

The English version of the curriculum for the „Master’s programme in European Politics and Society” is not legally binding and is for informational purposes only. The legal basis is regulated in the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin on 19 February 2008, issue 20, No. 187. Decision of the Curriculum Committee of the School of Political Science and Sociology on 24.10.2007, approved by Senate Decree on 31.01.2008:

On the basis of § 25 para. 1 No. 10 Universities Act 2002, BGBl. I (Federal Law Gazette) No. 120, most recently amended by Federal Law BGBl. I (Federal Law Gazette) No. 134/2008 and § 32 Section "Regulations of Study Law", republished in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 3 February 2006, Issue 16, No. 90, most recently amended by the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 7 May 2008, Issue 42, No. 272, the following is decreed:

Curriculum for the
Master’s programme in European Politics and Society
at the School of Political Science and Sociology of the University of Innsbruck

§1 Qualification Profile and Study Objectives

- (1) The Master’s programme in European Politics and Society belongs to the group of programmes in social sciences.
- (2) The Master’s programme in European Politics and Society is conducive to in-depth preparatory social-scientific training and the qualification for professional activities requiring the application of scientific knowledge and methods. The core of the scientific programme consists of the teachings of theories, methods and instruments of the social sciences. As regards content, the focus of the Master programme lies in the socio-scientific analysis of political institutions and processes on the level of the European Union and the states on the European continent as well as on the social, demographic, cultural and gender-specific developments in European societies.
- (3) The Master’s programme in European Politics and Society conveys in all modules – beyond subject-specific competencies – soft skills such as communication and presentation techniques, character formation, team work competencies, the consolidation of rhetorical and written expression as well as independent performance. The teaching of these skills takes place in courses immanently relevant for examinations in all modules.
- (4) In the design of the teachings of all modules close attention is paid to the use of the newest media for deepened and flexible knowledge transfer.
- (5) In-depth, scientifically sound as well as theory- and methodology-based analytical and problem-solving competencies form the educational objective. In both, academia and practice, graduates are qualified
 - to independently work on scientific problems, to evaluate scientific knowledge and to apply it in new contexts particularly relevant for research and to embark on a continuing doctorate;
 - to work on problems pertinent to their respective non-university professional fields in a scientifically informed and practice-oriented way. They dispose of competencies, which facilitate their employment in various occupational fields beyond the domain of European politics and society;

- to reflect ethical and social consequences and preconditions of the use of their knowledge in an well-founded manner.
- (6) The Master's programme in European Politics and Society prepares for
- occupations in academic institutions and particularly for a continuing doctorate and/or
 - executive, planning, analytical or consulting occupations in public administrations, transnational governmental and non-governmental organisations within institutions of the European Union and in transnational associations of parties or unions.

§2 Admission

- (1) Admission to the Master's programme in European Politics and Society requires one of the following:
- a degree of a Bachelor's programme in a related field;
 - a degree of a Bachelor's programme in a related field obtained from a university of applied sciences;
 - an equivalent degree obtained from a accredited postsecondary institution in Austria or abroad.
- (2) A Bachelor's degree in Political Science obtained from the University of Innsbruck is considered a degree in a related field at any rate.

§3 Scope and Duration of Studies

The Master's programme in European Politics and Society comprises 120 ECTS credits, which is equivalent to a duration of studies of four semesters. One ECTS credit is equivalent to a workload of 25 hours.

§4 Course Types and Upper Limit of Participants

- (1) Lectures (LE) are academic readings; they serve to provide a topical introduction or to outline (in a manner to foster understanding) research topics, questions and methodological approaches, and introduce new research findings.
- (2) Seminars (SE) are courses immanently relevant for examinations; they serve for in-depth academic discussion. Participants are required to make written and/or oral contributions. The maximum number of participants is 30.

§5 Procedure for the Allocation of Spots in Courses with a Limited Number of Participants

Spots in courses with a limited number of participants are allocated as follows:

1. Students enrolled in the Master's programme in European Politics and Society potentially facing a prolongation of their duration of study due to postponement, are given preference in registration.
2. Students enrolled in the Master's programme in European Politics and Society are given preference in registration over students of other programmes.

§6 Type, Scope and Short Description of the Courses and Modules Including ECTS credits

The following compulsory modules comprising 95 ECTS credits in total are to be completed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Theories of European Integration	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE Theories of European Integration The lecture analyses the process of European integration in its multilayered and complex formation context. It will deal with different theories providing explanations for interrelations in the development process and for perspectives of integration.	2	4
b.	SE Theories of European Integration The seminar serves to discursively and critically discuss theories of European integration, particularly in view of the prognostic capacity of the European integration process.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5
	Educational objective of the module: Understanding of the logic of theories and processes of European integration and interpretability of different scenarios of the European integration process.		
	Registration requirements: none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Political System of the European Union	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE Political System of the European Union The lecture analyses institutions, processes, supranational and state actors of the European Union. It particularly focuses on the European Union as a highly complex multi-level system and its cooperative decision-making mechanisms with the institutions of the Member States.	2	4
b.	SE Political System of the European Union The seminar addresses the complex process of interdependence and cooperation of institutions and procedures of the European Union and its consequences for the various policy fields.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5
	Educational objective of the module: Understanding of the logic of the European Union's political system.		
	Registration requirements: none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Policy Fields and Structural Change in the EU	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE Policy Fields and Structural Change in the EU	2	4

	The lecture gives an overview of the supranational and intergovernmental policy fields of the EU. Moreover, the lecture outlines the social movements, their social-structural and cultural conditions leading to the creation of the EU, and gender-specific aspects as well as discursive and action-driven strategies relevant for the EU context.		
b.	SE Policy Fields and Structural Change in the EU The seminar analyses specific policy fields of the European Union and the societal structural change in the Member States of the EU.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5
Educational objective of the module: Overview of the societal structural change and the different policy fields of the EU. Various mechanisms of discrimination (i.e. based on sexual orientation, religious convictions, ethnic or linguistic belonging) will also be covered in the context of structural change.			
Registration requirements: none			

4.	Compulsory Module: European Law	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE European Law The lecture will give a detailed introduction to the institutional law of the European Union. Subsequently, an overview of the substantive law of the EU will be provided.	2	4
b.	SE European Law The seminar serves to deepen current questions in EU law and to analyse overarching relations between individual sectors and policy fields.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5
Educational objective of the module: Students acquire an overview of the legal structures of the European Union and are able to independently and correctly analyse and evaluate legal facts of the EU law.			
Registration requirements: none			

5.	Compulsory Module: Governments and Parliaments in Europe	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE Governments and Parliaments in Europe The lecture gives an overview of the most important concepts of comparative government and research on parliamentarianism.	2	4
b.	SE Governments and Parliaments in Europe The seminar deals with select aspects of comparative government and parliamentarianism research by means of concrete case studies.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5

	Educational objective of the module: Knowledge of the basic functions of executive and legislative relations on state level.
	Registration requirements: none

6.	Compulsory Module: Parties and Lobbies in Europe	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE Parties and Lobbies in Europe The lecture gives an overview of the most important concepts of party and lobby research, applying a comparative perspective.	2	4
b.	SE Parties and Lobbies in Europe The seminar deals with select aspects of party and lobby research by means of concrete case studies. Questions with gender-specific articulation are also considered adequately.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5
	Educational objective of the module: Knowledge of the structures and functions of lobbies.		
	Registration requirements: none		

7.	Compulsory Module: EU External Relations and Security Policy	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE EU Foreign, Security and Defence Policy The lecture provides an introduction to institutions and processes of the EU foreign, security and defence policy. In this context, the potentials of communitarianism, structural and institutional deficits, the civil and military dimension of the ESDP and its interplay with regional organisations of collective defence and global organisations of collective security are analysed.	2	4
b.	SE EU Foreign, Security and Defence Policy The seminar deepens the knowledge acquired in the lecture in select areas of the overall topic.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5
	Educational objective of the module: The module conveys theoretical and practice-oriented knowledge of the EU foreign, security and defence policy. Students are able to apply the knowledge in relevant professional fields.		
	Registration requirements: none		

8.	Compulsory Module: Methods of Comparative Policy and Social Analysis	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE Methods of Comparative Policy and Social Analysis The lecture builds on existing knowledge of basic empirical social research and statistics, teaches advanced methods and introduces	2	4

	the comparative perspective into the systematic empirical analysis. Both multivariate quantitative and advanced qualitative methods are presented.		
b.	SE Methods of Comparative Policy and Social Analysis The seminar runs parallel to the lecture and serves to reflect and practically apply the acquired knowledge in advanced qualitative and/or quantitative methods of empirical social research. The comparative approach is given special consideration. The seminar goes through all steps of the research process in its entirety, by means of a practice-related example. Micro, meso and macro structures in politics and society may serve as objects of study. Comparative case studies are also possible.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5
	Educational objective of the module: Students are familiar with advanced methods and instruments of empirical social research and know advantages as well as disadvantages of the comparative approach. From theoretical knowledge and advanced methods of empirical social research students rise to a critical reflection and independent application thereof.		
	Registration requirements: none		

9.	Compulsory Module: Political Communication and Public Opinion in Europe	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE Political Communication and Public Opinion in Europe The lecture provides an overview of the institutional conditions, such as practices of mass media political communication and public opinions in European comparison, with an emphasis on political communications management and the professionalization of the political communication process.	2	4
b.	SE Political Communication and Public Opinion in Europe Selected topics on political communication (i.e. political communication in TV newscasts, political communication culture and the interplay of publicised and public opinion) will be analysed comparatively by means of case studies.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5
	Educational objective of the module: Understanding of the logic of political communication, practices of political communication and communication cultures in European comparison.		
	Registration requirements: none		

10.	Compulsory Module: Electoral Analysis and Electoral Behaviour in Europe	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE Electoral Analysis and Electoral Behaviour in Europe The lecture presents the most important explicative theories and models of electoral behaviour and provides an overview of the	2	4

	status quo of empirical research on comparative electoral and participation research.		
b.	SE Electoral Analysis and Electoral Behaviour in Europe Special research questions such as long-term trends and patterns of the European, and also gender-specific, electoral behaviour are analysed in the seminar by means of case studies or existing data sets.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5
	Educational objective of the module: Knowledge of and familiarity with theoretical and empirical instruments of electoral research, enabling students to use models and techniques of empirical electoral research independently.		
	Registration requirements: none		

11.	Compulsory Module: European States and the International System	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE European States and the International System The lecture gives an overview of the foreign, security and defence policy of the states in the European/Eurasian area in a global environment (all continents and international organisations).	2	4
b.	SE European States and the International System The seminar deepens the knowledge generated in the lecture in select fields of the overall topic.	2	3.5
	Total	4	7.5
	Educational objective of the module: The module conveys theoretical and practice-oriented knowledge of the European states in a global context. Students are able to apply the knowledge in relevant professional fields.		
	Registration requirements: none		

12.	Compulsory Module: Civil Society, Gender Relations and Minorities	SH	ECTS credits
a.	LE Civil Society, Gender Relations and Minorities The lecture deals with “civil society”, unity and difference as well as the integration and conflict of its citizens. It also covers the socio-economic structure and socio-cultural construction of identity through which unity and difference, and integration and conflict of “civil society” are created, sustained and changed. Gender as well as majority/minority relations are considered in particular.	2	4
b.	SE Civil Society, Gender Relations and Minorities The seminar deals with a selection of current questions of civil society, its differentiation and integration with a special regard to	2	3.5

	gender relations and minorities.		
	Total	4	7.5
	Educational objective of the module: Students gain insight in to the complex patterns of social differentiation and integration of “civil society” as well as in to the social and cultural structures and processes creating such patterns.		
	Registration requirements: none		

13.	Compulsory Module: Master Thesis Colloquium	SH	ECTS credits
	SE Master Thesis Colloquium The seminar offers a forum for support of ongoing Master theses. The current state of theses from students will be discussed and commented on.	2	2.5
	Total	2	2.5
	Educational objective of the module: Consolidation of the work on the Master thesis.		
	Registration requirements: none		

14.	Compulsory Module: Master Thesis Defense	SH	ECTS credits
	Oral defense of the Master thesis (Defensio).		2.5
	Total		2.5
	Educational objective of the module: Reflection of a scientific work in the overall context of the Master’s programme European Politics and Society, with emphasis on the theoretical understanding, methodological foundation, transfer of the results of the Master thesis and presentational skills.		
	Registration requirements: Positive evaluation of all other modules and of the Master thesis.		

§7 Master Thesis

- (1) Students of the Master’s programme in European Politics and Society are required to write a master thesis. The master thesis is a scientific piece of work providing proof of the ability to work on a scientific subject in an independent and substantial way, as well as methodologically acceptable manner.
- (2) The topic of the master thesis is based on a compulsory module pursuant to § 6 L 1 to 12.

- (3) Students are entitled to propose the topic of their master thesis or to choose from a number of proposed topics. The topic will be assigned only after a positive evaluation of the module to which the topic pertains.
- (4) The master thesis comprises an amount of work equivalent to 25 ECTS credits.

§8 Examination Rules

- (1) Performance review of a module is effected through the assessment in the courses comprised in the module (course examinations) with the exception of the module “Master Thesis Defense”.
- (2) For courses immanently relevant for examinations, the method of examination (written/oral examination(s)) is determined and announced by course instructors prior to the beginning of the course.
- (3) The method of examination in lectures is a written exam.
- (4) The performance evaluation of the final module “Master Thesis Defense” pursuant to § 6 L 14 takes place in the frame of an oral exam before an examination senate, which is comprised of three persons including the supervisor for the master thesis.

§9 Academic Degree

Graduates of the Master’s programme European Politics and Society are awarded the degree “Master of Science”, in short “MSc”.

§10 Coming into force

This curriculum comes into force on 1st October 2008.

For the Curriculum Commission:
e.o. Prof. Dr. Gerhard Mangott

For the Senate:
Prof. Dr. Ivo Hajnal