

1. Compulsory Modules

P 1 Research Logic in Political Science (12 ECTS)

The aim of the courses is to convey to students extensive knowledge for the planning of research projects and the qualitative and quantitative analysis of empirical data. The methods used will be practiced in tutorials. The aim is to enable students to independently develop a research design for their master thesis.

P 1.1 Lecture: Methods of Political Science, Continuation

This lecture presents an overview of the advanced qualitative and quantitative methods of Political Science. The content includes aspects such as causality and inference, counterfactual thought experiments, process tracing, multiple regression analysis, regression analysis for categorical dependent variables, cluster analysis, factor analysis and multidimensional scaling, the combination of qualitative and quantitative research.

P 1.2 Tutorial: Methods of Political Science, Continuation

The content of the lecture will be practiced with the help of concrete and continuous exercises, for example in group work.

P 2 Current Debates in Political Science (18 ECTS)

Aim of the seminars of this module is to provide students with an overview of the current research questions and debates in central areas of Political Science. Here, normative, theoretical and empirical perspectives should be taken into account. At center stage are those research areas for which there are optional courses in the following term, so especially democracy research, European Studies/ International Relations, as well as governance research.

P 2.1 Seminar: Debates in Democracy Research

P 2.2 Seminar: Debates in International Relations und European Studies

P 2.3 Seminar: Debates in Governance Research

P 3 Advanced Methods and Research Questions in Political Science (12 ECTS)

In the context of this module, students will engage with current and concrete examples of research questions as well as with special advanced methods of qualitative and quantitative Political Science. The aim is to enable students to independently work on a political research problem in a project and convey in-depth knowledge for the qualitative and/or quantitative analysis of empirical data.

P 3.1 Seminar: Advanced Methods in Political Science

In the context of this seminar, a number of advanced methods will be deepened. For example content analysis, QCA, game theory, network analysis etc.

P 3.2 Project Seminar: Research Questions in Political Science

In the context of the project seminar, students will, under guidance, engage with current research questions of Political Science. The aim is to enable the students to work on a scientific research problem in a project. With the help of a concrete example they should learn to formulate their own research questions, to develop an appropriate research design, to collect and interpret the necessary texts, documents and data, as well as to present the results of the research.

P 4 Master-Final Module (30 ECTS)

In this module, students have to prove that they have acquired the knowledge as well as the relevant capabilities and skills in Political Science at a high professional level. On the one hand, this takes place during the guided collaboration in scientific or policy advice projects. On the other hand, students have to develop and carry out an independent research project. The aim for students is to learn to engage with and present complex Political Science questions in a theory-guided and methodologically appropriate manner.

P 4.1 Master Thesis

Within the chosen optional subject, students will independently develop and carry out a research project. The aim is to confirm the students' independent ability to handle political theories, methods and techniques while working on relevant questions of Political Science.

P 4.2 Seminar Accompanying the Master Thesis

The accompanying seminar serves as a forum for the presentation, discussion and optimization of the individual working stages while completing the master thesis.

2. Elective Modules

Optional Subject 1: Theory and Empirics of Democratic Politics

The aim of the optional subject "Theory and Empirics of Democratic Politics" is to convey a comprehensive understanding of democracy and its theoretical as well as empirical analysis. Part of this is also the engagement with alternative political systems. At the center of the subject are the key problems of modern democracies, especially the participation in political decisions, the control of political decision-making processes and the implementation of political decisions. Through the engagement with the theoretical models, empirical insights and essential normative questions of democracy research, the students should be able to conduct their own research and handle the necessary methodological, normative and analytical instruments.

WP 1 Political Institutions, Actors and Processes in Comparison (12 ECTS)

The emphasis here is on the analysis of modern functional conditions of democratic institutions and the processes of democratic governance. On the one hand, there will be the analysis of typical institutional arrangements (constitutions; competitive -, consociational-, representative-, consensus- and direct democracy; legislative processes, federalism, constitutional courts, etc.) and their particular performance. On the other hand, the seminars will also examine different political actors (parties, unions, etc.) as well as questions of political culture and problems of political participation in different systems of decision-making. In order to comprehensively understand the functioning of democracies, students will gain knowledge on their alternatives, i.e. political institutions and processes in authoritarian systems. The relationship between empirical research and theory building will be illustrated on the basis of the most current approaches and selected practical problems of democracy.

WP 1.1 Seminar: Political Institutions

WP 1.2 Seminar: Actors and Processes

WP 4 Theories and Problems of Political Order (12 ECTS)

Against the backdrop of classical theories of democracy as well as those models of political order which stand in competition, this module deals with modern concepts of democracy, pluralist and deliberative theories of democracy, as well as economic models of democracy and system-theoretical approaches. Apart from an informed discussion with the individual theories, their basic assumptions, implications and further developments, there will be critical comparisons and references to the current problems of political order. There will be a systematic analysis of central normative concepts of freedom, equality, separation of power, social contract, sovereignty of the people, basic law, the public, etc. and a discussion about their significance considering concrete problems such as corruption, fundamentalism, disenchantment with politics, etc.

WP 4.1 Seminar: Theories of Political Order

WP 4.2 Seminar: Key Questions of Political Order

WP 5 Challenges and Perspectives of Democracy (12 ECTS)

The challenges which democracies face in the 21st century are the main focus of this module, which is dedicated to their political-theoretical as well as empirical analysis. It analyses questions concerning the promotion of the quality of democracy in established democracies; the change of sub-systems, such as party systems; the democratization of national and international governance regimes; external democracy promotion and methodological problems of measuring democracy. Furthermore, the module will examine functional problems of modern non-democratic systems with which democracies will still have to coexist and cooperate in future. It will reflect on the demands for change and perspectives of modern democracies and discuss positions critical or skeptical of democracy.

WP 5.1 Seminar: Continuity and Change of Political Systems

WP 5.2 Seminar: The Future of Democracy in a Globalized World

Optional Subject 2: International and European Politics

The optional subject "International and European politics" is concerned with the structures, institutions, actors and problems of political decision-making beyond the nation state. This is based on the premise that, "in the age of globalization", the interdependence between states is increasing and that increasingly more of the problems of political regulation are being transferred to European and international institutions. Especially important here is the entanglement of decision-making processes into new forms of "multi-level politics" where national, European and international politics determine each other. The optional subject will introduce students to different European and international institutions and then analyze their area of political activity, the resulting Europeanization and internationalization of national politics, as well as the governance beyond the state.

WP 2 European and International Institutions (12 ECTS)

This module will deepen the students' understanding of political institutions beyond the nation state. In the process, it will examine in detail selected international (global) and regional (especially European) institutions. Against this background, the module will investigate the driving forces behind the relocation of politics into international and regional institutions as well as the consequences of this shift for political institutions on the national level.

WP 2.1 Seminar: European Institutions

WP 2.2 Seminar: International Institutions

WP 6 International and European Policy Areas (12 ECTS)

This module will analyze concrete example policy areas, such as global environmental policy, European agricultural policy, international human rights policies or the European monetary policy. The aim is to highlight the interaction of different global, regional and national political actors in their respective policy areas. In addition, theoretical concepts will be tested on concrete policy areas in order to learn about their empirical applicability.

WP 6.1 Seminar: Theoretical Approaches to the Analysis of International and European Politics

WP 6.2 Seminar: Exemplary Policy Areas in International and European Politics

WP 7 Politics in the Age of Globalization (12 ECTS)

The main focus of this module are the challenges which national, European and international politics face in the age of globalization. On the one hand, this means examining how globalization has changed the global order (global governance), including national foreign policy. On the other, this means discussing how we can theoretically understand these changes and how we can judge them normatively.

WP 7.1 Seminar: Global Order and Foreign Policy

WP 7.2 Seminar: Political Theory in the Context of Globalization

Optional Subject 3: Governance and Public Policy

The aim of the option "Governance and Public Policy" is to convey to students in-depth knowledge of the change in modern statehood and the conditions faced when fulfilling public tasks. At the center stage are new forms of ruling and public policy, in Political Science grouped under the term "governance". Governance is understood here as a system of rule, which involves states as well as civil society and private actors and in which legally binding behavioral norms are not hierarchically set and enforced, but rather the non-binding behavioral norms are negotiated horizontally and followed voluntarily. Such governance arrangements are found in a number of policy areas and on all levels of political decision-making from the local to the international. The optional subject offers an overview of the governance arrangements, their structure, their functional requirements and their basis for legitimacy, while also discussing their problems and deficiencies.

WP 3 Changing State and Public Policy (12 ECTS)

The module is concerned with the basic principles, organizational structures and responsibilities of the modern state. In front of this setting, students are introduced to the current processes of change of modern statehood and public policy. On the one hand, the module picks out the changed responsibilities of the state which have translated into changed public policy. On the other, it analyses how the relocation of government responsibilities to non-state actors changes the state itself. Overall, the module will clarify how the state and statehood change when new forms of governance supplement or substitute conventional government. The aim is for students to understand the change in governance within and through the state in order to comprehend the change of statehood itself.

WP 3.1 Seminar: State and Non-State Actors

WP 3.2 Seminar: Changing Political Control and Public Policy

WP 8 Public Policy and Policy Analysis (12 ECTS)

This module will convey and deepen knowledge on the problem-orientated, empirical analysis of material public policy. In pursuit of this, it, on the one hand, offers an overview of the theoretical and conceptual basics of policy analysis. On the other, it provides detailed insights into the conditions and problems of public task fulfillment via selected policy areas (such as economic, social and environmental policy). In doing so, there will be special emphasis on the practical application of concepts and research findings of policy analysis.

WP 8.1 Seminar: Concepts of Policy Analysis

WP 8.2 Seminar: Exemplary Policy Areas

WP 9 Governance in Political Multi-Level Systems (12 ECTS)

Today a large number of private, civil society and public actors are involved in governance on different levels. Governance, therefore, often takes place in political multi-level systems, in which the governance on the higher level (such as the international level) is dependent on governance on a subordinate level (for example the national level), while at the same time, governance on this subordinate level cannot work without the higher level. This module systematically compares especially international, European and national multi-level systems with each other. Thereby, the focus will be on the functionality as well as on specific problems of effectiveness and legitimacy of these multi-level systems.

WP 9.1 Seminar: Multi-Level-Governance in National and International Contexts

WP 9.2 Seminar: Multi-Level-Governance in Selected Policy Areas