

The Five-Part Essay (HS)

1. Introduction (~0,5-1 p)
2. Larger Context of American Studies (~2-3 pp; cf. Modulprüfung)
3. Theoretical Considerations + Specific Concepts/Definitions (~2-3 pp)
4. Analysis (~9-12 pp)
5. Conclusion (~0,5-1p) = 15-20 pages

Titel Page & Table of Contents (cf. Style Sheet!)

1. Introduction

- (Brief!) Introduction to the topic
- Method/ theoretical approach
- Outline of the paper (explain why you need to discuss X & Y to argue Z)
- Thesis statement (summarize your argument in 1 or 2 sentences)

2. Larger Context of American Studies (Use secondary sources!)

- History/Overview of chosen topic in Am. literature/culture (cf. course topic!)
- Or: History/ Overview of literary motif (in specific period or genre)
- Or: History/ Overview of a cultural narrative (in specific period or genre)
- Or: History/ Overview of the text's/film's/comic's genre (with focus on chosen topic)
- Or: History of/Introduction to chosen cultural artefact/ phenomenon

3. Theoretical Considerations/ Key Concepts (Use secondary sources!)

- Short introduction to/overview of relevant theoretical debate (where appropriate)
- Scholarly (!) discussion of the most important critical concepts from the chosen theoretical perspective (How do you define X for the purpose of your argument?)

4. Analysis (Use secondary sources!)

- Construction/Presentation of one coherent argument
- Clear structure/ organization of argument (recommended: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3; NOT: 4.1.1)
- Based on close readings of selected passages (Discuss content and form!)
- Critical engagement with relevant secondary sources throughout analysis
- Has to be linked to context (part 2) & critical concepts (part 3)

5. Conclusion

- Short concluding remarks
- And/Or: Summary of main points/ argument
- And/Or: Outlook/ Possible additional research/ open questions etc.

Works Cited

- At least 12-15 academic sources (articles, book chapters, not websites)
- Formatting: cf. MLA style/ department style sheet