

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 21, No. 188. 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 Social and Political Theory
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 Social and Political Theory belongs to the group of programmes in social sciences.
- (2) Social scientific theory for the purpose of elaborating theoretic-conceptual requirements for research is – next to methodology and material expertise – as such one of the three pillars of the social sciences. The quality of applied and practical-empirical research critically depends on the theoretical ground work. The Master’s programme in Social and Political Theory conveys knowledge of foundational paradigms and corresponding discourses in social sciences as well as the relevance of theoretical decisions for practice and empiricism of the social realm.
- (3) The Master’s programme in Social and Political Theory fosters in all modules – beyond subject-specific competencies – soft skills such as communicative abilities, particularly presentation techniques in terms of knowledge acquired in the Master’s programme, team work competencies, consolidated rhetorical and written expression, enhanced independent performance and the ability to critical reflection and tolerance towards other positions.
- (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) The study objective consists in the enhanced theory competency as basis for social scientific knowledge. 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 creatively refine it.
- (6) The Master’s programme in Social and Political Theory prepares for
 - occupations in academic institutions and particularly for a continuing doctorate and/or
 - executive, planning, analytical or consulting occupations in public administrations, the private sector as well as transnational governmental and non-governmental organisations;
 - professional occupations in the broad field of social research and social counselling.

§2 Admission

- (1) Admission to the Master's programme in Social and Political Theory 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 or a Bachelor's degree in Sociology 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 Social and Political Theory comprises 120 ECTS credits, which is equivalent to the duration of studies of four semesters. One ECTS credit is equivalent to a workload of 25 hours.

§4 Course Types and Upper Limits 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 Social and Political Theory 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 Social and Political Theory are given preference in registration over students of other programmes.

§6 Type, Scope and Short Description of the Courses and Compulsory as well as Elective Modules including ECTS credits

- (1) The following compulsory modules comprising 85 ECTS credits in total are to be completed:

| 1. | Compulsory Module: History of Social and Political Thought | SH | ECTS credits |
|-----------|---|-----------|---------------------|
| a. | LE History of Social and Political Thought | 2 | 5 |

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| | The lecture gives an overview of social and political thought from the beginning of intellectual history to the antecedents of classical sociological theory in the 19 th century. Their relevance is linked to the current discourse in the social sciences. | | |
| b. | SE History of Social and Political Thought In the seminar, students independently work on seminal texts of the history of social and political thought in an exemplary fashion. | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| Educational objective of the module: Extrapolation from the history of social and political thought through its significance for contemporary social sciences. | | | |
| Registration requirements: none | | | |

| 2. | Compulsory Module: Classical Sociological Theory | SH | ECTS credits |
|---|---|-----------|---------------------|
| a. | LE Classical Sociological Theory The lecture gives an overview of paradigms developed during the foundation phase of sociology, in particular of works by Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and Georg Simmel. Less well-known conceptions of sociology in their fields as well as the immediate prehistory of the formation of sociology (e.g. Comte, Marx) are also addressed. | 2 | 5 |
| b. | SE Classical Sociological Theory In the seminar, students independently work on exemplary texts of classical sociological theory. | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| Educational objective of the module: Knowledge about paradigms of classical sociology, ability to critical reflection and adaptation for current sociology thereof. | | | |
| Registration requirements: none | | | |

| 3. | Compulsory Module: Philosophy of Science and Methodology of Social Sciences | SH | ECTS credits |
|-----------|---|-----------|---------------------|
| a. | LE Philosophy of Science and Methodology of Social Sciences The lecture deals with metatheoretical and methodological positions, which build the foundation for social scientific paradigms. They include the scientific model of logical positivism and the antipositivist turn carried forward by Thomas Kuhn, critical rationalism, the discourse on critical theory in the frame of the positivist dispute, hermeneutics, problems of freedom from value judgement in social sciences, terminology (function, structure, process) as well as discourses on causality and social laws. | 2 | 5 |

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| b. | SE Philosophy of Science and Methodology of Social Sciences In the seminar, students independently work on exemplary texts of the philosophy of science and the methodology of social sciences. | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| | Educational objective of the module: In-depth knowledge with regard to principal questions on knowledge generation and the ability to understand social scientific theories in terms of metatheoretical questions and positions. | | |
| | Registration requirements: none | | |

| 4. | Compulsory Module: Contemporary Sociological Theory | SH | ECTS credits |
|-----------|--|-----------|---------------------|
| a. | LE Contemporary Sociological Theory The lecture provides an introduction to the scientific laboratory of contemporary sociological theorising. Perspectives and categories of currently influential sociological theories are developed. The lecture gives an overview of the most important sociological theories and key concepts of postclassical theory discourses such as micro and macro approaches, action and structure, critical theory and system theory significant in Germany, neofunctionalism as well as the historical world system theory. Theoretical implications of gender studies and the postmodern as well as postcolonial sociological maxims are also considered in the lecture. | 2 | 5 |
| b. | SE Contemporary Sociological Theory In the seminar, exemplary works of contemporary sociological theory are addressed. | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| | Educational objective of the module: The module aims to identify and critically process the postclassical theoretical landscape in its evolution, strategies and differences. | | |
| | Registration requirements: none | | |

| 5. | Compulsory Module: Systemic Social Theories | SH | ECTS credits |
|-----------|---|-----------|---------------------|
| a. | LE Systemic Social Theories The lecture gives an overview of systemic and holistic conceptions of the social realm as represented in the works of Talcott Parsons and Niklas Luhmann. It also covers the system theoretic field, such as the work of Gregory Bateson, and more recent approaches like the post-Luhmann school and neofunctionalism. | 2 | 5 |
| b. | SE Systemic Social Theories In the seminar, students independently work on exemplary texts of | 2 | 5 |

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| | the systemic social theories. | | |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| | Educational objective of the module: Knowledge of systemic approaches, their scientific and applied potential as well as an in-depth understanding and the ability to critically reflect and apply systemic social theories. | | |
| | Registration requirements: none | | |

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| 6. | Compulsory Module: Theories of the State, Democracy and Power | SH | ECTS credits |
| a. | LE Theories of the State, Democracy and Power The lecture gives an overview of the historic development and contemporary theories of the state, democracy and power, including the principles of normative political thought and current questions of political philosophy. | 2 | 5 |
| b. | SE Theories of the State, Democracy and Power In the seminar, students independently work on exemplary texts of theories of the state, democracy and power. | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| | Educational objective of the module: Overview of the most important theories of the state, democracy and power as well as in-depth knowledge of and the ability to critically reflect these theories. | | |
| | Registration requirements: none | | |

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| 7. | Compulsory Module: Theories of Action | SH | ECTS credits |
| a. | LE Theories of Action The lecture addresses sociological theories, which take social subjects' ability to act as a primary starting point in the analysis of social action, institutional forms and societal structures. Two approaches can be differentiated: understanding-oriented (interpretive, e.g. symbolic interactionism) and explaining-oriented (nomologic, e.g. Rational Choice theories) approaches. Questions of the relation between action and structure, individual action creativity and communicative, socio-structural and cultural action as well as contexts of meaning are addressed against the background of classic and contemporary theories. | 2 | 5 |
| b. | SE Theories of Action In the seminar, students independently work on exemplary texts in the field of theories of action. | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| | Educational objective of the module: In-depth understanding of and ability to critically reflect and apply theories of action. | | |

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| | Registration requirements: none |
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| 8. | Compulsory Module: Theory-based Empirical Social and Policy Analysis | SH | ECTS credits |
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| a. | LE Theory-based Empirical Social and Policy Analysis Different theoretical positions are discussed in a comparative fashion. The resulting consequences for qualitative empirical research as well as problem solutions are addressed against the background of concrete empirical research questions. | 2 | 5 |
| b. | SE Theory-based Empirical Social and Policy Analysis Different theoretical positions are discussed in a comparative fashion. The resulting consequences for qualitative empirical research as well as problem solutions are addressed against the background of concrete empirical research questions. | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| | Educational objective of the module: Ability to implement theoretical models into applied empirical research projects. | | |
| | Registration requirements: none | | |

| 9. | Compulsory Module: Master Thesis Colloquium | SH | ECTS credits |
|-----------|--|-----------|---------------------|
| | SE Master Thesis Colloquium The seminar offers a forum for support of ongoing Master theses. Theses in their current state are presented at a glance and aspects are elaborated in more depth. | 2 | 2.5 |
| | Total | 2 | 2.5 |
| | Educational objective of the module: Consolidation of the work on the Master thesis. | | |
| | Registration requirements: none | | |

| 10. | 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 Social and Political Theory, 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. | | |

- (2) One of the following elective modules comprising 10 ECTS credits is to be completed:

| 1. | Elective Module: Theories of Socio-cultural Evolution | SH | ECTS credits |
|-----------|--|-----------|---------------------|
| a. | LE Theories of Socio-cultural Evolution The lecture addresses long-term development and transformation processes of societies and societal systems. Historically, it forges a bridge from early societies to the current discourse on globalisation. Questions of causes, drivers, mechanisms and forms of socio-cultural change and societal transitions are discussed against the background of relevant sociological debates. | 2 | 5 |
| b. | SE Theories of Socio-cultural Evolution The seminar deepens the theoretical approaches introduced in the lecture based on specific topics. | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| | Educational objective of the module: Familiarity with the analytic potential of the different theoretical approaches in the field of socio-cultural evolution and ability to reflectively deal with them. | | |
| | Registration requirements: none | | |

| 2. | Elective Module: Culture and Society | SH | ECTS credits |
|-----------|--|-----------|---------------------|
| a. | LE Cultural Theory: Culture and Society The lecture gives an overview of the diverse concepts of culture, one of the key terms in social sciences, and the consequences of theoretical decisions in this regard for the understanding of the social realm. | 2 | 5 |
| b. | SE Cultural Theory: Culture and Society In the seminar, students independently work on exemplary texts in the field of culture and society. | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| | Educational objective of the module: Knowledge of the diverse conceptions of culture in social sciences and understanding of the relevance of culture for sociology and social research. | | |
| | Registration requirements: none | | |

| 3. | Elective Module: Theories of Gender Relations | SH | ECTS credits |
|-----------|---|-----------|---------------------|
| a. | LE Theories of Gender Relations The lecture gives an overview of theories dealing with gender relations. Both, classical social-philosophical texts on the “nature” and “determination” of men and women and the most important theoretical approaches of modern gender studies – theories of | 2 | 5 |

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| | equality, difference theories and deconstruction – are dealt with. Their significance for current social scientific theory formation is also discussed. | | |
| b. | SE Theories of Gender Relations In the seminar, students independently work on exemplary texts in the field of theories of gender relations. The texts' contributions to the current social-theoretical discourse and to the understanding of present day society will also be evaluated. | 2 | 5 |
| | Total | 4 | 10 |
| Educational objective of the module: In-depth understanding of and ability to critically reflect on questions of gender relations and their relevance for social theory and practice. | | | |
| Registration requirements: none | | | |

§7 Master Thesis

- (1) Students of the Master's programme in Social and Political Theory 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 sec. 1 L 1 to 8 or the chosen elective module pursuant to § 6 sec. 2.
- (3) Students are entitled to propose the topic of their master thesis or to choose from a number of proposed topics.
- (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 Defence".
- (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 (written or oral) for lectures is determined and announced by course instructors prior to the beginning of the course.
- (4) The performance evaluation of the final module "Master Thesis Defence" pursuant to § 6 sec. 1 L 10 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 Social and Political Theory are awarded the degree "Master of Arts", in short "MA".

§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