

New Plan d'études of the English Department

On 4 March 2010, the Conseil participatif of the Faculté des Lettres approved the new version of the Plan d'études of the English Department which will come into effect in September 2010. It is accessible online at the following address: <http://www.unige.ch/lettres/etudes/formations/plans/anglais.html>. The décanat has decided that, as a rule, current and future students need to conform to the new Plan d'études from September 2010. As an exception to this rule, the following **transitory measures** apply:

1. Modules which a student will have completed by the September 2010 exam session remain valid under the new Plan d'études.
2. A student who will have completed part of a module by the September 2010 exam session is allowed to complete that module according to the old plan d'études. Completion of part of a module implies that the evaluation for a lecture course or seminar has been successfully completed by September 2010.

Here is a summary of the chief **differences between the old and the new Plan d'études** (they all concern the BA, not the MA):

1. According to the old Plan d'études, module BA3 consists of two seminars, two lecture courses, or a seminar and a lecture course, whereas the new BA3 is composed of two cours-séminaires. Students who wish to attend BA seminars in English linguistics can do so for module BA7.
2. The duration of lectures in modules BA4, BA5, and BA6 is increased from one hour to two hours. Similarly, the duration of lectures in module BA1 has hitherto been one hour; with the new Plan d'études, it will be one-to-two hours. This addresses one of the most recurrent concerns in students' teaching evaluations, which is that 45 minutes are usually not sufficient to cover the subject matter appropriately.
3. According to the old Plan d'études, modules BA5 and BA6 consist of two seminars, or a seminar and a lecture course; according to the new, they consist of two seminars and a lecture course. This change brings the required workload in line with that in other departments. It also allows for a fuller coverage of early modern and modern literature than the old Plan d'études has.
4. Modules BA5 and BA6 have so far been evaluated through exams, oral for BA5 and written for BA6. With the new plan d'études, they will be evaluated by means of 'contrôle continu'. This change has become possible thanks to recently modified Faculty regulations according to which each discipline needs to have at least one oral and one written exam (and no longer at least two). The advantage of this change is that evaluation is no longer detached from teaching. This, we believe, will have a positive impact on the quality of seminars since the new regulations provide an incentive for students to do much of the work for a seminar *during* the semester. Students will be able to choose which of the two seminars they wish to credit by means of 'contrôle continu'. For the other seminar and the lecture course, students need to obtain an attestation.
5. In the old Plan d'études, module BA5 can be devoted either to sixteenth to eighteenth century literature ("early modern") or to nineteenth to twenty-first century literature ("modern"), with BA6 being devoted to the period not chosen in BA5. In the new Plan d'études, more simply, BA5 covers sixteenth to eighteenth-century literature ("early modern"), and BA6 nineteenth to twenty-first century literature ("modern").