



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

GESCHWISTER-SCHOLL-INSTITUT
FÜR POLITIKWISSENSCHAFT



Master Program in Political Science 120 ECTS: Description of Modules and Learning Contents

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 content includes aspects such as causality and inference, counterfactual thought experiments, process tracing, multiple regression analysis, regression analysis for categorical dependant variables, cluster analysis, factor analysis and multidimensional scaling. 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

P 1.2 Tutorial: Methods of Political Science, Continuation

P 2 Basic Module Democracy Research and Governance (6 ECTS)

The goal of the seminars in this module is to work out basic characteristics of democracy as opposed to autocratic regimes, exemplified by various historical examples from antiquity to the present. On this basis, current challenges to democracy will be discussed, prospects for democratization determined, and risks of de-democratization analyzed. At the same time, central topics of modern authoritarianism research will be addressed, such as how authoritarian systems ensure their stability and what role formal democratic institutions play in this.

P 2.1 Seminar: Theories and Concepts

P 2.2 Seminar: Challenges of Democracy in Modern Contemporary Societies

P 3 Basic Module International Relations and European Studies (6 ECTS)

This module provides an overview of the diverse debates in central subject areas of international relations and European studies. Debates such as the one between intergovernmentalism and supranationalism in European studies or between rationalism and constructivism in international relations are discussed in order to introduce the current state of research. Through the intensive discussion of the various contributions to the debate, the aim is to practice adopting and substantiating one's own standpoints in such debates.

P 3.1 Seminar: Debates in International Relations

P 3.2 Seminar: Debates in European Studies

P 4 Basic Module Public Policy and Public Administration (6 ECTS)

In this module, central concepts and theories of organizational theory and management science are discussed. In particular, the role of public administration in the context of policy implementation as well as successful and unsuccessful attempts to politicize public administration will be analyzed. Through discussion within the courses, various texts will be analyzed in terms of the concepts they introduce and their relevance to current research questions in this field.

P 4.1 Seminar: Public Policy

P 4.2 Seminar: Public Administration

P 5 Advanced Research Methods of Political Science (6 ECTS)

In the context of this module, students will engage with current and concrete examples of research questions as well as with 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 5 Seminar: Selected Methods in Political Science

P 6 Project Module (6 ECTS)

In this course, advanced quantitative methods in Political Science are discussed. Within the module, the techniques which can be used to prepare master thesis in different areas of Political Science will be practiced. Thus, students will be enabled to read and write quantitatively oriented papers.

P 6 Seminar: Research Questions in Political Science

P 7 Master 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 7.1 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 7.2 Master Thesis Seminar

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

Focus Area 1: Democratic Politics and Governance

The aim of the focus area "Democratic Politics and Governance" is to develop a comprehensive understanding of democracy and its theoretical as well as empirical analysis, and to extend this understanding to non-democratic regimes. The focus is on institutions, actors and political processes within the framework of nation states, which are analyzed from the perspective of comparative politics and governance research. Both democracies and non-democratic regimes are analyzed, including processes of system change and transformation.

WP 1 Advanced Module Democracy Research and Governance (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.

WP 1.1 Seminar: Political Actors

WP 1.2 Seminar: Institutions and Processes

WP 4 Research Module Democracy Research and Governance (12 ECTS)

Against the background of classical theories of democracy as well as competing models of political order, this module deals with modern concepts of democracy, from pluralism and deliberative democracy theory to the economic theory of democracy and systems theory approaches, with regard to current issues. The challenges facing democracy in the 21st century are the focus of the courses in this module. Based on the latest approaches and selected practical problems of democracy, the interlocking of empirical research and theory building will be illustrated.

WP 4.1 Seminar: Democracy Research: Current Field of Research

WP 4.2 Seminar: Governance: Current Fields of Research

Focus Area 2: Global und European Politics

The focus area "Global and European Politics" deals with political problems, structures, institutions and actors beyond the nation state. The focus is not only on issues of war and peace, but also on questions of effective and legitimate governance in and through international institutions, including the European Union (EU). In the age of globalization, problems such as climate change, disease control, terrorism, civil wars, and financial stability can often only be effectively addressed in such institutions. International (governmental) institutions such as the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the EU, but also international (non-governmental) institutions such as Amnesty International, Greenpeace or Transparency International have therefore gained political authority. In addition, the importance of transnational social movements such as Fridays for Future have been growing. The focus area aims to provide an introduction to the analysis of the changing global and European politics. It also deals with the analysis of Europeanization and internationalization of former nation-state politics.

WP 2 Advanced Module International Relations and European Studies (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: International Relations: Theories and Empirical Applications

WP 2.2 Seminar: European Studies: Theories and Empirical Applications

WP 5 Research Module International Relations and European Studies (12 ECTS)

This module focuses on the challenges facing European and international politics in the age of globalization. These challenges will be analyzed using concrete policy fields such as global climate policy, European agricultural policy, international human rights policy or European monetary policy as examples.

WP 5.1 Seminar: International Relations: Current Fields of Research

WP 5.2 Seminar: European Studies: Current Fields of Research

Focus Area 3: Public Policy and Public Administration

The aim of the focus area "Public Policy and Public Administration" is to provide in-depth knowledge of the basic principles, organizational structures, and tasks of the modern state. The focus will be on the change of modern statehood and the conditions of public task fulfillment. On the basis of various theories and concepts of organizational theory, the focus area will deal with the changing task profile of the modern state, the interactions of private, civil society and public actors in the performance of the state's tasks and the resulting conflicts and problems. The focus area covers the entire policy cycle, from agenda setting and policy formulation to implementation and evaluation.

WP 3 Advanced Module Public Policy and Public Administration (12 ECTS)

The module deals with basic principles, organizational structures and tasks of the modern state. Against this background, it is intended to provide an introduction to current processes of change in modern statehood and state activity. On the one hand the changed task profile of the state, which translated itself into a changed state activity, is to be brought up for discussion. On the other hand, it will be analyzed how the shifting of state tasks to non-state actors changes the state itself. Overall, the module aims to make clear how the state and statehood change when new forms of governance either complement classical state governance or replace it completely.

WP 3.1 Seminar: Public Policy: Theories and Empirical Applications

WP 3.2 Seminar: Public Administration: Theories and Empirical Applications

WP 6 Research Module Public Policy and Public Administration (12 ECTS)

Today, a variety of private, civil society and public actors are involved in governance at various levels. Therefore, governance often takes place in multi-level political systems in which governance at a higher level (such as the international level) is dependent on governance at a lower level (such as the national level), while at the same time governance at this lower level cannot function without governance at the higher level. By means of selected policy fields, such as economic, social and environmental policy, a deeper insight into the conditions of public task fulfilment and its problems will be provided.

WP 6.1 Seminar: Public Policy: Current Fields of Research**WP 6.2 Seminar: Public Administration: Current Fields of Research**

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