



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

FACULTY

OF BUSINESS, ECONOMICS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

STUDY GUIDE MASTER OF SCIENCE POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND PHILOSOPHY

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The information provided in this study guide is not legally binding and shall apply subject to the respective current versions of the examination regulations and the subject-specific provisions. Subject to change.

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1. Studying Politics, Economics and Philosophy

Dear students,

I welcome you to the master's program "**Politics, Economics and Philosophy**" (PEP) at the University of Hamburg and wish you a successful start into your course of study. You have selected a challenging interdisciplinary program that will at the same time deepen and complement the knowledge you have acquired with your bachelor's degree.

This study guide will provide you with some essential information about PEP (the curriculum, assessments etc.)

and it is meant to support you in the successful completion of the program. If you have questions that are not answered in this study guide, please do not hesitate to contact the staff at the Academic Office of the Department of Economics (Studienbüro Volkswirtschaftslehre), the PEP program director and the professors and research associates teaching in PEP.

I am looking forward to a fruitful collaboration with you!

Prof. Dr. Anke Gerber

(Program Director MSc Politics, Economics and Philosophy)

2. Master's Degree Program in Politics, Economics and Philosophy

2.1 Program profile

The major theme of the program *Politics, Economics and Philosophy* (PEP) is the analysis of individual and collective decisions which will be studied from the perspective of the three disciplines involved. Students will learn how to combine insights from political science, economics and philosophy in order to solve decision problems arising in such diverse areas as politics, corporate governance, international relations and others.

AT A GLANCE:

Majoring in Politics, Economics and Philosophy

Program title:

Politics, Economics and Philosophy (MSc)

Specifics:

Two year program

Total credits:

120 ECTS credit points

Regular period of study:

4 semesters

Program structure:

Full-time study (part-time study possible)

Admission:

Winter semester only

Application period:

15 February – 31 March

Number of places

35

Program website:

www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de//msc-pep

Contact:

www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/studienbuero-volks-wirtschaftslehre

2.3 Program content and structure

The program duration is two years (four semesters). In each of the first three semesters, the students attend disciplinary courses in political science, economics and philosophy as well as interdisciplinary seminars. The fourth semester is devoted to the master's thesis.

2.3.1 Curriculum

The PEP curriculum consists of five required modules, a required elective module and the master's thesis. The required modules and the required elective module have to be completed within the first three semesters while the master's thesis is written in the fourth semester. In addition, there is the non-compulsory preparatory course *Intermediate Microeconomics* which takes place as a block course before the start of the regular courses in the first semester. This course is particularly recommended to those students who do not have a bachelor's degree in economics. The courses in the required elective module can be chosen from a list of open courses offered by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities. In each semester, the list of courses that are eligible for the PEP required elective module is published in STiNE. Students have to acquire a total of 120 credit points (CP) for the successful completion of the PEP program. These 120 CP are distributed across the required modules, the required electives module and the master's thesis as follows:

| Required Modules | | 78 CP |
|--------------------------|---|-------|
| Module 1 | Epistemology and History of Ideas | 12 CP |
| Module 2 | Philosophy and Economics of Individual and Social Choice | 12 CP |
| Module 3 | Individual and Collective Decisions | 12 CP |
| Module 4 | Institutions in Economic and Political Perspective | 18 CP |
| Module 5 | Interdisciplinary Seminars | 24 CP |
| Required Elective Module | Various courses offered by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities | 12 CP |
| Master's Thesis | | 30 CP |

2.2 Program objectives and career prospects

PEP is a research-oriented master's program and it aims to provide a thorough and rigorous training in modern theories and methods in political science, economics and philosophy. On the one hand, PEP is designed for students who subsequently intend to enter a Ph.D. program in one of the three disciplines and who want to pursue an interdisciplinary approach in their research. On the other hand, PEP addresses students who want to pursue a career in the public sector, a private enterprise or in national and international organizations.

Students are required to be present during class time in all courses except for the preparatory course *Intermediate Microeconomics*. You must not miss more than 15% of the classes in a course in order to complete it.

2.3.2 Required Modules

In the following, we provide a brief description of the required modules. For more details please have a look at the *Fachspezifische Bestimmungen für den Masterstudiengang "Politics, Economics and Philosophy (MSc)"* (subject-specific provisions for the master's program "Politics, Economic and Philosophy") which can be downloaded from the website of the Campus Center.

Module 1: Epistemology and History of Ideas

This module gives an overview of modern epistemology, the philosophy of science and the history of economic thought. Students learn to deliberate over the methodological background of the disciplines, they acquire knowledge of the history of economic thought and they learn to reflect on debates in current economics drawing on the history of economic thought.

| Courses in Module 1 | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Epistemology of Social Sciences | |
| Semester | 1 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 2 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 6 |
| History of Economic Thought | |
| Semester | 1 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 3 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 6 |

Module 2: Philosophy and Economics of Individual and Social Choice

This module is devoted to the positive and normative analysis of individual and collective decision-making. Students learn about the fundamental conflict between basic normative criteria in collective decision-making and they become familiar with issues of distributive justice and with ethical theories that are particularly relevant to the study of decision making in politics and economics.

| Courses in Module 2 | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Social Choice and Welfare | |
| Semester | 1 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 3 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 6 |
| Ethics | |
| Semester | 1 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 2 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 6 |

Module 3: Individual and Collective Decisions

In this module, students acquire basic knowledge in the descriptive theory of individual and collective decisions. Moreover, they learn how to apply economic methods to analyze behavior of political agents like governments, parties and lobby groups.

| Courses in Module 3 | |
|----------------------|---|
| Public Choice | |
| Semester | 2 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 3 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 6 |
| Behavioral Economics | |
| Semester | 3 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 3 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 6 |

Module 4: Institutions in Economic and Political Perspective

In this module, students develop the capacity to analyze the effect of institutions on individual and collective decisions against the background of economic and political theory. They learn how to analyze specific national and international organizations and the legal texts and contracts they are subject to. Moreover, students learn how to apply modern political theories to questions of welfare economics and individual and collective decision-making processes and they are trained in deriving and justifying normative positions based upon these theories.

| Courses in Module 4 | |
|--|---|
| International Political Economy | |
| Semester | 2 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 3 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 6 |
| Economics and Politics of Institutions | |
| Semester | 3 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 3 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 6 |
| Political Theory | |
| Semester | 3 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 2 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 6 |

Module 5: Interdisciplinary Seminars

In the interdisciplinary seminars methods and results from philosophy, economics and politics are applied, consolidated and contrasted in view of specific individual and collective decision-making problems. Students have to choose two out of three interdisciplinary seminars.

Courses in Module 5

| Interdisciplinary Seminar in Politics and Economics | |
|--|--------|
| Semester | 2 or 3 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 2 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 12 |

| Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Economics | |
|--|--------|
| Semester | 2 or 3 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 2 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 12 |

| Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Politics | |
|---|--------|
| Semester | 2 or 3 |
| SWS (hours/week) | 2 |
| CP (Credit Points) | 12 |

| Required Elective Module | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Various courses | |
| Semester | 1 or 2 |
| SWS (hours/week) | variable |
| CP (Credit Points) | 12 |

Part-time study

Students can apply to study part-time if they have a valid reason for not being able to devote at least half of their working hours to their studies.

For more information, please contact the [Campus Center](#). It is important to check at an early stage whether part-time study is necessary or appropriate for your specific case and what the requirements and procedures are.

Whether you are applying for part-time study or not, it is recommended to contact the [program coordination](#) in the Academic Office for advice if you want or need to deviate from the planned study plan. The program coordination will assist you in creating individual study plans and ensuring that you can successfully achieve your study goals.

may propose a topic to your supervisor, who will, in turn, assign the final topic to you. The master's thesis must be completed within 6 months after filing. It must be written in English. 30 credit points are granted for the successful completion of the master's thesis.

2.5 Master's Degree

The degree "Master of Science (MSc)" is awarded to those students who have acquired 120 credit points in the PEP program. The final grade is the weighted average of the grades for all modules and the master's thesis, where the weight for a module, resp. the master's thesis, is given by the number of credit points acquired with the module, resp. the master's thesis.

Semester abroad

As part of your studies, you have the opportunity to study at a foreign university for a semester. There is a close network with a number of European universities as part of the Erasmus program (e.g. with the universities of Helsinki, Bologna, Bolzano, Paris (Sorbonne), Prague). Information on the Erasmus program and comprehensive organizational support can be obtained from the [International Office](#) of the WISO Faculty.

You can also organize a stay at a foreign university on your own. We will be happy to support you. To ensure that the credits earned at a host university can be recognized to your studies, please coordinate your study plans in advance with the program coordinator at the Academic Office Economics.

If you would like to spend time abroad, we recommend that you start planning early, preferably after completing your first semester.

2.4 Master's Thesis

The fourth semester is devoted to the master's thesis. Students are admitted to the master's thesis if they have earned at least 72 credit points, where 12 credit points have been acquired in interdisciplinary seminars. Students must apply for admission to the master's thesis not later than 6 weeks after having passed all modules. You

| Curriculum: Politics, Economics and Philosophy (MSc) | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| | Preparatory Course | Semester 1 | Semester 2 | Semester 3 | Semester 4 |
| Preparatory Course | Intermediate Microeconomics | | | | |
| Required Elective Module | | Elective (6 CP) | Elective (6 CP) | | |
| Required Module | | Epistemology of Social Sciences (6 CP) | | | Master's Thesis (30 CP) |
| | | History of Economic Thought (6 CP) | Public Choice (6 CP) | Behavioral Economics (6 CP) | |
| | | Social Choice and Welfare (6 CP) | International Political Economy (6 CP) | Economics and Politics of Institutions (6 CP) | |
| | | Ethics (6 CP) | | Political Theory (6 CP) | |
| Interdisciplinary Seminars | | | Interdisciplinary Seminar I (12 CP) Interdisciplinary Seminar II (12 CP) 2 out of 3: Interdisciplinary Seminar in Politics and Economics, Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Economics, Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Politics | | |
| | | | | | |
| Intermediate Microeconomics (Preparatory Course) | | | | | |
| Module | | | Courses | Total CP | |
| Required Module 1 | Epistemology and History of Ideas | | 2 | 12 | |
| Required Module 2 | Philosophy and Economics of Individual and Social Choice | | 2 | 12 | |
| Required Module 3 | Individual and Collective Decisions | | 2 | 12 | |
| Required Module 4 | Institutions in Economic and Political Perspective | | 3 | 18 | |
| Required Module 5 | Interdisciplinary Seminars | | 2 | 24 | |
| Required Elective Module | The courses in the required elective module can be chosen from a list of open courses offered by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities.* | | | 12 | |
| Master's Thesis | Master's Thesis | | | 30 | |
| Total Credit Points | | | | 120 | |

Fig 1: Curriculum

*The final number of courses to be completed in the required elective module depends on the credit points for each course. Overall, 12 credit points have to be earned. Credit points for selected courses may vary.

3. Assessment Framework and Deadlines

3.1 Assessment

At the beginning of each course, the instructor will announce the form of the assessment in the course. In some courses, there is a written exam at the end of the semester. In others, students have to write a term paper. In some courses, including the interdisciplinary seminars, the assessment consists of a combination of different types of examination, e.g. a term paper, an oral presentation and a written exam.

The instructor may also assign particular course work to the students (short essays, problem sets, oral presentations etc.) and approve only those students for the final exam who have completed the assigned tasks. The instructor can give a bonus for particular achievements in the course work. The bonus can improve the final grade for the course by up to 0.7 points conditional on pass.

If the assessment is in form of a final written exam, there are two examination dates: one at the end of the lecture period of the given semester and one at the end of the break before the next semester starts. For other types of assessments, e.g. an oral presentation or an essay, there is usually only one examination or submission date.

Please observe that an exam is always graded as “failed” if a student has registered for the exam but does not participate in the exam. In case of illness students are required to submit a doctor’s certificate to the Academic Office immediately.

The results of the exams are published in STiNE. The German grading system is as follows:

- 1 = “very good” is granted for an excellent performance.
- 2 = “good” is granted for a performance that is well above average.
- 3 = “satisfactory” is granted for an average performance.
- 4 = “sufficient” is granted for a performance that is just sufficient to pass despite some deficiencies.
- 5 = “insufficient” means that the student has failed.

For a more differentiated assessment interim grades are allowed, where the integer grades are increased or decreased by 0.3 points. Observe, however, that the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7 and 5.3 are not allowed.

The final grade for a module is the weighted average of the grades for the single courses in the module, where the weight of a course is given by the number of credit points acquired with the course.

3.2 Assessment glossary

Attendance requirement: Attendance is mandatory for all classes. Nevertheless, lecturers are free to waive mandatory class attendance. If attendance is mandatory, however, you must meet the attendance requirement to be able to sit for the module examination. This requirement is deemed satisfied if you miss no more than 15% of classes in a course. If you can provide a good reason for any absence above and beyond this limit, it will be at the lecturers’ discretion whether they deem the attendance requirement met (for instance, if additional coursework documenting your acquisition of the learning material you missed is completed).

Credit points: Credit points are not an indication of the quality of academic performance, but rather define the average workload you can expect for a module or assessment component. Attending courses and independent study, preparing and following up on learning material, and preparing for and completing coursework are all taken into account. According to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), one credit point corresponds to a total of 25–30 hours of work. When an assessment or module is successfully completed, you will be credited the full number of points. This means that the module will only appear in your academic record when it has been completed in full.

In Europe, the terms *credit points (CP)* and *ECTS* are generally used interchangeably. However, if you opt to spend a semester abroad, we recommend you check whether the foreign university uses the ECTS or another system.

Modules: The master’s degree is organized into modules comprising classes that are thematically linked with one another systematically. Each module concludes with an assessment generally relating to each of the module components (courses). Modules can be required (meaning you must take them) or required electives (that you can select from a catalog of courses).

Assessments: Common assessment types are written exams and term papers. A term paper is an original research paper on a topic covered in the course in question. It generally takes several weeks to prepare a term paper, which is mostly set at the end of the lecture period. Other assessment types include project work, which also involves an oral presentation of the results in addition to a written piece, text analyses and written exams. All assessment types are defined in the examination regulations and the subject-specific provisions and are also detailed in the course catalogue before the start of class registration (deadlines, examinations, etc.). An assessment is considered passed if a grade of 4.0 (“Sufficient”) or higher is awarded.

It is not possible to re-take assessments you have already passed (e.g., to improve your grade).

Coursework: Completed coursework may be a prerequisite for you being allowed to sit a module examination. Compared with assessment tasks that must be completed under exam conditions, coursework is a less intensive form of assessment. The possible types of coursework are defined in the subject-specific provisions: course notes, short presentations, group presentations, essays, excerpts or reviews, annotated bibliographies, written tests or examinations, exercises, documentation and reflection on individual learning outcomes, etc. Details of the coursework foreseen for a class (including bonus regulations) will be published in the course catalog at the start of class registration. Coursework is considered passed if the grade of 4.0 ("Sufficient") or higher is awarded. However, a grade will not be awarded as such.

4. Class and Examination Registration

4.1 STiNE—The University of Hamburg's student information network

STiNE is the University of Hamburg's web-based student information network that serves as an information and communication system for students, lecturers, and employees. It is also the central platform for applying to degree programs at the University of Hamburg and registering for courses and examinations. Moreover, it provides an overview of your academic progress and examination results.

You receive your individual login details (ID, password, iTAN block) to log into STiNE at enrollment. Should you not receive these details or experience technical difficulties, please contact the STiNE support service at the Regional Computing Center (RRZ).

STiNE Portal:

www.stine.uni-hamburg.de

RRZ-Servicedesk Regional Computing Center
Schlüterstraße 70 Room 15

Contact:

Please use the support form in STiNE to send your questions or problems to the STiNE helpline. You can find this form in the menu (logged-in area) on the left-hand side of the screen.

participation constraints in the courses in the required elective module. If there are more applications than places, students are admitted according to some allocation rule like, for example, a random assignment.

If you have difficulties registering for courses and examinations, please contact the STiNE support or the examination manager responsible for your degree program in a timely manner.

The MSc PEP has a two-step registration process. First you need to register for the module. Then you must register for the course. When you register for the course, you must also register for the associated exam. For a course in the required elective module, registration is directly for the course itself.

Please check STiNE at the end of the registration period to see if your registration for a class was successful and you can attend it. In this phase, the specific time point of registration is not crucial. In case a course is over-booked the places are assigned randomly. During the changes and corrections period, however, the remaining available places are allotted immediately during the registration procedure. Registration for the respective class is binding once the changes and corrections period has ended. You can only deregister yourself from the examination.

It is very important to deregister from all classes that you do not wish to attend. Please note that there is no automatic registration or deregistration. It is always your responsibility to register or deregister by the respective deadline.

There is a separate registration procedure for the master's thesis. You must have earned a total of 72 credit points, where 12 credit points have to be acquired in interdisciplinary seminars, in order to be eligible for registration. Registration takes place via a special form available on the homepage of the Academic Office, not through STiNE. In particular, this form documents your thesis topic and your supervisor and it has to be signed by your supervisor. We strongly recommend that you begin planning your master's thesis in a timely manner and carefully read the specific examination regulations.

Additional information on registering and deregistering from classes, examinations and theses is available on the homepage of the Academic Office.

4.2 Registering for and withdrawing from classes and examinations

In order to participate in classes and examinations, you must register through STiNE.

There are two registration periods in STiNE for this purpose: the first *general registration period* and a second *changes and corrections period* that begins after the start of the lecture period and during which you can register for the remaining available places as necessary. We strongly recommend registering for all your courses and examinations during the general registration period as you may not be able to attend any classes in the respective semester if you miss the first registration period. You should therefore check deadlines well in advance and ensure that you have all of the information and login details necessary for registering.

PEP students are guaranteed to always get a place in the courses of the required modules. However, there may be

5. Academic Office Economics

5.1 Tasks of the Academic Office

The Academic Office Economics supplies students in the Department of Economics with information and services relating to organizing studies in the subject-specific area. All tasks for the economics degree programs are handled here. Teams supervise the individual degree programs and offer prospective and current students as well as lecturers' comprehensive advice and services.

5.2 Contact to the Academic Office

The current opening hours of the servicepoint, the office hours of the staff and an overview of responsibilities can be found on the website of the Academic Office under '[Contact](#)'.

Address of the Academic Office Economics

University of Hamburg
Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences
Academic Office Economics
Von-Melle-Park 5 (Section C, groundfloor)
20146 Hamburg

Webpage of the Academic Office Economics

<https://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/en/studienbuero-volkswirtschaftslehre>

5.3 Contact persons in the Academic Office

Various members of staff look after your needs in the Academic Office Economics.

Servicepoint

The servicepoint is your first point of contact at the Academic Office Economics. Here you have the opportunity to clarify minor organizational questions about your studies as well as questions about the responsible contact persons directly with the help of student employees. During the personal office hours of the examination and course managers and the program coordinators, the servicepoint will put you in touch with the contact person responsible for your enquiry.

Course and examination management

The course and examination management maintain the course data in STiNE and manages students' examination files and accounts. It advises on questions relating to the registration, re-registration and cancellation of courses and examinations in STiNE and provides support in the event of registration problems. Furthermore, the course and examination management staff are responsible for preparing transcripts of records and final documents.

Program coordination and subject advising

The study coordination and subject advising offers comprehensive support such as individual counselling on study organization, assistance in drawing up individual study plans and advice on the legal basis of the respective degree program. Information management and public relations work are also part of the tasks as well as counselling on semesters abroad and the recognition of examinations.

5.4 Services from A to Z

The Academic Office Economics offers counselling and services on a range of topics. The most frequently requested issues are listed below.

Further information on the individual procedures and any necessary forms can be found on the website of the Academic Office.

- Advice on general study organization issues
- BaföG certificates
- Certificate documents
- Compensation for disadvantages
- Courses
- Course catalogue
- Examination modalities
- International guest students ('incomings')
- Legal principles
- Part-time study
- Recognition of achievements
- Registration for and cancellation of courses and examinations
- Registration for final thesis
- Sick notes for examinations and extension of deadlines
- STiNE account
- Study counselling
- Studying abroad ('outgoings')
- Transcript of Records (overview of achievements)

6. Further Contact

6.1 Subject-specific matters

Program Direction

The Program Direction bears overall responsibility for the study program and is responsible for the further development of the study program.

Examinations Board

The Examinations Board is the body to which appeals must be made. Members of the Examinations Board are professors and students of the respective degree program.

Professors

The [professors of the department of economics](#) provide advice in their respective office hours on subject-related questions regarding courses and examinations.

6.2 General student matters

Campus Center of the University of Hamburg

In addition to advice on application and admission procedures and information on student matters (such as enrollment, leave of absence, semester fees and semester documents, withdrawal), the [Campus Center](#) offers a comprehensive range of services and advice:

The [Center for Academic Advising](#) of the University of Hamburg advises prospective students and students of the University of Hamburg. The counseling services include topics such as study orientation, application and enrollment, changing subjects as well as [workshops and coaching](#).

Students can turn to the [Psychological Counseling Service](#) with all study-related difficulties and personal concerns that affect their studies, such as learning and work disorders, writing, speaking and exam nerves, feelings of loneliness and contact difficulties, depression and anxiety.

[HOPES](#) is aimed at students who need practical help to successfully cope with study requirements following a severe mental health crisis, often after inpatient or day-care treatment.

The [Office for Students with Disabilities](#) advises and supports students with disabilities (e.g. chronic illnesses) in all impairment-specific matters relating to study preparation, application and studies.

Libraries

The [library for the faculties Business, Economics and Social Sciences and Business Administration](#) offers you an extensive selection of academic literature as well as advice and training on the use of the library and literature research.

6.3 Internship, job and career

University of Hamburg: Career and Qualification Center

The [Career and Qualification Center](#) offers courses and workshops for career orientation and providers of career-oriented seminars.

6.4 Semester abroad and international affairs

WiSo Faculty: International Office

The [International Office](#) supports you in organizing a semester abroad; assistance in all matters relating to the ERASMUS program before and during a semester abroad.

University of Hamburg: Department of International Affairs

The [Department of International Affairs](#) offers general advice on "Studying abroad", "Internships and jobs abroad", further education offers, scholarships.

University of Hamburg: Language Center

The [language Center](#) provides subject-related foreign language courses. Attention: Placement tests take place before the start of lectures!

Adult Education Center Hamburg

The [Adult Education Center Hamburg](#) provides language courses on campus. Attention: Placement tests take place before the start of lectures!

Module Descriptions of the master's program Politics, Economics and Philosophy (MSc)

| Title | Epistemology and History of Ideas | |
|--|---|--|
| Type | Required module | |
| Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Overview of the most important problems and outcomes of modern epistemology. – Overview of the most important tasks, methods, and outcomes in the modern philosophy of science. – Acquiring the ability to reflect on the methodological fundamentals of one's own discipline. – In-depth knowledge of selected aspects within the field of the history of economic thought. – Ability to interpret texts on economic theory and relate these texts to economic history and the history of ideas. – Ability to critically reflect on modern contributions to topics covered in light of the history of theory. | |
| Curriculum | <p>(a) Epistemology of Social Sciences: This lecture introduces students to issues relating to the construction, functionality, and development of empirical theories. Concepts such as “causality” play a central role. Further thematic focuses are the correlation between the development of theory and the development of concepts, the relationship between theories and models, and the examination of controversies surrounding explanatory and interpretive approaches in the social sciences. These issues will be explained and discussed using both selected classical standpoints within the philosophy of science and current academic debates.</p> <p>(b) History of Economic Thought: This course discusses the following topics from the viewpoint of the history of economic theory: individual decisions, their macroeconomic effects (on welfare), explicit and implicit coordination mechanisms, the possibility or necessity of sovereign intervention, etc. It compares and analyzes different solutions from various schools of thought. The course explores and reflects critically upon the evolution of economic theory, for example, in the classic tradition of Smith, Mill, and Marx or by using selected political and economic controversies of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.</p> | |
| Types of instruction | <p>(a) Epistemology of Social Sciences: Lecture, seminar, or interactive course (2 credit hours per week)</p> <p>(b) History of Economic Thought: Lecture, seminar, or interactive course (3 credit hours per week)</p> | |
| Language of instruction | English | |
| Prerequisites for participation | None | |
| Examination | Type of examination | Module component examinations will be held for both courses Epistemology of Social Sciences and History of Economic. Thought pursuant to Section |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | | 13 subsection 4 of the Examination Regulations. The exact type of examination shall be announced before the beginning of each course. |
| | Prerequisites for admission to module examination | Successfully completed coursework, the extent and scope of which shall be announced at the beginning of the course. |
| | Language | The examination shall be held in English. |
| Workload | Course workload (components) | (a) Epistemology of Social Sciences: 6 ECTS credits (b) History of Economic Thought: 6 ECTS credits |
| | Total workload of module: | 12 ECTS credits |
| Semester in which module is taken | Semester 1 | |
| Module frequency | Once a year | |
| Duration | The entire module lasts one semester. | |

| Title | Philosophy and Economics of Individual and Social Choice | |
|--|--|---|
| Type | Required module | |
| Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Understanding conceptual problems when analyzing distributive justice and social welfare. – Knowledge of formal methods and major findings of welfare economics. – Ability to carry out positive and normative analysis of decision-making processes in national, international and supranational institutions. | |
| Curriculum | <p>(a) Social Choice and Welfare: The course deals with the ethical and positive aspects of welfare economics as well as the material implications of collective decision-making and voting procedures. It addresses in greater detail core findings relating to the aggregation of preferences (e.g., the impossibility theorems of Arrow, Sen, and Gibbard-Satterwaite).</p> <p>(b) Ethics: This lecture addresses questions in the fields of meta-ethics, normative ethics, and applied ethics. In the area of meta-ethics, the course covers questions relating to the semantics of moral expressions, the examination of cognitive and non-cognitive positions, and their connection to the realism/anti-realism debate. In the realm of normative ethics, the course provides an overview of the most important deontological and teleological positions. In the area of applied ethics, the course addresses issues that are particularly relevant for economists. This includes issues such as distributive justice.</p> | |
| Types of instruction | <p>(a) Social Choice and Welfare: Lecture, seminar, or interactive course (3 credit hours per week)</p> <p>(b) Ethics: Lecture, seminar, or interactive course (2 credit hours per week)</p> | |
| Language of instruction | English | |
| Prerequisites for participation | None | |
| Examination | Type of examination | Module component examinations will be held for the course Social Choice and Welfare and the course Ethics pursuant to Section 13 subsection 4 of the Examination Regulations. The exact type of examination shall be announced before the beginning of each course. |
| | Prerequisites for admission to module examination | Successfully completed coursework, the extent and scope of which shall be announced at the beginning of the course. |
| | Language | The examination shall be held in English. |
| Workload | Course workload (components) | <p>(a) Social Choice and Welfare: 6 ECTS credits</p> <p>(b) Ethics: 6 ECTS credits</p> |
| | Total workload of module: | 12 ECTS credits |
| Semester in which module is taken | Semester 1 | |
| Module frequency | Once a year | |

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| Duration | The entire module lasts one semester. | |
| Title | Individual and Collective Decisions | |
| Type | Required module | |
| Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fundamental knowledge of the normative and descriptive theory of individual and collective decisions. – Ability to critically analyze the mechanics of modern states and their institutions. – Ability to independently apply the theories and models addressed in the module to concrete practical political problems. | |
| Curriculum | <p>(a) Public Choice: The course introduces the fundamental concepts of classic public choice theory. It deals with the behavioral model and the range of methodological instruments in economics as applied to political agents, institutions, and processes. Political agents such as governments, parties, administrations, or special interest groups are modeled as rational utility maximizing agents. The course also addresses new findings deriving from consideration of boundedly rational behavior and the design and effect of institutions. Public choice includes a range of sub-theories: the theory of preference aggregation, constitutional political economy and the economic theory of democracy, autocracy, special interest groups, and bureaucracy.</p> <p>(b) Behavioral Economics: The course addresses fundamental insights of behavioral economics, which are based primarily on laboratory experiments on individual and collective decision-making. Participants discuss deviations from normative decision theory and possible explanations for empirical findings that have led to new descriptive theories such as prospect theory or the theory of social preferences.</p> | |
| Types of instruction | <p>(a) Public Choice: Lecture, seminar, or interactive course (3 credit hours per week)</p> <p>(b) Behavioral Economics: Lecture, seminar, or interactive course (3 credit hours per week)</p> | |
| Language of instruction | English | |
| Prerequisites for participation | None | |
| Examination | Type of examination | Module component examinations will be held for the course Public Choice and the course Behavioral Economics pursuant to Section 13 subsection 4 of the Examination Regulations. The exact type of examination shall be announced before the beginning of each course. |
| | Prerequisites for admission to module examination | Successfully completed coursework, the extent and scope of which shall be announced at the beginning of the course. |
| | Language | The examination shall be held in English. |

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| Workload | Course workload (components) | (a) Public Choice: 6 ECTS credits (b) Behavioral Economics: 6 ECTS credits |
| | Total workload of module: | 12 ECTS credits |
| Semester in which module is taken | Semesters 2 and 3 | |
| Module frequency | Once a year | |
| Duration | The entire module lasts two semesters. | |

| Title | Institutions in Economic and Political Perspective |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Type | Required module |
| Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ability to critically analyze the effect of institutions on individual and collective decision-making against the backdrop of economic and political theory. – In-depth understanding and application of the theoretical insights into individual and collective decision-making and a critical reflection from a political science perspective. – Ability to independently analyze selected national and international organizations together with the statutes and conventions that establish them as institutions. – Ability to independently examine modern political theories especially with respect to their application to issues of welfare economics as well as individual and collective decision-making processes. – Ability to extrapolate and justify normative positions based on modern political theories. |
| Curriculum | <p>(a) International Political Economy: The course addresses selected problems of international political economy by looking at specific policy fields. Topics may include: the analysis of trade policy by means of strategic international economic theory, political economy of international migration, political economy of international currency and finance relationships, international treaties for the environment and use of resources. The course analyzes institutions such as GATT (WTO), the IMF, the World Bank, and selected EU institutions.</p> <p>(b) Economics and Politics of Institutions: The course addresses the problems of collective decision-making in depth. Central to the course is the strategic action of different agents such as governments, parties, special interest groups, and consumers. It will be demonstrated how market or political outcomes are determined through institutions, i.e., formal or informal rules and regulations, and how they are influenced by their design.</p> <p>(c) Political Theory: The course addresses the conceptual and practical problems of modern constitutionalism, modern democracy, as well as approaches in governance and compliance and the conceptualization of fundamental norms such as constitutional rights, citizenship, rule of law and human rights, for the latter also pertaining to international society. The works of Rawls, Dworkin, Sandel, Habermas, Tully, Taylor, Nozick, Sen, Jean Cohen, Slaughter, Kratochwil, and Byers, among others, will be discussed during the course. Particular attention will be given to the conceptional elements of the relationships between agents (and institutions) of the market, the law, culture, and politics (see also the connection to the course Social Choice and Welfare).</p> |
| Types of instruction | <p>(a) International Political Economy: Lecture, seminar, or interactive course (3 credit hours per week)</p> <p>(b) Economics and Politics of Institutions: Lecture, seminar, or interactive course (3 credit hours per week)</p> |

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| | (c) Political Theory: Lecture, seminar, or interactive course (2 contact hours per week) | |
| Language of instruction | English | |
| Prerequisites for participation | None | |
| Examination | Type of examination | Module component examinations will be held for the course International Political Economy, the course Economics and Politics of Institutions and the course Political Theory pursuant to Section 13 subsection 4 of the Examination Regulations. The exact type of examination shall be announced before the beginning of each course. |
| | Prerequisites for admission to module examination | Successfully completed coursework, the extent and scope of which shall be announced at the beginning of the course. |
| | Language | The examination shall be held in English. |
| Workload | Course workload (components) | (a) International Political Economy: 6 ECTS credits (b) Economics and Politics of Institutions: 6 ECTS credits (c) Political Theory: 6 ECTS credits |
| | Total workload of module: | 18 ECTS credits |
| Semester in which module is taken | Semesters 2 and 3 | |
| Module frequency | Once a year | |
| Duration | The entire module lasts two semesters. | |

| Title | Interdisciplinary Seminars | |
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| Type | Required module | |
| Objectives | Students acquire the ability to apply, synthesize, and contrast methods and findings from the three disciplines of political science, economics and philosophy with respect to specific issues within the context of individual and collective decision-making. | |
| Curriculum | <p>Students select two out of the following three courses:</p> <p>(a) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Politics and Economics: Various themes relating to individual and collective decisions with a focus on integrating the disciplines of political science and economics.</p> <p>(b) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Economics: Various themes relating to individual and collective decisions with a focus on integrating the disciplines of philosophy and economics.</p> <p>(c) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Politics: Various themes relating to individual and collective decisions with a focus on integrating the disciplines of philosophy and political science.</p> | |
| Types of instruction | Seminar (2 credit hours per week) | |
| Language of instruction | English | |
| Prerequisites for participation | None | |
| Examination | Type of examination | The module examination consists of at least two and a maximum of three individual examinations pursuant to Section 13 subsection 4 of the Examination Regulations, whereby a term paper shall qualify as an examination pursuant to Section 13 subsection 4c of the Examination Regulations. The exact number and type of examinations shall be announced at the beginning of the course. |
| | Prerequisites for admission to module examination | Successfully completed coursework, the extent and scope of which shall be announced at the beginning of the course. |
| | Language | The examination shall be held in English. |
| Workload | Course workload (components) | <p>24 ECTS credits from two out of the following three courses:</p> <p>(a) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Politics and Economics: 12 ECTS credits</p> <p>(b) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Economics: 12 ECTS credits</p> <p>(c) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Politics: 12 ECTS credits</p> |
| | Total workload of module: | 24 ECTS credits |
| Semester in which module is taken | Semester 2 and 3 | |

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| Module frequency | Once a year |
| Duration | The entire module lasts one semester. |

| Title | Required Elective Module | |
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| Type | Required Module | |
| Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To create an individual profile by concentrating on selected areas in political science, economics, and philosophy. – To expand and deepen knowledge acquired in required modules and to reflect upon this from the perspectives of political science, economics, and philosophy. | |
| Curriculum | The courses in the required elective module can be chosen from a list of open courses offered by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities. | |
| Types of instruction | Lecture, seminar or interactive course | |
| Language of instruction | English | |
| Prerequisites for participation | None | |
| Examination | Type of examination | Module component examinations will be held pursuant to Section 13 subsection 4 of the Examination Regulations. The exact type of examination shall be announced before the beginning of each course. |
| | Prerequisites for admission to module examination | Successfully completed coursework, the extent and scope of which shall be announced at the beginning of the course. |
| | Language | The examination shall be held in English. |
| | Total workload of module: | 12 ECTS credits |
| Semester in which module is taken | Semesters 1 and 2 | |
| Module frequency | Several elective courses are offered each semester. | |
| Duration | The entire module lasts two semesters. | |



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