

Mitteilungsblatt – Sondernummer der Paris Lodron-Universität Salzburg

198. Curriculum for the Master's Degree Programme in Political Science at the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (Version 2016)

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In its session on 21.06.2016 the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg Senate formally approved the curriculum for the master's degree programme in Political Science, finalised by the Political Science curriculum committee at the University of Salzburg in its 18.05.2016 meeting in the version that follows.

The legal basis for the curriculum is the 2002 Federal Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Studies (Universities Act 2002 – UG), Federal Law Gazette No. 120/2002, and the section of the Statutes of the University of Salzburg pertaining to university studies.

§ 1 General Provisions

- (1) The number of ECTS points necessary to complete a degree in the master's programme in Political Science is 120. This corresponds to four semesters of study.
- (2) Graduates of the master's programme in Political Science hold a Master of Arts degree, abbreviated "MA".
- (3) In order to be admitted to the master's programme in Political Science, students must hold a bachelor's degree in an equivalent or related field from an accredited Austrian or foreign institute of higher education (cf. UG 2002 § 64 para. 5).
- (4) If a student's bachelor's degree is not deemed equivalent to an acceptable extent, the student may be required to complete additional work worth up to 45 ECTS points; these requirements must be satisfied by the end of the master's programme. Only the Rectorate or a member of staff at the University of Salzburg designated by the Rectorate is authorised to make a determination of equivalency.
- (5) All graduation requirements to be fulfilled by students have been assigned ECTS points. One ECTS point equals 25 hours of study, which corresponds to the average number of hours required to achieve the expected learning objectives. An academic year consists of 1500 hours, corresponding to 60 ECTS points.
- (6) Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will not be subject to any form of discrimination in their studies. The University is committed to the basic principles laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Austrian non-discrimination laws as well as the policy of positive action.
- (7) The master's programme in Political Science is to be offered fully in English.

§ 2 Overview of the Degree Programme and Professional Skills

(1) Overview of the Degree Programme

- (a) The master's programme in Political Science offers four thematic areas, of which students will need to select two in order to develop their concentration of study. These four thematic areas are Democracy and Legitimacy, Comparative Politics, Multilevel Politics – Austria and Europe, and International Relations.

Thematic Area 1:	Democracy and Legitimacy
Democracy and democratic ruling (governance) are central topics in political science. The thematic area "Democracy and Legitimacy" means to examine and understand the foundation of democratic and responsive government. The focal points are normative, contemporary, and empirical theories of democracy as well as global, national, and local challenges for democracies. Students study the thematic area from two perspectives, first from the national political system, secondly from a global and supranational point of view. The national and state-centred perspective discusses topics such as design, the set-up and the functioning of democratic institutions in	

old and new democracies. Classes that focus on the global context discuss the causes, outcomes, and democratic legitimacy of new forms of transnational, especially European, governing.	
Thematic Area 2:	Comparative Politics
The thematic area "Comparative Politics" draws on studies about political actors, structures, and processes to help students gain a sound understanding of central political problems relevant for both developing and industrialised countries. The analytical approach in classes refers to research, which compares states or regions, although single case studies are used to investigate and assess differences and similarities between countries and policy fields worldwide. The content of classes focuses on political institutions and actors, such as governments, political parties, social movements and voters along with their behaviour and origins, their functioning and the respective outcomes for the quality of democracy. Apart from this focus, comparative politics offers a great variety of theories and practices to students, who will acquire the skills and expertise to apply a broad spectrum of methods. Moreover, students receive an overview of classical and contemporary debates in comparative politics.	
Thematic Area 3:	Multilevel Politics – Austria and Europe
This thematic area builds on the idea that contemporary politics takes place on multiple levels and thus has to be understood in the context of an interplay of processes, actors, and structures along these levels. Even local politics is embedded in larger structures of regional and national politics, which themselves are part of the European and international multilevel system. Political actors take advantage of a complex variety of opportunities and constraints to act strategically and pursue their preferences. The complexity increases since competences and rules of political institutions vary along the different levels with regard to policy fields. The focal points of this thematic area are politics in Austria and the European Union, which students will analyse with the help of theories paying particular attention to the multiple levels of political interaction. Students will have the opportunity to study one of these levels in depth and thereby have to approach the topic with a focus on methods, on policy fields or in an applied manner.	
Thematic Area 4:	International Relations
The subjects of the thematic area "International Relations" are international politics in their manifold appearances. These comprise, on the one hand, classical fields of study such as research on peace and conflict, foreign policy analysis and the contribution of international organisations to international cooperation. On the other hand, a specific emphasis lies on international political economy, transnational actors in international politics and international environmental policy. Students will gain a comprehensive overview of the history of ideas in International Relations and particularly on recent research developments in the thematic area. Moreover, they will acquire analytical and technical competences to understand and analyse independently the most recent developments in the field.	

- (b) Advanced methodological and applied classes will complement an intense engagement with the individual thematic areas. This will enable students to carry out independently theory-driven, empirical-analytical social science research while meeting high methodological standards and developing innovative research strategies and solutions for politically and socially relevant problems.

(2) Professional Skills and Competences (Learning Outcomes)

Upon completion of the master's programme in Political Science, students will have the following skills and competences:

Competences in the Field of Study , in particular:
- comprehensive knowledge about theories in political science, political concepts, actors, institutions, processes, norms and central policy fields in selected thematic areas;
- the ability to understand, assess, and apply social science research with high methodological standards to other thematic areas;
- the ability to analyse political and societal problems based on social science concepts and theories.
Methods Competences , in particular:
- the ability and knowledge to thoughtfully and critically apply the methodological instruments of empirical-analytical political science research, including the use of statistics software, and to plan and carry out individual research;
- the ability to cooperate with others (inter-disciplinary or in groups) to carry out research together;
- the ability to present complex studies and own research findings convincingly in front of an audience.
Competences in Sound Reasoning and Judgement , in particular:
- the ability to understand advanced social and political science literature and to critically analyse and assess it by drawing on the insights of neighbouring disciplines (Law, Economy, Sociology, History);
- the ability to assess the presentation of scientific research outcomes, to make comparisons and to give self-reflected feedback;
- the ability to debate and confront one's own insights and positions with those of others and to modify them, if necessary.
Competences of Responsive Action , in particular:
- the ability to grasp political and social problems, develop practical strategies for solutions, and bring them in in public debates;
- the ability to connect science and political practice;
- the ability to engage in politics effectively on the basis of scientific insights.

(3) Importance and Relevance of the Degree for Society, the Scientific Community and the Labour Market

Typical professional fields of graduates of the master's programme in Political Science are:

- employment in public administration;
- employment in legislatures and political parties;
- employment in non-governmental organisations, interest groups and trade unions;
- employment in the business sector;
- employment in the media sector and in public relations;
- employment in foreign services (careers in diplomacy), in institutions of the European Union, and in international organisations;
- employment in the field of civic and political education (foundations, academies, educational institutes, etc.);
- academic careers (teaching and research at universities and research institutions).

§ 3 Structure of the Programme

The master's programme in Political Science comprises six modules with a total number of 72 ECTS points. Of the six modules, two are elective modules, one is a compulsory elective module and three are compulsory modules. In addition, there are 12 ECTS points assigned for elective courses. The master's thesis is worth 30 ECTS points, the master's examination is assigned 6 ECTS points.

	ECTS
Elective Modules (2 of 4)	36
Democracy and Legitimacy	(18)
Comparative Politics	(18)
Multilevel Politics – Austria and Europe	(18)
International Relations	(18)
Compulsory Elective Module (1 of 2)	6
Advanced Methods in Political Science	(6)
Applied Course	(6)
Compulsory Modules	30
Advanced Thematic Courses in Political Science	12
Methods in Political Science	12
Master's Seminar	6
Elective Courses	12
Master's Thesis	30
Master's Examination	6
Total	120

§ 4 Course Types

The programme contains the following course types:

- **Proseminar (PS)** is a scientifically oriented (lower-level seminar-style) course and the pre-stage for seminars. Based on applied as well as theoretical work students will acquire basic knowledge and abilities in terms of scientific work and research and thereby contribute to the class actively. Students' performance is assessed constantly throughout the course and attendance is mandatory.
- **Seminar (SE)** is a scientifically advanced course. It provides in-depth knowledge in the respective area and encourages discussion and reflection on scientific themes through the active participation of students. Students' performance is assessed constantly throughout the course and attendance is mandatory.
- **Exercise Course with Lecture (UV)** connects the theoretical introduction to a field with the teaching of practical skills, whereby exercises play the major role. Students' performance is assessed constantly throughout the course and attendance is mandatory.

§ 5 Required Courses and Plan of Study

The following contains a list of modules and courses in the master's programme in Political Science. The division into semesters serves as a recommendation designed to ensure that the order in which the courses are taken builds on knowledge acquired successively and that the workload of

60 ECTS points in an academic year is not exceeded. If there are no prerequisites, modules and courses can however be taken in a different order in accordance with § 11.

Detailed descriptions of the modules including the knowledge, methods and skills to be acquired can be found in Annex I: Module Descriptions:

Master's Degree Programme in Political Science								
Module	Course	SHrs	Type	ECTS	Semester with ECTS			
					I	II	III	IV
(1) Elective Modules According to Art. 6 (2 of 4)								
Module 1: Democracy and Legitimacy								
Proseminar Basic Texts		2	PS	6	6			
Seminar I		2	SE	6	6			
Seminar II		2	SE	6		6		
Subtotal for Module 1		6		18	12	6		
Module 2: Comparative Politics								
Proseminar Basic Texts		2	PS	6	6			
Seminar I		2	SE	6	6			
Seminar II		2	SE	6		6		
Subtotal for Module 2		6		18	12	6		
Module 3: Multilevel Politics – Austria and Europe								
Proseminar Basic Texts		2	PS	6	6			
Seminar I		2	SE	6	6			
Seminar II		2	SE	6		6		
Subtotal for Module 3		6		18	12	6		
Module 4: International Relations								
Proseminar Basic Texts		2	PS	6	6			
Seminar I		2	SE	6	6			
Seminar II		2	SE	6		6		
Subtotal for Module 4		6		18	12	6		
Total for Elective Modules		12		36	24	12		
(2) Compulsory Elective Module According to Art. 6 (1 of 2)								
Module 1: Advanced Methods in Political Science								
Advanced Methods in Political Science		2	SE	6			6	
Subtotal for Module 1		2		6			6	
Module 2: Applied Course								
Applied Course		2	SE	6			6	
Subtotal for Module 2		2		6			6	
Total for Compulsory Elective Module		2		6			6	

Master's Degree Programme Political Science								
Module	Course	SHrs	Type	ECTS	Semester with ECTS			
					I	II	III	IV
(3) Compulsory Modules								
Module 1: Advanced Thematic Courses in Political Science								
Seminar I		2	SE	6			6	
Seminar II		2	SE	6			6	
Subtotal for Module 1		4		12			12	
Module 2: Methods in Political Science								
Methods in Political Science I		2	UV	6	6			
Methods in Political Science II		2	UV	6		6		
Subtotal for Module 2		4		12	6	6		
Module 3: Master's Seminar								
Master's Seminar		2	SE	6			6	
Subtotal for Module 3		2		6			6	
Total for Compulsory Modules		10		30	6	6	18	
(4) Elective Courses				12		12		
(5) Master's Thesis				30			6	24
(6) Master's Examination				6				6
Sum Total				120	30	30	30	30

§ 6 Elective Modules and Compulsory Elective Modules

The master's programme Political Science contains two elective modules, from which students can select the programme's four thematic areas (see § 2 para. 1 and Annex I: Module Descriptions). Moreover, students have to choose either one course that offers advanced methods in Political Science or one applied course (compulsory elective module).

§ 7 Elective Courses

- (1) In the master's programme in Political Science, students are to complete elective courses totalling 12 ECTS points. These elective courses are designed to further the acquisition of additional professional skills and strengthen individual areas of focus within a student's course of study. They can be completed at any accredited postsecondary institution.
- (2) Should the courses chosen as electives for 12 ECTS points have a demonstrable connection to this master's programme, the electives can constitute a supplementary certificate in a specific area, which is recorded on the master's degree certificate.
- (3) Recommended areas from which students can choose elective courses comprise:
 - Contemporary History
 - European Union Studies
 - Gender Studies
 - Geography and Spatial Planning
 - Communication Science

- Law (e.g., Public/Constitutional Law, International Law, European Law)
- Political Economy
- Regional Studies
- Sociology
- Sustainability Studies

§ 8 Master's Thesis

- (1) The master's thesis serves to demonstrate that students have acquired the ability to perform independent academic research in the area of Political Science according to current academic research methods and standards.
- (2) The topic of the master's thesis should be chosen in such a way that it is reasonable and appropriate for completion of the thesis within six months (cf. UG 2002 § 81 para. 2).
- (3) The topic of the master's thesis must be taken from a module in the master's curriculum. The student may suggest a topic or choose from a number of topics provided by one of the available thesis advisors.
- (4) The length of the master's thesis should range from 25.000 to 30.000 words (not counting appendices and tables/bibliography).
- (5) Students must attend the master's seminar in the thematic area relevant to the master's thesis because the purpose of this seminar is to support students with the development of their thesis.
- (6) It is to be noted that both the student's work on the topic and advisor's work with the student are governed by Austrian copyright law, Federal Law Gazette No. 111/1936 (cf. UG 2002 § 80 para. 2).

§ 9 Study Abroad

- (1) Students in the master's programme in Political Science are recommended to spend a semester of study abroad. This semester abroad should ideally be scheduled in the third semester of study. Course transfers for the courses completed at the university abroad will be granted by the responsible body. Documents needed for the assessment of transfer courses are to be provided by the student.
- (2) Steps will be taken to ensure that the semester abroad can be completed without causing a delay in a student's course of study when the following conditions are met:
 - at least 30 ECTS credits are earned in each semester of study abroad;
 - the content of the courses completed during the period of study abroad is not identical to courses already completed at the University of Salzburg;
 - confirmation by formal notification in writing before beginning the study abroad period of which courses and/or exams planned to be taken abroad are transfer- able to the University of Salzburg.
- (3) In addition to field-specific knowledge and skills, students stand to gain the following qualifications by studying abroad:
 - acquisition and consolidation of field-specific knowledge in a foreign language;
 - acquisition and consolidation of general foreign-language skills (comprehension, conversation, etc.);
 - acquisition and consolidation of organisational skills gained by independently navigating the bureaucracy and organisational structure of a university abroad as well as daily challenges of student life abroad;
 - becoming acquainted with international student exchange programmes and broadening one's perspectives in one's own field of study;
 - acquisition and consolidation of intercultural communication skills.

- (4) Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will be assisted in their search for a study abroad opportunity and in planning for their semester abroad by the Service Facility for Disability & Diversity.

§ 10 Allocation of Places in Courses with a Limited Number of Participants

- (1) The maximum number of participants in the master's programme in Political Science for the following course types is limited as follows:

Proseminar (PS)	30 participants
Seminar (SE)	30 participants
Exercise Course with Lecture (UV)	30 participants

- (2) In instances in which courses with a restricted number of participants are oversubscribed, priority of enrolment will be given to students for whom the course is part of the curriculum.
- (3) Students in the master's programme in Political Science will be given places in courses based on the following criteria in the order listed below:
- a student was on the waiting list in the course in the previous academic year;
 - a student has earned a higher total number of ECTS credits in the programme so far;
 - a student has completed a greater number of courses and/or exams;
 - a student has completed a greater number of semesters in the programme of study;
 - a student has a higher ECTS weighted grade point average;
 - random selection.

Available places will be allocated to students from other programmes using the same criteria in the same order.

- (4) For students participating in international exchange programmes, additional places constituting at least ten percent of the maximum number of participants in each course will be made available. These places will be allocated randomly.

§ 11 Admission Requirements for Exams

The completion of specific courses is not a precondition for the admission to other courses of the master's programme in Political Science. Nevertheless, it is suggested to follow the recommended plan of study, especially with regard to the following courses:

- the completion of the UV Methods in Political Science I before the UV Methods in Political Science II;
- the completion of the UV Methods in Political Science I and II before the SE Advanced Methods in Political Science;
- the completion of both seminars and the proseminar Basic Texts in the thematic area (elective module) where the student plans to write the master's thesis during the first two terms of the programme (to expose oneself to a variety of possible topics for the master's thesis);
- the completion of the master's seminar during the third semester, in order to develop a proposal for the master's thesis.

§ 12 Exam Regulations

- (1) All courses in the modules evaluate students' performance at all times. Whether the teaching and learning objectives have been achieved, is assessed by written and/or oral assignments.

- (2) The final grade of a module is determined in accordance with § 19 para. 3 of the University Charter.
- (3) For students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses, alternative examination regulations suitable for each individual case will be offered in cooperation with the Service Facility for Disability & Diversity.

§ 13 Master's Examination Before Examining Committee

- (1) The master's programme in Political Science concludes with a master's examination worth six ECTS credits before an examining committee.
- (2) Students must have successfully completed all of the required courses and the master's thesis in order to be eligible to take the master's examination.
- (3) The master's examination before an examining committee tests two examination subjects suggested by the candidate, which s/he chooses from the elective modules as specialisation.

§ 14 Effective Date

The curriculum comes into force 1 October 2016.

§ 15 Transitional Provisions

- (1) Students enrolled in the curriculum for the master's programme of study in Political Science at Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (2011 Version, University Bulletin, Special Issue 148, 30.06.2011) when this curriculum comes into force have until 30.09.2017 to complete the programme in which they are enrolled. Afterwards, they will be automatically transferred to the new curriculum.
- (2) Students enrolled in the curriculum for the master's programme of study in Political Science at Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (2015 Version, University Bulletin, Special Issue 71, 16.03.2015) when this curriculum comes into force have until 30.09.2017 to complete the programme in which they are enrolled. Afterwards, they will be automatically transferred to the new curriculum.
- (3) Students subject to a different curriculum may during any period of registration decide to change into this curriculum. An irrevocable written declaration is to be submitted to the Student Service Centre, should a student wish to change curricula.

Annex I: Module Descriptions

Module name	Elective Module 1: Democracy and Legitimacy
Module code	EM 1
Total workload	18 ECTS
Learning outcomes	Students ... • have gained a detailed understanding of research, analytical methods and theories in the thematic area of democracy and legitimacy; • are able to summarise and assess highly specialised literature in the thematic area of democracy research; • have the ability to analyse complex scientific problems and to draw correct conclusions by employing qualitative and/or quantitative methods and analyses; • are able to explain and assess the position of women and the role of gender aspects in democracies, by drawing on the specific basic literature; • are able to develop independently innovative research questions in the field of democracy research, communicate their own ideas clearly and convincingly, and to write scientific papers.
Module content	The module covers ... • the assessment and explanation of legitimacy in inter- and supranational institutions; • the positive effects by inter- and supranational institutions on democracy; • electoral systems and government structures, including the effect and outcomes of reforms in these fields; • political parties, public participation and new forms of participation; • the function of parliaments, including aspects of representation, representativeness and their connection to political parties; • enhancement of competences in the field of gender for democratic institutions and awareness-raising for gender-related disadvantages in democracies; • means and ways how different political institutions manage government in divided societies; • the different forms of transition from authoritarian to democratic ruling.
Courses	EM 1.1 PS Basic Texts (6 ECTS) EM 1.2 SE Theme-specific Seminar I (6 ECTS) EM 1.3 SE Theme-specific Seminar II (6 ECTS)
Type of examination	All courses in the modules evaluate student performance at all times. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed by written and/or oral assignments.

Module name	Elective Module 2: Comparative Politics
Module code	EM 2
Total workload	18 ECTS
Learning outcomes	Students ... • have a detailed understanding of research, analytical methods and theories in the thematic area of comparative politics; • are able to summarise and assess highly specialised literature in the thematic area of comparative politics; • have the ability to analyse complex scientific problems and to draw correct conclusions by employing qualitative and/or quantitative methods and analyses; • are able to develop independently innovative research questions in the field of democracy research, communicate their own ideas clearly and convincingly, and to write scientific papers.
Module content	The module covers ... • the functioning and effects of political institutions, especially electoral systems and government structures; • the functioning of parliaments, especially with regard to questions of representation and representativeness; • characteristics of political parties and party systems; • aspects of political participation and new forms of participation; • analyses of civil society, public opinion, electoral behaviour and elections; • differences in the structure of states and constitutional design; • specific characteristics of authoritarian regimes, development, democratisation, political violence and regime change; • analyses of gender-specific and economic inequality; • public policy.
Courses	EM 2.1 PS Basic Texts (6 ECTS) EM 2.2 SE Theme-specific Seminar I (6 ECTS) EM 2.3 SE Theme-specific Seminar II (6 ECTS)
Type of examination	All courses in the modules evaluate student performance at all times. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed by written and/or oral assignments.

Module name	Elective Module 3: Multilevel Politics – Austria and Europe
Module code	EM 3
Total workload	18 ECTS
Learning outcomes	Students ... • have acquired detailed knowledge about central institutions and actors, as well as their interests and strategies in political multilevel processes; • know specific theories and theory debates on multilevel politics in Political Science, critically challenge these and can apply them for an explanation of new facts and circumstances; • understand research design and methods as applied in contemporary research on multilevel politics, critically challenge these and assess strengths and weaknesses of methods and theories; • develop independently research questions on multilevel politics and are able to answer them, by offering innovative research outcomes and/or practical solutions – in the context of individual areas of concentration chosen for this module.
Module content	The module covers ... • the presentation, discussion and application of basic theories and frames of analyses for multilevel politics (e.g., institutionalism, theories of European integration and Europeanisation, multilevel governance, federalism, welfare regimes and small state theories, political economy of European integration, integration law, policy analysis); • the treatment of current research topics in Austrian and European politics, which vary with regard to policy fields and their approach to methods and applied research.
Courses	EM 3.1 PS Basic Texts (6 ECTS) EM 3.2 SE Theme-specific Seminar I (6 ECTS) EM 3.3 SE Theme-specific Seminar II (6 ECTS)
Type of examination	All courses in the modules evaluate student performance at all times. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed by written and/or oral assignments.

Module name	Elective Module 4: International Relations
Module code	EM 4
Total workload	18 ECTS
Learning outcomes	Students ... • have gained specialised empirical knowledge about international relations, for example with regard to the functioning of international organisations or international trade politics; • know the relevant theories in the field of international relations in detail, know how to distinguish them and how to critically challenge them; • are able to infer explanations from relevant theories to explain current political problems or new phenomena; • understand research design and methods in current research on international relations, challenge them critically and compare strengths and weaknesses of theories among each other and with theories of other disciplines; • develop interesting and innovative research questions in the field and are able to answer these with the help of a suitable research design; • are able to communicate their knowledge in international politics and make convincing arguments regarding their conclusions in debates.
Module content	The module covers ... • theories of international relations: realism, institutionalism, liberalism, constructivism as well as frames of analysis in international political economy; • the most important debates in international relations, including those concerning the functioning of international organisations, the design of international institutions, the role of public international law in international relations, the role of transnational actors and the reasons for war and peace; • depending on the individual areas of concentration, current research topics in the fields of peace and conflict research, foreign policy analysis, international institutions, international environmental policy, international cooperation, international political economy and transnational actors.
Courses	EM 4.1 PS Basic Texts (6 ECTS) EM 4.2 SE Theme-specific Seminar I (6 ECTS) EM 4.3 SE Theme-specific Seminar II (6 ECTS)
Type of examination	All courses in the modules evaluate student performance at all times. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed by written and/or oral assignments.

Module name	Compulsory Elective Module 1: Advanced Methods in Political Science
Module code	CEM 1
Total workload	6 ECTS
Learning outcomes	Students ... • have gained theoretical knowledge about methods in the social sciences; • are able to apply competently specific methods when carrying out social science research; • are able to read specific texts, which apply and critically assess advanced social science methods; • develop the ability to acquire further advanced methods if necessary.
Module content	The module covers ... • in-depth knowledge and competences with regard to social science methods, which are useful for the master's thesis; • the application of advanced methods to specific political science research questions.
Courses	CEM 1 SE Advanced Methods in Political Science (6 ECTS)
Type of examination	All courses in the modules evaluate student performance at all times. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed by written and/or oral assignments.

Module name	Compulsory Elective Module 2: Applied Course
Module code	CEM 2
Total workload	6 ECTS
Learning outcomes	Students ... • are able to use their acquired specific theoretical knowledge to analyse historical as well as current political or social challenges and problems, and assess these critically; • are able to write a theoretically and methodologically sound research design in order to investigate complex political or social questions; • are able to develop new innovative strategies to solve practical-political problems, based on their specific theoretical knowledge and methodological skills.
Module content	The module covers ... • a discussion of current and past political or social challenges and problems; • the development of a theoretically and methodologically sound research design in order to investigate complex political or social questions; • the process of analysing political and social challenges or problems, including the development of concrete innovative solutions.
Courses	CEM 2 SE Applied Course (6 ECTS)
Type of examination	All courses in the modules evaluate student performance at all times. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed by written and/or oral assignments.

Module name	Compulsory Module 1: Advanced Thematic Courses in Political Science
Module code	M 1
Total workload	12 ECTS
Learning outcomes	Students ... • are able, based on the acquired theoretical knowledge and methodological skills, to pose new research questions in selected thematic areas, to evaluate hypotheses and to develop innovative solutions for practical problems in the field, and/or • are able to apply theoretical knowledge and methodological skills to two thematic areas, which they choose as focal points.
Module content	The module covers... • in-depth knowledge and skills in two thematic areas chosen as concentration, through special, methodological, policy field specific and/or applied courses, and/or • enhancing of knowledge and skills acquired in two focal areas by selecting an additional thematic area.
Courses	Two freely selected seminars in the field of Political Science (12 ECTS)
Type of examination	All courses in the modules evaluate student performance at all times. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed by written and/or oral assignments.

Module name	Compulsory Module 2: Methods in Political Science
Module code	M 2
Total workload	12 ECTS
Learning outcomes	Students ... • have developed good knowledge of quantitative and qualitative methods in political science; • are able to select the appropriate methods based on this knowledge, in order to answer a complex research question in political science; • are able to apply these methods independently for their own research questions and to conceptualise and finalise a research process.
Module content	The module covers the entire research process in political science and contains ... • the formulation of research questions and development of theoretical frameworks; • the formulation of hypotheses and definition of concepts; • choice of research design; • operationalisation, meaning measurement of concepts; • the selection of units of analysis; • different forms of data collection (interview, content analysis, observation, etc.); • data management; • data analysis (different forms of qualitative and quantitative analysis).
Courses	M 2.1 UV Methods in Political Science I (6 ECTS) M 2.2 UV Methods in Political Science II (6 ECTS)
Type of examination	All courses in the modules evaluate student performance at all times. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed by written and/or oral assignments.

Module name	Compulsory Module 3: Master's Seminar
Module code	M 3
Total workload	6 ECTS
Learning outcomes	Students ... • have gained the ability to develop a theoretically and methodologically sound exposé for their master's thesis; • are able to present their exposé in front of colleagues effectively and to modify their exposé based on the received feedback; • are able to carry out scientific research in the field of political science independently and in accordance with current scientific standards.
Module content	The module covers... • the development of an exposé for the master's thesis; • the presentation and defence of the exposé in front of colleagues; • the supervision of the master's thesis of a supervisor chosen by the student.
Courses	M 3 SE Master's Seminar (6 ECTS)
Type of examination	All courses in the modules evaluate student performance at all times. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed by written and/or oral assignments.

Impressum

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