with active participation in the instruction and successful completion of assessments, is necessary to receive credit points for the specific module. Regular attendance means that a student has attended at least 75% of the instruction in the module. If regular attendance is not required in a module, students are still strongly encouraged to attend classes regularly. Instructors teaching courses in which regular attendance is merely encouraged cannot decide that attendance should be required. For modules that include alternative forms of active participation, the type of participation, which must correspond to the student workload allotted for active participation in the respective semester, must be determined by the responsible instructor on the first day of class at the latest.

To complete each module, the student must complete the module assessment for that module if the module has one. Assessed modules are complete with only one examination performance (module examination)/ to finish a graded module, only one assessment (module assessment) must be completed. The module assessment is based on the module's learning objectives and serves to test whether the objectives have been achieved. The scope of the assessment covers the components necessary to this end. For modules that include alternative assessment forms, the assessment for the respective semester must be determined by the responsible instructor on the first day of class at the latest.

Active and (if applicable) regular participation in the various modes of instruction as well as the successful completion of assessments are necessary to receive credit points for the specific module. If a module does not involve a module assessment, then active and regular participation in the mode of instruction is necessary to receive credit points for the specific module.

1. Introductory Area

Module: Data Literacy in Ancient Studies				
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies				
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator				
Prerequisites: None				
Learning objectives: The students are familiar with the techniques of data acquisition and the basics of data analysis in general as well as how these relate to ancient languages and texts in particular. They know the relevant data structures and formats and are able to substantiate, classify, and interpret them with examples. They can summarize and apply appropriate digital methods and are capable of interpreting and creating simple program code to analyze texts and/or language data. In addition, the students have the basic skills required to work independently and confidently as digital scientists in the field of ancient studies.				
Content: The module introduces the students to concepts of data/digital literacy (digital literacy, data competence), i.e., the ability to read and interpret digital data. It introduces topics and tools used in the digital humanities, computational literary studies, corpus linguistics, and related disciplines in terms of their potential for the study of ancient languages and texts. The module also provides practical knowledge of a high-level programming language (such as Python or R).				
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)	
Introductory course	2	Participation in conversation, written and oral work assignments, individually or in groups	Attendance (introductory course) Preparation and follow-up (introductory course)	30 90
Methodology practice session	2	Exercises in work techniques and subject methodology, discussion, group work, oral and written assignments, individually or in groups	Attendance (methodology practice session) Preparation and follow-up (methodology practice session) Assessment preparation and assessment	30 180 120
Module assessment		Written assignment (approx. 9 pages); the module assessment is graded on a pass/fail basis only.		
Module language		English (and German, where applicable)		
Regular attendance required		Yes		
Total workload		450 hours		15 credit points
Duration		One semester		
Frequency		Every winter semester		
Applicability		Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts		

Module: Methods of and in Digital Ancient Studies				
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies				
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator				
Prerequisites: Successful completion of the module "Data Literacy in Ancient Studies"				
Learning objectives: Participants will have a deeper understanding of contemporary digital methods and workflows applicable to ancient texts and will have acquired the necessary skills (e.g., programming, running specialized software, etc.). They select and implement appropriate methods in case studies from their respective areas of interest (e.g., applied to a particular ancient language, text genre, or text), taking into account the specific needs of data collected from ancient sources. They will be able to evaluate hypotheses made on the basis of the aforementioned methods and assess their potential as well as their limits in comparison to more traditional approaches in ancient studies. The students also develop an understanding of their role as mediators between digital methods and non-digital disciplinary cultures, as well as the communicative skills required to fulfill this role.				
Content: The module extends and/or deepens knowledge of digital/computational methods (e.g., natural language processing, digital scholarly editing, text mining, visualization of texts and language data, text digitization/data retrieval) building on the foundations of data literacy/digital literacy taught in the module "Data Literacy."				
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)	
Advanced seminar	2	Participation in discussion, analysis and presentation of data and technical literature, written and oral assignments, individually or in groups	Attendance (advanced seminar) Preparation and follow-up (advanced seminar)	30 150 30 120
Methodology practice session	2	Exercises in work techniques and subject methodology,	Attendance (methodology practice session)	

		discussion, group work, oral and written assignments, individually or in groups	Preparation and follow-up (methodology practice session) Assessment preparation and assessment	120
Module assessment		Term paper (approx. 9 pages)		
Module language		English (and German, where applicable)		
Regular attendance required		Yes		
Total workload		450 hours		15 credit points
Duration		One or two semesters		
Frequency		Every summer semester		
Applicability		Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts		

Module: Presenting and Communicating Digital Methods in Ancient Studies				
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies				
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator				
Prerequisites: None				
Learning objectives: The students are able to orally present their own research work in the final phase of the master's program, to justify their approach (research question/hypothesis, choice of methods and tools, workflow), and to address points of criticism as well as to implement any resulting changes in the follow-up. They are also familiar with the error culture of their subject and are able to handle criticism as part of that culture.				
Content: In the colloquium, the students present their questions or working hypothesis(es), the theoretical and methodological approaches of the master's thesis associated with the material/data set or method, and discuss them with other students and teachers. They may also discuss or reflect on the organization and progress of their work and writing process.				
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)	
Colloquium	2	Reading, presentation of a topic/question, a method and, if applicable, a working hypothesis, participation in discussion, moderation within the framework of the colloquium	Attendance Preparation and follow-up Assessment preparation and assessment	30 30 90
Module assessment		Oral presentation (approx. 20 minutes); the module assessment is graded on a pass/fail basis only.		
Module language		English (and German, where applicable)		
Regular attendance required		Yes		
Total workload		150 hours		5 credit points
Duration		One semester		
Frequency		Every summer semester		
Applicability		Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts		

2a. Specialization Area: Profile Egyptology

Subject module: Approaches to the Study of Ancient Egypt				
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies				
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator				
Prerequisites: Successful completion of modules in Egyptian Coptic totaling at least 25 credit points				
Learning objectives: The students have acquired basic knowledge of the special methods, techniques, and tools used in philological and cultural historical research on ancient Egypt, enabling them to correctly assess the contribution of these techniques and methods in independent scientific work, to competently apply them in writing their own research papers and, based on this, to describe and interpret linguistic, written, and cultural historical facts in a targeted and efficient manner. They will be able to critically review methods and tools and to question the results achieved with them as well as to present and defend their own points of view.				
Content: The subjects of the module are the special methods and tools used in philological and cultural-historical research, the knowledge of which is essential for independent work in the field of Egyptian philology. In addition to the use of electronic media (databases, electronic publishing), the use of statistics and other ordering and classification schemes are covered in their specific relation to the problem and material situation of Egyptian philology. This includes the reconstruction of spoken language, the comparison and typology of language stages, the reconstruction of textual tradition, statistical studies of the language and writing system, the relevance of paleography and prosopography, and methods of material analysis.				
Modes of instruction	Contact hours	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)	

	(hours per week during the semester)			
Seminar	2	Short presentation, participation in discussion, regular preparation of selected sections of text and required reading	Attendance Preparation and follow-up Assessment preparation and assessment	30 30 90
Module assessment		Term paper (approx. 9 pages)		
Module language		English (and German, where applicable)		
Regular attendance required		Yes		
Total workload		150 hours		5 credit points
Duration		One semester		
Frequency		Every winter semester		
Applicability		Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts		

Subject module: Egyptian Philology and Linguistics: Hieratic				
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies				
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator				
Prerequisites: Successful completion of modules in Egyptian Coptic totaling at least 25 credit points				
Learning objectives: The students possess basic knowledge of an additional written form of Egyptian (hieratic) and can read and understand texts of this written form successfully and independently. They can distinguish and classify written testimonies of different time periods. They compare manuscripts with each other, apply paleographic and epigraphic methods, and independently establish criteria for their classification on the basis of selected texts and written testimonies. They can use appropriate tools in a targeted and time-efficient manner.				
Content: The main subject of the module is the hieratic script. In addition to an elementary introduction to this written format, the module focuses on the material culture underlying the written evidence and linguistic characteristics and contexts of the different stages of this language. The historical differentiation of the hieratic script and related methods of paleography are also covered and extensively practiced.				
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)	
Language course	2	Participation in discussions, regular preparation of selected sections of text and required reading	Attendance Preparation and follow-up Assessment preparation and assessment	30 60 60
Module assessment		Written examinations (90 minutes)		
Module language		English (and German, where applicable)		
Regular attendance required		Yes		
Total workload		150 hours		5 credit points
Duration		One semester		
Frequency		Every winter semester		
Applicability		Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts		

Subject module: Traditions of Texts and Knowledge in Ancient Egypt				
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies				
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator				
Prerequisites: Successful completion of modules in Egyptian Coptic totaling at least 25 credit points				
Learning objectives: The students acquire a broad knowledge of text and language as a discipline in Ancient Egypt. They are able to assess the original tradition of older Egyptian and Coptic writing in a professional manner and to interpret it using methodologically sound techniques with regard to how this relates to the history of knowledge. Students analyze, interpret, and comment on original texts and compare and evaluate editing techniques. They name and evaluate ancient philological practices. They are familiar with actors, institutions, and techniques of ancient Egyptian philology. In addition, they have a basic knowledge of the history of Egyptian Coptic and can adequately formulate and justify the complex relationships and interconnections of its various language levels.				
Content: The module focuses on the texts and text types with content surrounding history and knowledge that have survived from (late) Ancient Egypt and how these are embedded in the social and epistemic contexts of the respective culture. Basic philological methods, editing techniques, and textual criticism as well as the text-dependent differentiation of linguistic registers will be dealt with, and evidence of (late) ancient textual work and knowledge history will be collected, compared, and interpreted. When reading primary sources, students will analyze, assess, and engage with the theoretical,				

methodological, and epistemic contents thereof. Actors, institutions, and techniques of ancient philological work are addressed, as well as questions of gender and social diversity.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Advanced seminar	2	Participation in discussions, regular preparation of selected sections of text and required reading	Attendance (advanced seminar) Preparation and follow-up (advanced seminar) 30 60
Language course	2	Participation in discussions, regular preparation of selected sections of text	Attendance (language course) Preparation and follow-up (language course) 30 60 Assessment preparation and assessment 120
Module assessment		Written examination (approx. 90 minutes)	
Module language		English (and German, where applicable)	
Regular attendance required		Yes	
Total workload		300 hours	10 credit points
Duration		One semester	
Frequency		Every summer semester	
Applicability		Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts	

Module: History and Cultural History of Ancient Egypt			
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies			
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator			
Prerequisites: Successful completion of modules in Egyptian Coptic totaling at least 25 credit points			
Learning objectives: Students have in-depth knowledge of concepts and theories surrounding the history and cultural history of Ancient Egypt. They can evaluate and classify rich, complex source material and apply concepts and methodology from cultural studies in a targeted manner. They are capable of critically classifying the sources, weighing them, presenting their specific significance, and reconstructing historical and cultural-historical facts. They assess the influence of gender, ethnicity, and other forms of social and biographical diversity within their claims and can transfer current scientific debates to their own subject in a reflective manner. In dealing with the aforementioned factors, they strengthen their sensitivity for ethical issues in ancient and cultural studies and beyond.			
Content: Within the framework of the module, students reconstruct historical and cultural-historical phenomena and epochs on the basis of selected facts and using examples. Given the complex situation surrounding subject material and sources, questions concerning politics, society, economy, religion, literature, architecture, art, cultural contacts, etc. are dealt with and concepts and methodology from the field of cultural studies used to reconstruct a comprehensive picture of Ancient Egypt.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Specialization lecture	2	Participation in discussions, presentation, regular preparation of selected text sections, blended learning elements	Attendance (specialization lecture) Preparation and follow-up (specialization lecture) 30 30
Advanced seminar	2		Attendance (advanced seminar) Preparation and follow-up (advanced seminar) 30 60 Assessment preparation and assessment 150
Module assessment		Term paper (approx. 9 pages)	
Module language		English (and German, where applicable)	
Regular attendance required		Yes	

Total workload	300 hours	10 credit points
Duration	One semester	
Frequency	Every winter semester	
Applicability	Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts	

2b. Specialization Area: Profile Ancient Near Eastern Studies/Cuneiform Studies

Module: Methodology of Textual and Editorial Analysis				
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies				
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator				
Prerequisites: None				
Learning objectives: Students will be able to apply methods of textual criticism and editorial theory to cuneiform primary sources. They are able to determine the function and form of texts and to characterize their linguistic peculiarities. They have in-depth knowledge of the special features of language, grammar, and tradition of ancient Near Eastern primary sources.				
Content: The module introduces students to methods used to study texts and various editions thereof (e.g., textual criticism, comparative studies). It enables them to understand cuneiform primary sources – usually in Akkadian, Sumerian, or Hittite – in their historical context and to determine the conditions under which the text was created as well as the communicative functions of texts.				
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)	
Elective course	2	Individual work, participation in discussion, short presentation, written work	Attendance (elective course) Preparation and follow-up (elective course)	30 80
Elective course	2		Attendance (elective course) Preparation and follow-up (elective course)	30 80
			Assessment preparation and assessment	80
Module assessment		Written examination (90 minutes) or term paper (approx. 9 pages)		
Module language		English (and German, where applicable)		
Regular attendance required		Yes		
Total workload	300 hours			10 credit points
Duration	One semester			
Frequency	Annually			
Applicability	Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts			

Subject module: Evaluating Primary Sources from a Cultural-Historical Perspective				
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies				
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator				
Prerequisites: None				
Learning objectives: The students are familiar with the methods and research approaches used in ancient oriental studies and other disciplines (e.g., history, cultural, and social sciences). They are able to apply these to the ancient Near Eastern tradition. They are able to work on cultural-historical and historical topics in an independent, interdisciplinary manner. They are able to recognize the potential of combining written sources with other types of sources (e.g., archaeological findings, pictorial sources, scientific data) and to determine the role of their own contribution within a larger disciplinary framework.				
Content: The module deals with the research approaches, methods and working methods of other disciplines and teaches their application to the fields of work of ancient Near Eastern studies.				
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)	
Elective course	2	Written assignments, participation in discussions, short presentation, written work	Attendance (elective course) Preparation and follow-up (elective course)	30 80
Elective course	2		Attendance (elective course) Preparation and follow-up (elective course)	30 80

			Assessment preparation and assessment	80
Module assessment	Presentation (approx. 10 minutes) with follow-up written assignment (approx. 9 pages)			
Module language	English (and German, where applicable)			
Regular attendance required	Yes			
Total workload	300 hours			10 credit points
Duration	One semester			
Frequency	Annually			
Applicability	Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts			

Subject module: Proficiency in the Study of Primary Sources				
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies				
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator				
Prerequisites: None				
Learning objectives: The students are able to independently develop primary language sources from the cuneiform tradition. They are able to process them documentarily and to analyze them from an epigraphical and philological perspective. They are able to evaluate the sources with regard to historical and cultural-historical questions, and make use of the appropriate tools to do so in a targeted and time-efficient manner.				
Content: The module teaches subject-specific working methods for indexing, documenting, and interpreting cuneiform primary sources (autography, documentation, paleography, lexicography, prosopography, etc.). In-depth reading of primary language sources further deepens the students' knowledge of selected text types.				
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)	
Elective course	2	Individual work, participation in discussions, short presentation, written work	Attendance (elective course) Preparation and follow-up (elective course)	30 80
Elective course	2		Attendance (elective course) Preparation and follow-up (elective course)	30 80
			Assessment preparation and assessment	80
Module assessment	Written examination (90 minutes) or term paper (approx. 15 pages)			
Module language	English (and German, where applicable)			
Regular attendance required	Yes			
Total workload	300 hours			10 credit points
Duration	One semester			
Frequency	Annually			
Applicability	Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts			

3. Complementary Area

Module: Internship				
University/department/teaching unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of History and Cultural Studies/Ancient Studies				
Module coordinator: Degree program coordinator				
Prerequisites: None				
Learning objectives: Students have detailed insight into possible occupational and professional fields that make use of the computer-aided and computational processing of language and text data. They are familiar with the requirements and context-specific problems at play in the diverse academic landscape of university and non-university, ancient studies research (including museums, the Academy of Sciences, the Leibniz Center for General Linguistics, the Berlin State Library, etc.) or in areas with a non-research focus, e.g., for the use of digital language data and texts. They are able to apply their expanded and deepened knowledge and skills in practice and to reflect on their significance for professional practice.				
Content: The internship provides subject-relevant and practice-oriented insights into a professional field of activity in the creation or use of digital language data and text corpora. It can also be completed abroad.				
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)	

Internship (external)	240	Internship-related activities and tasks (depending on the specifics of the internship), internship report	Attendance Preparation and follow-up	240 30
			Assessment preparation and assessment	30
Module assessment	Internship report (approx. 4 pages); the module assessment is graded on a pass/fail basis only.			
Module language	English (and German, where applicable)			
Regular attendance required	Yes			
Total workload	300 hours			10 credit points
Duration	One semester			
Frequency	Every semester			
Applicability	Master's degree program M.A. Digital Studies of Ancient Texts			

Appendix 2: Standard Curriculum Plan

a. with the profile Ancient Near Eastern Studies:

Semester	Introductory Area (35 credit points)	Specialization Area: Ancient Near Eastern Studies (30 credit points)	Complementary Area (30 credit points)
1 (30 credit points)	Module Data Literacy in Ancient Studies (15 credit points)	Module Methodology of Textual and Editorial Analysis (10 credit points)	Module (5 credit points)
2 (30 credit points)	Module Methods of and in Digital Ancient Studies (15 credit points)	Module Evaluating Primary Sources from a Cultural-Historical Perspective (10 credit points)	Module (5 credit points)
3 (30 credit points)		Module Proficiency in the Study of Primary Sources (10 credit points)	Module (20 credit points)
4 (30 credit points)	Module Presenting and Communicating Digital Methods in Ancient Studies (5 credit points)	Master's Thesis (25 credit points)	
(120 credit points)			

b. with the profile Egyptology:

Semester	Introductory Area (35 credit points)	Specialization Area: Egyptology (30 credit points)	Complementary Area (30 credit points)
1 (30 credit points)	Module Data Literacy in Ancient Studies (15 credit points)	Module Approaches to the Study of Ancient Egypt (5 credit points) Module Egyptian Philology and Linguistics: Hieratic (5 credit points)	Module (5 credit points)
2 (30 credit points)	Module Methods of and in Digital Ancient Studies (15 credit points)	Module Traditions of Texts and Knowledge in Ancient Egypt (10 credit points)	Module (5 credit points)
3 (30 credit points)		Module History and Cultural History of Ancient Egypt (10 credit points)	Module (20 credit points)
4 (30 credit points)	Module Presenting and Communicating Digital Methods in Ancient Studies (5 credit points)	Master's Thesis (25 credit points)	
(120 credit points)			

Appendix 3: Certificate of Academic Record (template)



Freie Universität Berlin
Department of History and Cultural Studies

Certificate of Academic Record

[First name/Last name]

born on [Month DD, YYYY], in [City of Birth, Country],

has successfully completed the master's degree program in

Digital Studies of Ancient Texts

in accordance with the Examination Regulations of 6th February 2023, (published in *FU-Mitteilungen* No. 12/2023) with the final grade

[Grade as number and text]

and has earned the required amount of 120 credit points.

The individual components of the program were graded as follows:

Area(s) of study	Credit points	Grade
Field of study	95 (...)	n.n
Master's thesis	25 (25)	n.n

The topic of the master's thesis was: [XX]

Berlin, [Day/ Month/Year]

(Seal)

Dean

Chair of the Examination Board

Grading scale: 1.0 – 1.5 very good; 1.6 – 2.5 good; 2.6 – 3.5 satisfactory; 3.6 – 4.0 sufficient; 4.1 – 5.0 insufficient / fail

Non-graded achievements: BE = pass; NB = fail

Credit points correspond to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

Some coursework is ungraded; the amount of credit points in parentheses denotes those credit points that have been graded and have an effect on the cumulative grade.

Appendix 4: Degree Certificate (template)



Freie Universität Berlin
Department of History and Cultural Studies

Degree Certificate

[First name/Last name]

born on [Month DD, YYYY], in [City of Birth, Country],

has successfully completed the master's degree program in

Digital Studies of Ancient Texts

in accordance with the Examination Regulations of 6th February 2023 (published in *FU-Mitteilungen* No. 12/2023),

the Degree of

Master of Arts (M.A.)

is hereby awarded.

Berlin, [Day/Month/Year]

(Seal)

Dean

Chair of the Examination Board