



Master of Arts Program Sociology – European Societies



Institute of Sociology
Freie University Berlin

Overview

1. Structure of the program
2. Thematic scope of modules
3. Master thesis requirements
4. Credits and exams



Structure of the Program

Semester	Modules		
1. Basics	<p>Module 1 „European Integration and the Development of European Societies since 1945“</p> <p>[10 ECTS]</p>	<p>Module 2 „Sociological Theories of Social Change and Integration“</p> <p>[10 ECTS]</p>	<p>Module 3 „Methods of Comparative Research in Social Sciences“</p> <p>[10 ECTS]</p>
2. Consolidation	<p>Module 4 „Social Structure and Inequalities in European Societies“</p> <p>[10 ECTS]</p>	<p>Module 5 „Culture and Values in European Societies“</p> <p>[10 ECTS]</p>	<p>Module 6 „Globalization and Regional Development“</p> <p>[10 ECTS]</p>
3. Specialisation	<p>Module 7 „Research Placement“</p> <p>[15 ECTS]</p>	<p>Module 8 „Area of Specialisation“</p> <p>[15 ECTS credits]</p>	
4. Final	<p>Thesis colloquium Masters Thesis [24 ECTS credits] Oral Examination [6 ECTS credits]</p>		

1. European Integration and the Development of European Societies since 1945

- Political and socio-historical developments of the European Communities
- Structure and functions of the political multi-level-system in selected policy areas
- Dimensions of the European integration

Lecture: Introduction to European Integration (Theresa Kuhn)

Seminar to choose from a pool:

1. Multiculturalism in Europe. Political Implications (Sophia Schubrt)
2. Das Europa der Bürger: Theoretische Ansätze und Empirische Analysen (Monika Eig Müller/Stefanie Börner)
3. Elections in Europe (Dieter Ohr)
4. Integration der post-sozialistischen Länder in die EU (Katharina Bluhm)

2. Sociological Theories of Social Change and Integration

- Theories of integration and social change (modernization, rationalization, differentiation, inclusion, values)
- Theories of social structures (formation of elites, social movements, creation of social networks);
- Theories of political structures (institutions, organizations, interest groups).

Lecture: Theories of Integration (Harald Wenzel)

Seminar to choose from a pool:

1. Soziologische Theorien der europäischen Integration (Jürgen Gerhards)
2. Global Social Change – Theories and Methods (Manuela Boatca)
3. Perspektiven einer erneuten Kapitalismuskritik (Sergio Costa/Ina Kerner)
4. Organizational and Institutional Theory (Katharina Bluhm)

3. Methods of Comparative Research in Social Sciences

- Main features of comparative research methods for the comparison of nation states and societies
- Comparative data and secondary analyses of existing surveys

Lecture: Methods of Comparative Research (Dieter Ohr)

Seminar to choose from a pool:

1. Experimental methods in the social sciences (Theresa Kuhn)
2. Einführung in die Analyse quantitativer Daten mit SPSS (Lisa Bankowski)
3. Quantitative analysis: Exemplified on youth unemployment and labor market entry studies (Heike Solga/Laura Menze)
4. Applied Regression Analysis Using Stata (Ulrich Kohler, Potsdam)
5. Zur Vermessung der Sozialstruktur Europas – Soziale Indikatoren der amtlichen Statistik sowie wissenschaftsgetragenen Statistik (Jürgen Schupp)

4. Social structure and inequalities in European societies

- Theories and concepts of social structures analysis in a global context
- Comparison of selected areas in European societies
- Social welfare state and European social models

Lecture: The social structure of European societies

Seminar to choose from a pool. Examples:

1. Soziale Ungleichheit des Wahlverhaltens und der Politische Partizipation
2. Europäische Wohlfahrtsstaatsregime im Ost-West-Vergleich
3. Life-Course Regimes in Europe
4. Das soziale Europa. Die Sozialpolitik der EU
5. Does it matter what the people think? Material Inequalities and their Legitimation in Modern Welfare States.
6. Family change and family policies in comparative perspective

5. Culture and Values in European Societies

- Theoretical concepts of culture
- European cultures in comparison
- Explanatory concepts about the creation and change of values

Lecture: Cultural Differences and Similarities between the Member States of the European Union

Seminar to choose from a pool. Examples:

1. Region, nation, Europe: collective identity in the European context
2. Kulturelle Gemeinsamkeiten und Unterschiede in der Welt – theoretische Kontroverse und empirische Befunde
3. Religiosity, Churches and Sects in Europe
4. Werte und Wertewandel im Länder- und Kulturvergleich
5. Migration in Europa aus kultursoziologischer Perspektive

6. Globalization and Regional Development

- Historical parameters and theories of globalization and global trends
- Development of European societies within a global context

Lecture: Global and Regional Transformations: Theories, Trends, Interdependencies

Seminar to choose from a pool. Examples:

1. Global Social Inequalities
2. Theories of Globalisation
3. Politische Kultur Chinas
4. Ungleichheit als Feminisierung: Armut, Migration, Arbeit
5. Europas Grenzen. Entstehung, Entwicklung und Wirkung von Grenzen in der EU
6. Labour relations in international comparison

7. Research Placement

- 4 hours weekly
- Own research project developed under supervision from idea to research report
- Thematic and methodological variety
 - qualitative, quantitative and experimental methods
 - researching into structural and cultural aspects of European integration

Examples:

1. The End of the European Dream? People's beliefs on the causes and solutions of the European crisis and their readiness for transnational solidarity
2. The Political Relevance of Culture
3. Experimental Analysis of Social and Cultural Differences
4. Transnationalisierung der Lebensführung – qualitativ erforscht
5. Collective Memory and Collective Identity in Europe – Qualitative Approaches
6. Globalization and Transnational Human Capital – Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches
7. Qualitative Interview Studien zur Europäisierung “von unten”

8. Area of Specialization

- Two advanced seminars
- Thematic diversity

Examples:

1. Aging societies. Global and local challenges
2. Social Mobility in Europe
3. Diskriminierung auf dem Arbeitsmarkt
4. Politische Partizipation bei infrastrukturellen Großprojekten
5. Sociology of Migration
6. The World's and Europe's language constellation
7. Arbeitsmarktintegration von Migrantinnen und Migranten in Europa
8. Mafia Market and State Failure
9. Altersvorsorge und Alterseinkünfte in vergleichender Perspektive
10. Training and labor markets in Western Societies
11. Conflict and Social Movements
12. Neuere Literatur aus dem Bereich der Europasozioogie
13. Religion and social structure. A transatlantic comparison

1. Master thesis (ca. 24 000 words/80 pages)

- Master colloquia are offered each term
- Registration of the master thesis – twice each term
- You can register if you have completed modules of at least 60 ECTS
- Official writing time: 22 weeks (5 months)
- There is no thesis defense, the thesis is graded within four weeks after handing in
- Can be written in English or German

General rules:

1. Each of the Modules 1-6 consists of two elements: a lecture and a seminar. The lecture is provided and compulsory, the seminar can be freely chosen from a pool of 4-5. At least one seminar is being offered in English and German either. Module 7 encompasses the research placement, Module 8 two advanced seminars. The same rules apply to the advanced seminars as to seminars (language, pool of choice). Seminars in Module 8 are offered in both winter and summer semester.
2. There is only one examination (=grade) for each module. The other part of each module 1-6 is not graded but passed or failed only, based on the active participation (i.a. regular attendance, reading assigned texts, taking part in the discussions, giving an oral presentation, handing in the seminar paper). Both seminar papers in module 8 are passed or failed only.
3. The module examination can take the form of a written exam, seminar paper (or equivalent), an oral exam, presentation with a written elaboration or a research report.
4. Seminar paper encompasses ca. 3, 000 words, or an equivalent of that in a number of shorter essays or other tasks. The word count for the research report in Module 7 is set at 10,000. The presentation with a written elaboration (Module 8) is to be 3,000 words long.
5. You can complete a given module in two different semesters, and your credit for a module part will not be voided if you fail the other part or decide to attend it at a later point. The module will stay open in Campus Management; the completion of a module part will be marked there. However, you will be assigned the total credit and the grade for the module only after you complete both parts.
6. There is always a number of additional classes you are invited to attend. Beside the introductory course in the 1st semester and research colloquia for master thesis preparation, there are usually classes aiming on improving your knowledge on statistics, specific methods, statistical software and the like. There are no credits for the additional classes (you can be given a participation certificate if you wish).

Credits and exams

Module 1 (Integration) and Module 3 (Methods):

- The exam after the lecture is graded, the grade counts for the entire module
- The seminar is passed or failed, based on the active participation (i.a. regular attendance, reading assigned texts, taking part in the discussions, giving an oral presentation, handing in the seminar paper)

Module 2 (Theories):

- Seminar paper from the seminar is graded
- The exam after the lecture is passed/failed



Credits and exams

Modules 4-6:

- All lectures end with a written exam that is passed or failed only
- One seminar is passed with a graded oral exam (ca. 25 minutes), two seminars with a graded seminar paper
 - the oral exam and the seminar papers count as module examination for their respective modules
- Oral exams will be offered in all three modules. You are to choose until the 3rd session which seminar you wish to complete with an oral exam
 - procedural details will be provided at the beginning of the 2nd semester the latest



Credits and exams

Module 7:

- Research report (10,000 words) is graded



Module 8:

- The module is passed without a grade
- In both advanced seminars you write a seminar paper based on an oral presentation that is passed or failed only