

Module descriptions for the Master's programme MediaEcologies, M.A.

June 2024

Study programme plan: MediaEcologies, M.A.

1st semester	2nd semester	3rd semester	4th semester	Notes
Project Module¹ 24 ECTS* points	Project Module¹ 24 ECTS* points	Project Module¹ 24 ECTS* points	Final Master's Module comprising: Colloquium (6 ECTS* points) MA Thesis (18 ECTS* points) Defence thereof (6 ECTS* points)	¹ One of the Project Modules may be selected, taken and incorporated as a Compulsory Elective Module (Wahlpflichtmodul) from the courses in the other Master's degree programmes offered by the Faculty of Media. If this Compulsory Elective Module has a lower number of credit points than 24 ECPT*, the missing credit points must be earned by successfully completing Study Modules from the 'MediaEcologies' course catalogue (Modulkatalog). ² One of the Study Modules may be selected, taken and incorporated as an Elective Module (Wahlmodul) totalling 6 ECTS* points from the entire range of courses offered by the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. *ECTS = European Credit Transfer System
Basic Module "Perspectives on Media Ecologies" 6 ECTS* points	Study Module² 6 ECTS* points	Study Module² 6 ECTS* points		
TOTAL 30 ECTS* points	TOTAL 30 ECTS* points	TOTAL 30 ECTS* points	TOTAL 30 ECTS* points	

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Title **Basic module: Perspectives on Media Ecologies**Module number **SM 0**

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1	every 2nd semester, every winter semester	weekly, 1 semester	6	Total workload: 180 hours Attendance workload: 60 hours	English	NN programme coordination

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	Lecture: written or oral exam (Reading) Seminar: written record of one session of the lecture group per student (3-5 pages)

Target qualifications

Lecture series: comprehensive introduction to and in-depth discussion of various different perspectives on relevant positions in and systematic frameworks of media ecology. Teaching and establishing basic knowledge of theory and history in order to facilitate the understanding of the project and study modules in the *Media Ecologies* Master's programme, and to establish a common level of knowledge of the topics, theories and methods of the programme.

(Reading) seminar: promoting active learning, improving analytical skills and deepening the understanding of topics in Media Ecologies.

Content

Basic knowledge and relevant theoretical discourses concerning the central positions of existing research in Media Ecologies (McLuhan, Postman, Bateson, Guattari, Morton, Cubitt, Hoerl, Parikka, Peters, Fuller, etc.), as well as the subject areas of the professorships involved in the programme (digital cultures, media studies, cultural techniques (Kulturtechniken), media philosophy, history of science, art history, archival and literary research).

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept**Lecture**

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.
Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

(Reading) Seminar

Reading circles: Discussion and analysis of texts in small groups.
Research-based learning: Students explore and discover content independently.
Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture (Reading) Seminar	2 / 3 2 / 3 *Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Study Module: Planetary Media

Module number SM1

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 4th semester	every 2nd semester, every winter semester	weekly, 1 semester	6	Total workload: 180 hours Attendance workload: 60 hours	English	Jun.-Prof. Dr. Sabine Wirth

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	2 seminars: 1 presentation and 1 written term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 presentation and 1 oral examination or 1 lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination 1 seminar: 1 term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 oral examination Overall grade: grade for written term paper or written/oral examination; other module tasks must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

Acquisition of specific knowledge of the emergence, circulation and use of digital media ecologies and their respective planetary effects; development of epistemic, aesthetic and political perspectives on social media and similar platforms; development of ability to competently present one's own research work in speech and writing.

Content

Social media platforms, mobile media providers, apps, and streaming services have become enormously popular media in recent years. Facebook, Instagram and Netflix, for example, are digital environments that are often used worldwide. This study module examines the history and current state of such digital media environments and discusses them from a "planetary perspective". On the one hand, it focuses on the material foundations and resource-consuming consequences of everyday digital media, on forms of visible and invisible work and on the destructive side of digital media culture. On the other hand, popular cultural media environments are themselves understood in this module as productive ecologies that are sustained by specific mechanisms of dissemination and cohesion, of exchange and demarcation, and can be analysed as such – even, and perhaps especially, when it becomes increasingly difficult to separate media from everyday life and the concept of the planetary itself begins to change.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture (Reading) Seminar	2 / 3 2 / 3 *Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Study Module: The Anthropocene

Module number SM 2

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 4th semester	every 6th semester	weekly, 1 semester	6	Total workload: 180 hours Attendance workload: 60 hours	English	Prof. Dr. Henning Schmidgen

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	2 seminars: 1 presentation and 1 written term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 presentation and 1 oral examination or 1 lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination 1 seminar: 1 term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 oral examination Overall grade: grade for written term paper or written/oral examination; other module tasks must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

Acquisition of specific knowledge of the connection between climate change and cultural as well as social history. Development of epistemic, political and critical perspectives on the "Anthropocene". Ability competently to present and develop one's own research work both orally and in writing.

Content

The concept of the "Anthropocene" is central to current ecological debate. It makes it clear that global phenomena such as the climate are not only a subject for the natural sciences, but also fall within the domains of cultural and social history. In fact, this is a crucial point of the concept; what for a long time appeared to be simply the history of the earth is proving to be a development in the course of which humans are decisively changing the natural environment – and increasingly not just locally, but globally. This module examines the complex relationships between the formation of knowledge of climate change and the different approaches to historiography over time. Students will be encouraged critically to question how political power and the force of the media shape and impact climate knowledge and historical narratives.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.
Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.
Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture/Seminar	2 / 3
Seminar	2 / 3
	*Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Study Module: Sustainability and Digitization

Module number SM 3

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 4th semester	every 4th semester	weekly, 1 semester	6	Total workload: 180 hours Attendance workload: 60 hours	English	Dr. Irina Kaldrack

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	2 seminars: 1 presentation, 1 co-organisation of session as text expert or 1 written record of selected session reading (approx. 3 pages) and 1 written term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination 1 seminar: 1 co-organisation of a session as text expert or 1 written record of selected session reading (approx. 3 pages), and 1 term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 oral examination Overall grade: grade for written term paper or written/oral examination; other module tasks must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

Students are provided with an overview of the conceptual and institutional history of sustainability and digitalization. The aim of this module is to reflect on the ways according to which concepts, theories and practices of sustainability, digitalization and environmentalism interact and interfere with each other. Students learn to analyse relationships between theory formation, technical developments and political measures and their implementation on different levels – theoretically and historically, locally and globally, technically, aesthetically, and economically.

Content

The module examines the interrelationship between sustainability and digitalisation. In addition to the conceptual and institutional history of sustainability, particular emphasis is placed on current (media) theories which conceptualise the relationship between humans and technical environments, the key question being which terms from the field of sustainability and sustainability research are used in which (historical) contexts and how. The relationship between digitalisation, environmentalism and sustainability will be discussed on the basis of text readings.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture/Seminar	2 / 3
Seminar	2 / 3
	*Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Study Module: Media Philosophy of Nature

Module number SM 4

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 4th semester	every 3rd semester	weekly, 1 semester	6	Total workload: 180 hours Attendance workload: 60 hours	English	Prof. Dr. Lorenz Engell

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	2 seminars: 1 presentation and 1 written term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 presentation and 1 oral examination or 1 lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination 1 seminar: 1 term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 oral examination Overall grade: grade for written term paper or written/oral examination; other module tasks must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

Development of the ability to deal competently with relatively complex and wide-ranging issues in the transitional area between media studies and natural philosophy. Development of enhanced observation, description and theorisation skills, as well as historical knowledge in the field of the phenomena dealt with. Development of the ability appropriately to present and discuss complex and wide-ranging issues covering media studies and natural philosophy issues in oral and written form.

Content

Basic and advanced knowledge of media philosophy with a focus on questions of natural philosophy. Presentation of traditional and contemporary philosophies of nature with a focus on questions concerning the relationship between media and nature. Treatment of selected natural philosophical topics from the perspective of media philosophy, e.g. the question not only of the phenomenon and idea of nature itself, the organisms populating it and their environment, but also of humans as living beings, natural aesthetics and the experience of nature, as well as the relationship between (media) technologies and nature. The module provides students with an in-depth exploration of the links between media, nature and philosophy and encourages critical and innovative approaches. It aims at building bridges between traditional philosophies of nature and current perspectives in media studies, which can be approached, but also undermined or circumvented from the ontology-critical perspective of media philosophy.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.
Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.
Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture/Seminar	2 / 3
Seminar	2 / 3
	*Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Study Module: Computational Environments

Module

SM 5

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 4th semester	every 6th semester	weekly, 1 semester	6	Total workload: 180 hours Attendance workload: 60 hours	English	Prof. Dr. Bernhard Siegert

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	2 seminars: 1 presentation and 1 written term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 presentation and 1 oral examination or 1 lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination 1 seminar: 1 term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 oral examination Overall grade: grade for written term paper or written/oral examination; other module tasks must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

Acquisition of specific knowledge concerning the objects and issues of media ecology from the perspective of research in cultural techniques (Kulturtechniken). Development of the competence independently to reflect on and further develop media ecology approaches on the basis of research in cultural techniques. Promotion of historically-informed and theoretically innovative thinking; promotion of the ability to reflect on complex issues independently and appropriately in oral and written form.

Content

What is referred to today as the 'digital media environment' can hardly be adequately understood without the theory and history of cultural techniques. In fact, long before the emergence of ubiquitous computing and the Internet of Things, there was a development in which cultural techniques such as counting and calculating became functions of spaces, architectures and entire cities - in markets and administrative organisations, as well as in the mathematised environments of Gothic cathedrals. Against this background, the study module is dedicated to the history of ubiquitous computing, the Internet of Things, the development of data extraction and transmission, and sensor and computing technologies, as well as selected modelling technologies.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture/Seminar	2 / 3
Seminar	2 / 3
	*Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Study Module: Archives between Reliability and Uncertainty

Module number SM 6

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 4th semester	every 6th semester	weekly, 1 semester	6	Total workload: 180 hours Attendance workload: 60 hours	English	Prof. Dr. Jörg Paulus

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	2 seminars: 1 presentation and 1 written term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 presentation and 1 oral examination or 1 lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination 1 seminar: 1 term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 oral examination Overall grade: grade for written term paper or written/oral examination; other module tasks must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

Independent development of a topic in which the theory and practice of the archive are placed within the context of media ecologies; this could cover, for example, questions about the relationship between culture and nature, the ecological prerequisites and the ecological balance of archiving processes or – conversely – the dependence of ecological knowledge on archives, museums and databases.

Content

The archive often appears as a site of stability and preservation. Under the conditions of the ecological crisis, however, it also manifests itself as an example of uncertainty, insecurity and unreliability. The aim of this module is to explore and reflect on the various different levels and forms of uncertainty that are embodied in natural and cultural archives. As well as offering a comprehensive examination of the conceptual history of "certainty" and "uncertainty", the module focusses on specific archival methods and techniques which contribute to the recording, preservation and interpretation of otherwise uncertain samples, data and information. Particular attention is paid to the (media) theories and (media) practices that conceptualise the relationship between human knowledge and the reliability of archived data. The focus here is on questions such as: how do errors, omissions and subjective interpretations impact on our conception of the reliability of archived information?; which theories of memory, history and ethics shape our assessment and evaluation of the reliability of archives?; and to what extent can or should we rely on the reliability of archives in an age in which the boundaries between truth and fiction are constantly blurring?

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.
Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.
Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture/Seminar	2 / 3
Seminar	2 / 3
	*Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Study Module: Aesthetics of the Natural

Module number SM 7

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 4th semester	every 3rd semester	weekly, 1 semester	6	Total workload: 180 hours Attendance workload: 60 hours	English	Prof. Dr. Jan von Brevern

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	2 seminars: 1 presentation and 1 written term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 presentation and 1 oral examination or 1 lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination 1 seminar: 1 term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 oral examination Overall grade: grade for written term paper or written/oral examination; other module tasks must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

The principal aim of this module is to develop and consolidate historical and contemporary positions on the aesthetics of nature which form the basis for the theoretical, historical and epistemological understanding of corresponding aesthetic theories and practices. Other aims include theoretical orientation, the sharpening of terminologies, and the development of individual research approaches.

Content

The "natural" is something other than "nature"; it refers to objects, phenomena and processes that are considered natural – regardless of whether they are or not in reality. In this respect, the natural is always associated with aesthetics, with certain forms of sensation, perception and experience that, eventually, can make things that are completely artificial appear natural – be it paintings, display screens or virtual realities. The aim of this module is to deepen the understanding, in terms of media studies, of the many ways in which the effect of the natural is produced and experienced, with reference to the art history and cultural history of Modernism. The module sheds light on historical and contemporary perspectives on the aesthetics of the natural and challenges students to think critically about the status and role of natural aesthetics in modernity –not least with regard to the current ecological crisis.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture/Seminar	2 / 3
Seminar	2 / 3
	*Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Study Module: Ecologies of Media Practice

Module number SM 8

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
	every 4th semester	weekly, 1 semester	6	Total workload: 180 hours Attendance workload: 60 hours	English	Dr. Irina Kaldrack

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies.	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	2 seminars: 1 presentation, 1 co-organisation of session as text expert or 1 written record of selected session reading (approx. 3 pages) and 1 written term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination 1 seminar: 1 co-organisation of a session as text expert or 1 written record of selected session reading (approx. 3 pages), and 1 term paper (approx. 15 pages) or 1 oral examination Overall grade: grade for written term paper or written/oral examination; other module tasks must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

Introduction to current theories at the interface of media ecologies and practice theories. Students learn key concepts such as media ecologies, practice, relationality and new ontology. They try out various different methods and theories in the analysis of current media-ecological phenomena, reflecting on processuality and their own involvement in the object under analysis.

Content

"Media ecologies" is a relational concept; it indicates that such ecologies exist exclusively in doing, in practicing, i.e. they are fundamentally processual and "in the making". This also means that these ecologies cannot be immobilised as an object of investigation and that the observer, in turn, becomes entangled in the process of becoming. Against this background, this module introduces theories of practice, reflects on (media-) ecological theories with regard to human and non-human actors and techniques, and examines exemplary media phenomena from this perspective.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.
Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.
Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture/Seminar Seminar	2 / 3 *Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Supplementary Study Module: Bauhaus–Interdisciplinarity (Existing Offers)

Module number SM 9

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
2nd – 3rd semester	every semester	weekly, 1 semester	6	Variiert je nach gewählter Veranstaltung	English	current module supervisor

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies. May be taken once.	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	see specifications of respective module supervisor

Target qualifications

Acquisition of interdisciplinary knowledge and skills, especially in collaboration with the Faculties of Art & Design, Architecture & Urbanism and Civil Engineering and/or the Departments of Computer Science for Digital Media and Media Management. Practice of interdisciplinary dialogue with the aim of developing innovative perspectives and ideas for solving ecological crises. Against this background, the module updates the Bauhaus philosophy that creative, scientific and technical disciplines do not exist in isolation, but inform and enrich each other.

Content

This supplementary study module offers students the opportunity to move beyond their the Media Studies department and immerse themselves in the wide range of courses offered in degree programmes offered throughout the university.

Students may choose from:

- 1) Faculty of Art & Design, where students can explore creative processes, and design methods and artistic practices that broaden their perception of media and its impact on society.
- 2) Faculty of Architecture & Urbanism, which gives students the opportunity to explore urban planning, architectural design and the interaction between the built environment and their social context.
- 3) Faculty of Civil Engineering, where students can learn about the technical, structural and environmental aspects of construction and expand their knowledge of the physical and functional aspects of the environment.
- 4) Faculty of Media, where, in addition to courses from the Master's degree programmes in Media Studies and Media Management, students can also take courses from the Bachelor's degree programme in Computer Science.

In addition, it is possible to receive ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points for German and English courses offered by the university's Language Centre.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Corresponds to the respective modules in the university programme.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS / ECTS points (optional)

Title Project Module – History and Theory of Ecologies

Module number PM 1

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 3rd semester	every 6th semester	weekly, 1 semester	24	Total workload: 720 hours Attendance workload: 120 hours	English	Prof. Dr. Henning Schmidgen

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	Lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination Seminar(s): short presentation or moderation of seminar session Plenary: presentation and written term paper (approx. 25 pages) or comparable work in another, non-written medium (e.g. exhibition concept, web presentation, video essay) or oral examination Overall grade: grade for written or oral examination (25%) or grade for short presentation (25%) plus grade for term paper (75%); other module work must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

Students are introduced to the complex concepts and controversies of ecological theories and their history and learn to analyse and understand them from a media-studies perspective, this developing a deeper understanding of the dynamics and interdependence of organisms in their environment. In this module, students will trace and explore the evolution of ecological thinking from its beginnings to its most recent developments.

Content

This module examines the emergence and evolution of the discipline of "ecology" from its first definition in the 19th century to its modernisation in the 20th century. The focus will be on Ernst Haeckel's 1866 definition of "ecology" as the study of the "household of nature" and his integration of Romantic nature research (including Goethe) The "general physiology" advocated by Alexander von Humboldt will be also be analysed. The module also examines how Haeckel's ecological perspective was further developed by biologists such as Jakob von Uexküll, made accessible to the wider public, and continued in the theories of figures such as James Lovelock, Lynn Margulis and Gregory Bateson.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.
Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.
Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Plenary

Project-based learning: students work on a project on a specific topic.
Peer feedback: feedback from other students.

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture	2 / 6
Seminar I	2 / 6
Plenary	4 / 12
or	
Seminar I	2 / 6
Seminar II	2 / 6
Plenary	4 / 12
	*Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Project Module – MediaNatures

Module number PM 2

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 3rd semester	every 6th semester	weekly, 1 semester	24	Total workload: 720 hours Attendance workload: 120 hours	English	Prof. Dr. Bernhard Siegert

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	Lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination Plenary: presentation and written term paper (approx. 25-30 pages) or oral examination or comparable work in another, non-written medium (e.g. video essay, photo essay, etc.) or Seminar (to replace lecture): presentation or minor pieces of written work Overall grade: grade for project or comparable work or oral examination; other module work must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

Knowledge of the relevant theories of eco-criticism, the ecology of infrastructures, computational ecologies, environmental humanities and the basic features of a philosophy of "elementary" media. Development of the ability independently to apply media-ecological perspectives and methods of research in cultural techniques (Kulturtechniken) to the description and analysis of historical and current computational environments and environmental computing.

Content

"MediaNatures" are based on the recursive coupling of natural and technological media. They emerge wherever it is no longer possible to speak of "nature" independently of "media" – if this was ever possible at all. The climate is a prominent example of these MediaNatures, but they also include the increasing tracing and visualisation of micro-organisms and AI-controlled automated gene sequencing. This project module aims to conceptualise MediaNatures from the perspective of research in cultural techniques (Kulturtechniken). The challenge here is to "ecologize" the concept of cultural techniques on the one hand, and to technologise the concept of ecology on the other. The history of geo-media and their use and reflection in land art must therefore be taken into account, as well as the use of sensor technology and data modelling in extraction capitalism and the production of so-called "digital twins" of entire ecosystems. In the 20th century, the elementary cultural technique of computation was transformed into the technology of "computation", while in the 21st century "computation" has become an environment – and has thus produced various computational environments, including planet Earth itself.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.
Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.
Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Plenary

Project-based learning: students work on a project on a specific topic.
Peer feedback: feedback from other students

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture	2 / 6
Seminar I	2 / 6
Plenary	4 / 12
or	
Seminar I	2 / 6
Seminar II	2 / 6
Plenary	4 / 12

	*Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)
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Title Project Module – Ecological Memories

Module number PM 3

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 3rd semester	every 6th semester	weekly, 1 semester	24	Total workload: 720 hours Attendance workload: 120 hours	English	Prof. Dr. Jörg Paulus

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	Lecture: 1 written or 1 oral examination Seminar: text reading, moderation of seminar session Plenary: presentation and written term paper (approx. 25-30 pages) or presentation in a non-written medium in conjunction with a piece of written work on methods and theory (approx. 10-15 pages) or oral examination Overall grade: grade for written or oral examination (25%) or grade for short presentation (25%) plus grade for term paper (75%); other module work must be completed and/or passed.

Target qualifications

In this project module, we deal with current theories of cultural memory and the dynamics of natural systems. These theories are brought together in the concept of an "ecological memory", as has been discussed in various disciplines and across disciplines since the end of the 20th century. The aim is to reflect on the mediality of the forms of expression and documentation of an ecological memory and to examine them using case studies. To this end, students are familiarized with the practical handling of memory media in archives and collections from various different scientific and institutional areas, taking into account media-ecological aspects.

Content

Drill cores, tree rings, gamma ray signals, records on paper, stone, and digital data carriers; "Ecological Memories" actively and passively describes plural pasts in various densities and scales – micro-temporal as well as in deep time – and this takes place simultaneously in different formats and medialities. Based on scientific methods as well as those of the artistic imagination, Ecological Memories can also be understood to mean trajectories into the future. Media of ecological memory are paradigmatic structures of distributed action; there is no isolated entity that owns or manages our ecological memory. Rather, it has a networked structure that will be explored in the course of this project module.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.
Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.
Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Plenary

Project-based learning: students work on a project on a specific topic.
Peer feedback: feedback from other students

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
Lecture	2 / 6
Seminar I	2 / 6
Plenary	4 / 12
or	
Seminar I	2 / 6
Seminar II	2 / 6
Plenary	4 / 12
	*Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Project Module – Future Environments 1 & 2

Module number PM 4

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 3rd semester	regularly every 2nd semester, every winter semester (numbered 1 & 2)	weekly, 1 semester	24	Total workload: 720 hours Attendance workload: 120 hours	Englisch	

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	Plenary: presentation and written term paper (approx. 25-30 pages) or oral examination or comparable work in another, non-written medium (e.g. video essay, photo essay, etc.). Willingness to undertake practical exercises and homework, and to take part in practical group work. Lecture: oral examination, written examination or other written work (essay or written record of meeting) or Seminar (to replace lecture): presentation, co-organisation of a session as text expert, or minor pieces of written work Overall grade: grade for project work or comparable work or oral examination; other module work must be completed and/or passed

Target qualifications

Students acquire a sound knowledge of the dual current relevance of ideas about the future on the basis of case studies and theories. They learn to distinguish between various different references to the future and analyse how the state of the present shapes the idea of the future and how this idea in turn addresses present action. Students acquire theoretical and practical skills: by developing their own creative-aesthetic works on future media ecologies, they learn to design practical works and implement them in their project work; on the other hand, they consolidate the applicability and reflection of their theoretical knowledge. They learn to reflect on ideas of future media ecologies as designs for the future that are made in and from the present.

Content

This module focuses on the question of how technological developments and socio-cultural trends will shape the landscape of future media environments. A critical examination of the potentials and challenges that these future environments will entail is initiated. The module looks at ideas of future media (environments). This is carried out firstly with reference to examples from literature, film, games and other media formats, secondly with readings of (media) theoretical texts on future designs, programmes and media environments, and thirdly by trying out various different practices in order to design future media environments. Students work in groups to develop reflexive media works on future media environments. The aim is to determine different so-called 'imaginatives', including historically grounded ones, which guide the designs of media environments and are modulated by them. In addition, students are encouraged to adopt interdisciplinary perspectives and to consider the interactions between technology, society and the environment in order to develop a holistic view of the future of media environments.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Lecture

Face-to-face teaching: lecturer-centric approach in which information is presented directly.

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Seminar

Discussion: dialogue between lecturers and students to clarify specific points.

Group discussion: Students exchange opinions on a specific topic.

Plenary

Project-based learning: students work on a project on a specific topic.

Peer feedback: feedback from other students

Special information

Regular participation in all parts of the module is strongly recommended.

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
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Lecture	2 / 6
Seminar I	2 / 6
Plenary	4 / 12
or	
Seminar I	2 / 6
Seminar II	2 / 6
Plenary	4 / 12
	*Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title **Project Module of Choice/ Faculty of Media – Electives**Module number **PM 5**

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
1st – 3rd semester	every 6th semester	weekly, 1 semester	24	varies depending on elective	English	current module supervisor

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Compulsory elective module for degree course in Media Ecologies. May be taken once.	B.A. in Media Studies or comparable university degree	see specifications of respective module supervisor

Target qualifications

This interdisciplinary module opens a window for further perspectives and new impulses in media ecologies. Students can broaden their horizons, acquire additional skills and enrich their education in media ecologies through a broader and more diverse approach. The module not only promotes an understanding of the diversity and complexity of the media as a field of study, it also offers students the opportunity to develop and explore innovative and future-oriented perspectives on media ecologies.

Content

In this compulsory elective module (Wahlpflichtmodul), students have the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills in media ecologies by selecting a related module from the extensive range of Master's courses offered by the Faculty of Media. This individually selected module should have a scope of 24 ECTS* points and can be chosen from different subject areas depending on the student's interests and goals.

*ECTS = European Credit Transfer System

Students may choose from:

- 1) Department of Media Studies, where students can select modules from the degree programmes in Media Culture, Media Studies and Film Cultures – Extended Cinema. The modules from the Master's degree programme in Media Studies are particularly recommended as they offer an in-depth and critical examination of various media theories and practices.
- 2) Department of Computer Science for Digital Media, where a particular focus is placed on modules that deal with Human Computer Interaction (HCI). The modules from the Master's programmes in Computer Science for Digital Media offer an innovative interface between technology and media practice and as such are particularly recommended.
- 3) Department of Media Management: by arrangement only

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Corresponds to the respective modules offered by the university.

Special information

To ensure that modules with a lower total workload can be credited, please observe the information contained in the Media Ecologies Study and Examination Regulations and, if necessary, consult the person responsible for co-ordinating the degree programme (Learning Agreement).

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	SWS* / ECTS points (optional)
1 Project Module (8 SWS*) from the Faculty of Media (Media Studies / Computer Science for Digital Media). This module must be graded by the module supervisor and correspond to a total workload of 720 hours. *SWS - Semesterwochenstunde/Weekly Workload (hours)	8 / 24 *Semesterwochenstunde(n)/Weekly Workload (hours)

Title Master's Degree Module

Module number MA 0

Semester (optional)	Frequency	Interval and duration	ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points	Workload	Language(s)	Module coordinator(s)
4th semester	every semester	Colloquium by arrangement with respective supervisor(s), 1 semester	30	720 hours	English	Dependent on topic chosen

Type and Usability of module	Formal requirements for participation	Examination requirements
Final Master's module for degree course in Media Ecologies	All project and study modules of the MA degree course in accordance with examination regulations	Completion and defence of comprehensive written academic thesis (approx. 80-90 pages) with a four-month completion period Master's thesis: 18 ECTS* points Colloquium: 6 ECTS* points Defence: 6 ECTS* points *ECTS = European Credit Transfer System

Target qualifications

Independent and autonomous academic problem-solving in the field of media ecology with the support of an advisor. Work to be carried out on a relatively large scale of medium to advanced complexity: research, analysis, theoretical work and theory transfer, historical research (primary and/or secondary) within the required framework; development of extensive argumentation skills both in writing and orally, visualisation skills as applicable; ability to discuss results obtained; demonstration thus of ability to produce academic findings and results in the field of Media Studies.

Content

Independent and autonomous comprehensive application of the skills and knowledge acquired during the course of studies in one of the subject areas of media ecology with the support of an advisor, as well as the expansion of these skills and their transfer to an independently-defined problem in the field of media ecology on a relatively large scale of medium to advanced complexity, to be carried out under supervision.

Teaching and learning forms / Didactic concept

Project-based learning: students work on a project on a specific topic.
Research-based learning: students explore and discover content independently.
Mentoring: individual supervision and support.

Special information

Lectures / courses included in the module (optional)	ECTS* points (optional)
The module comprises: Master's thesis + colloquium Defence of Master's thesis	24 ECTS 6 ECTS *ECTS = European Credit Transfer System