BM1 Module Information Sheet

1. General Information

UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE	**Faculty of Arts and Humanities** **Department of English I**
Module title: Basis Modul (BM) 1 Sprachpraxis – Sprachgebrauch	
Semester: WiSe2627	
For questions about the **content** of the classes and exam, contact your instructor: • Dr. Shona Allan (shona.allan@uni-koeln.de) • Cleopatra Goularas (kgoular1@uni-koeln.de) • Kate Maye-Saidi (katherine.maye-saidi@uni-koeln.de) • Sally Ridge (s.ridge@uni-koeln.de)	
For questions about the **procedure**, **administration** and **technical issues,** contact: • Dr. Astrid Gabel (mapbm1-es1@uni-koeln.de)	
Department of English I homepage: https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/ **Module homepage:** https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=27604	

2. Module Description

BM1 consists of three elements:
1) the Rhetorical Skills I (RSI) course
2) the Academic Writing I (AWI) course and
3) the end-of-module exam (*Modulabschlussprüfung*, MAP).

After successfully completing the three elements, you receive 6 credit points (CP), which amounts to 180 hours of preparation, class participation, revision and exam preparation.

In the RSI class, students:
- develop their oral and aural skills, which are essential for academic pursuits as well as for teaching and other professional contexts;
- analyse and practise different types of prepared and spontaneous oral presentations based on concrete research questions and clear theses that rely on credible academic sources;
- learn to appreciate the techniques appropriate to speaking and listening in diverse contexts;
- increase their self-confidence when speaking and leading discussions;
- learn how to tailor their spoken English to specific groups of listeners;
- use techniques to emphasise points;
- manage the time at their disposal and respond effectively to questions;
- reflect on their presentations and the rhetorical skills they have acquired in the course and
- give constructive feedback and feed-forward to their peers.

In the AWI class, students:
- develop strategies for writing a variety of academic texts;
- improve their written accuracy by learning useful phrases and revising their work;
- practise key transferable writing skills such as creating outlines;
- work on structure by developing concrete theses, employing topic sentences and coherent paragraphs;
- edit and redraft their work to hone their writing skills and
- practise evaluating and giving feedback on others' writing.

The **end-of-module exam** assesses elements from both AWI and RSI. It is a computer exam that takes place at the university. Students will write a reflection (RSI) and an introduction (AWI). Students must register for the exam on KLIPS with their AWI teacher.
For details, see below.

3. Module Concept

Prerequisites: We assume that your English language skills are of level B2 (as certified by your high school diploma). If you feel your language proficiency is not yet at that level, please take a look at the B2 level handout on ILIAS.

Attendance is mandatory in all seminars taught in the English department. A rate of absence higher than 20% will result in deregistration from class. For details and further information, see: https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/studium-pruefungen/teilnahmeverpflichtung

Assignments: To receive credit for the classes, complete the mandatory assignments indicated below (section 5 & 7).

Mock exams: You can practise for the exam by taking the mock exams (*Probeklausuren*). The link to the mock exams can be found in the AWI and RSI folders on ILIAS.

Use of AI: The use of AI in any form is not permitted in the BM1 module. For more information, see the sheet "Use of AI in BM1".

4. Main learning outcomes

By the end of the RSI course, students should be able to…
- tailor their spoken English to specific contexts and audiences;
- use rhetorical devices and techniques to emphasise points;
- efficiently manage time;
- formulate research questions and theses on specific topics;
- create clear and structured handouts;
- conduct independent research on a specific topic and identify reliable sources;
- create compelling visual aids;
- give engaging presentations;
- respond effectively to questions and
- reflect on their presentation and learning progress.

By the end of the AWI course, students should be able to…
- employ formal, academic English at CEF level B2;
- identify, summarise and evaluate the ideas of others;
- formulate research questions and theses on specific topics;
- conduct independent research on a specific topic and identify reliable sources;
- create structured plans for longer texts;
- compose core elements of structured argumentative texts, (e.g. thesis statements, topic sentences, paragraphs);
- present nuanced arguments in response to specific research questions;
- proofread and rewrite texts to conform to academic writing standards and
- reflect on the writing process and their learning progress.

5. Mandatory course assignments (*Studienleistungen*)

Assignments		Deadlines
module	• read, sign and upload the "Use of AI in BM1" sheet onto the mock exam server; you only need to upload it once for both classes; link on ILIAS	Friday, 30.10.2026, 12 midday
module	• complete the AI course offered by the University of Cologne: https://www.edulabs.uni-koeln.de/ilias.php?baseClass=ilrepositorygui&ref_id=25328 • submit the certificate to us, link on ILIAS ; you only need to upload it once for both classes	Friday, 03.12.2026, 12 midday
RSI	• hold a 10-15 min in-person presentation that includes a research question, a thesis statement, a presentation handout and presentation slides • complete the mock exam on ILIAS (reflection) • complete additional mandatory assignments, see course schedule	see course schedules
AWI	• write an introduction and/or another written exercise • complete the mock exam on ILIAS (introduction) • complete additional mandatory assignments, see course schedule	

6. End-of-module exam

The BM1 end-of-module exam is a digital exam taken at university which comprises 5% of your final grade in English.

	Date/Time	**Place**	**Registration Period**
1st Exam	15.02.2027, 10:15	S 89/91/93	23.11.26 - 04.01.27
2nd Exam	19.03.2027, 10:15	S 56	25.12.26 - 05.03.27

Please note: Register for the exam with your **AWI** teacher. If you sign up for the wrong examiner, you will not be allowed to take the exam.

We recommend you take the exam in the first exam phase as, if you fall ill or fail, you can take the exam again in the second one. If you cannot take the exam in the second phase or fail, the next opportunity to take the exam is the following semester. In this case, please contact your AWI teacher in due time to inquire about possible new topics or texts.

Further Information:

Format:	• typed introduction (AWI course), 300 words (+/-10%) • typed reflection on an aspect of the process of preparing and holding the RSI presentation and your learning progress (RSI course); 400 words (+/-10%)
Duration:	• 2 hours in total: 90 minutes to complete the exam + 30 minutes for admin.
Grading:	• Marking rubrics are available on ILIAS.
Before the exam:	• Register for the exam on KLIPS with your AWI teacher. • Ensure you know your ILIAS name and password.

On the day of the exam:	• Please arrive well in advance and wait at the glass doors at the end of the corridor. • Switch off mobile phones and smartwatches and store them in your bag. • After you enter the room, leave your jackets and bags at the front of the room. • Take only a pen, a photographic ID, primary texts and your presentation handout (see below) to your seat. You cannot take the exam without a valid photographic ID. • You may also bring a bottle of water to your seat, but it must not be placed on the desk.
During the exam:	• Once the exam has started, you may not leave the room except to go to the restroom. • If you finish before the allotted 90 minutes, please remain seated until the exam is over. • Primary texts for the free composition with no notes are permitted. You may underline or highlight words or phrases. • Your presentation handout with no additional notes is also permitted. • Plagiarised exams will not receive a grade.
In the event of illness:	• Submit a doctor's note along with the "*Außerordentliche Abmeldung von Modulprüfungen*" form to your AWI teacher/examiner via email within seven days.
Nachteilsausgleich:	• Further information on academic accommodations ("*Nachteilsausgleich*") can be found here: https://inklusion.uni-koeln.de/informationen/nachteilsausgleich/index_ger.html • If you are eligible for academic accommodations, please inform us as early as possible and follow the instructions indicated here: "*Vorgehen bei Modulprüfungen mit Nachteilsausgleich*" https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/studium-pruefungen/modulpruefungen
Further information / all forms:	• https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=27604

7. Course Schedule

Please go to the ILIAS group that accompanies your specific course and access the course schedule.