

Study Regulations for the Master's Programme "Sociology – European Societies" in the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the Freie Universität Berlin

Preamble

On the basis of Section 14 Paragraph 1 No. 2 of the Partial University Constitution (Trial version) of the Freie Universität Berlin of October, 27th 1998 (FU Mitteilung [Gazette of the Freie Universität Berlin] 24/1998), the Department Council of the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the Freie Universität Berlin issued the following Study Regulations for the Master's programme in "Sociology – European Societies" of the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the Freie Universität Berlin on July, 3rd 2013:¹

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¹ The executive board of the Freie Universität Berlin confirmed these regulations on August, 26th 2013.

Section 1

Area of application

(1) These regulations apply to the aims, content and structure of the Master's programme "Sociology – European Societies" of the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the Freie Universität Berlin (Master's programme) on the basis of the Examination Regulations for the Master's programme of July, 3rd 2013.

(2) This is a consecutive Master's programme in accordance with Section 23 Paragraph 3 No. 1 a) of the law regulating higher education institutions in Berlin (Berlin Higher Education Act – BerlHG) of July, 26th 2011 (Law and Ordinance Gazette (GVBl) p. 378).

Section 2

Qualification aims

(1) Graduates of the Master's programme have deepened their knowledge and skills in relation to similarities, differences and conflicts in social structures and cultures in European societies and can describe these phenomena and analyse their causes from a comparative point of view. They are able to classify and analyse processes of change within societies in nation states induced by the political and economic integration process. They can classify and analyse European societies in the context of globalisation processes and in contrast to other regions of the world, highlighting similarities and differences of both a structural and cultural nature.

(2) Graduates of the programme have comprehensive methodological and analytical skills as a foundation for independent research and teaching in the social science field or for critically evaluating and applying research carried out by others. They are able to give well-grounded reasons for their positions within the discipline and their research findings and to present them appropriately. The examination of social inequality in a range of European societies has made them aware of the role of gender and diversity in contemporary societies.

(3) The Master's programme qualifies its graduates for professional activity in the following fields: research and teaching in university and non-university social science institutions; communicating knowledge and representing social and political interests in international, particularly European organisations, national and international associations and non-governmental organisations; consultancy in state institutions and political parties.

Section 3

Programme content

(1) The Master's programme covers the following sociological fields related to European integration and the comparison of European societies: sociological theory, methods of comparative sociological research, social structure analysis, cultural sociology, sociology of global and regional development. These fields are supplemented with knowledge of European research focused on political science, history and economy. Gender and diversity aspects are covered in all the fields mentioned.

(2) All modules in the Master's programme take a comparative approach and give the students a deeper understanding of comparative social research, particularly in relation to contemporary European societies, through the discussion of theoretical approaches and empirical studies. The Master's programme also includes the guided implementation of the students' research projects, enabling the students to carry out independent empirical sociological research and to present the findings.

Section 4

Structure and organisation

(1) The Master's programme requires the attainment of a total of 120 credit points (CP) through study and examinations (attainments) in the following areas of study:

1. Introductory phase, 30 CP
2. Advanced phase, 30 CP
3. Specialisation phase, 30 CP
4. Master's thesis with accompanying colloquium, 30 CP

(2) The following modules must be completed in the introductory phase:

- Module: European Integration and the Development of European Societies since 1945 (10 CP)
- Module: Sociological Theories of Social Change and Integration (10 CP)
- Module: Methods of Comparative Research in Social Sciences (10 CP)

(3) The following modules must be completed in the advanced phase:

- Module: Social Structure and Inequalities in European Societies (10 CP)
- Module: Culture and Values in European Societies (10 CP)
- Module: Globalization and Regional Development (10 CP)

(4) The following modules must be completed in the specialisation phase:

- Module: Research Practicum (15 CP)
- Module: Area of Specialisation (15 CP)

(5) The module descriptions of each module in Annex 1 give information about content, qualification aims, teaching and learning units, time required, forms of active participation, usual duration and how often the module is offered.

(6) The sample study schedule in Annex 2 gives information about the recommended study plan.

Section 5

Teaching and learning units

The following types of teaching units are scheduled:

1. Introductory courses introduce students to fundamental core topic areas in the sociology of European societies. The principle teaching unit is the lecture by the relevant lecturer in the attendance phase and lecturer-guided talks and discussions on fundamental topics, problems and issues, which are also based on preparatory reading of the relevant specialist literature.

2. Advanced lectures convey deeper knowledge of a particular area of the sociology of European societies and related research issues. The principle teaching unit is the lecture by the relevant lecturer. Interactions and joint discussions at the end of individual sections are possible.

3. Main seminars serve to examine specific topic areas and issues of the sociology of European societies in more detail. Independent scientific work is practised through research-oriented work on sociological issues, but most of all on the basis of studying the relevant literature on the subject. The main working units are seminar discussions on the basis of preparatory reading of specialist literature and presentations.

4. Specialisation seminars are intended to enable thorough examination of a sample of topic areas and the practice of independent scientific work. The main working units are seminar discussions on the basis of teaching media, preparatory reading of specialist literature and sources, tasks presented in written or oral form and group work.

5. The research practicum enables students to integrate their theoretical knowledge with

methodological expertise, in order to gain research experience. The project develops and expands the students' ability to independently carry out comparative, empirical research into a sociological issue in relation to European societies. The principle teaching unit is intensive interaction of the instructors with small groups.

6. The colloquium enables the exchange of views without a prescribed form and the introduction / presentation of the students' own current research findings relating to their Master's thesis.

Section 6 Study abroad

(1) Students are recommended to take a period of study at a university abroad. In the course of their studies abroad, students should achieve attainments which can be credited as equivalent to the modules which they would have taken during the same period at the Freie Universität Berlin. It is not possible to credit such attainments to the Master's thesis.

(2) Before starting to study abroad, the student should reach an agreement with the chair of the Examination Committee responsible for the Master's programme and the relevant position at the university to be visited, covering the duration of the study period abroad, the attainments to be completed during the study period abroad which must be equivalent to the attainments in the Master's programme and the credit points allocated to the attainments. Attainments which comply with the agreement will be credited.

(3) The third semester is recommended as a suitable time for a period of study abroad.

Section 7 Academic advisory centre and departmental advisory service

(1) General academic advising services are provided by the "Center for Academic Advising and Psychological Counselling" of the Freie Universität Berlin.

(2) The departmental advisory service is provided by the professors who provide events and by the persons responsible for the Master's programme in their regular office hours.

Section 8 Coming into effect and interim regulations

(1) These regulations come into effect on the day after their publication in the FU Mitteilung [Gazette of the Freie Universität Berlin].

(2) At the same time the Study Regulations for the Master's programme from April, 5th 2006 (FU Mitteilung [Gazette of the Freie Universität Berlin] No. 62/2006), amended on February, 4th 2009 (FU Mitteilung [Gazette of the Freie Universität Berlin] No. 31/2009 p 388) expire.

(3) These regulations apply to students who enrol in the Master's programme at the Freie Universität Berlin after these regulations come into effect. Students who were enrolled in the Master's programme at the Freie Universität Berlin before these Study Regulations came into effect continue their studies on the basis of the Study Regulations in accordance with Paragraph 2, unless they apply to the responsible Examination Committee to continue their studies on the basis of these regulations. On the occasion of their re-registration following their application, the Examination Committee decides to what extent the modules completed or started at the time of the application will be taken into account or how they are to be credited in accordance with the attainments to be credited according to these regulations, whereby the requirements of protection of confidence and non-discrimination will be observed. The decision cannot be revised.

(4) It will be possible to gain a degree on the basis of the Examination Regulations in accordance with Paragraph 2 up to the end of the summer semester 2015.

Annex 1: Module descriptions

Explanations:

The following module descriptions specify the following for every module in the Master's programme:

- module name
- person responsible for the module
- module content and qualification aims
- module teaching and learning units
- students' study time estimated as necessary to complete the module successfully
- forms of active participation
- the usual duration of the module
- how often the module is offered
- the applicability of the module

Statements on students' study time required take into account the following in particular:

- active participation in the attendance phase
- students' study time required to complete small tasks in the attendance phase
- time for independent preparation and follow-up
- working on study units in online study phases
- preparation time for examinations
- the examinations

The notional times given for independent study (including preparation, follow-up and preparation for examinations) are intended as guidance to help the students in managing the study time required for the module.

The statements on study hours correspond to the number of credit points allocated to the module as a unit of measurement for the student's approximate study hours required to complete the module successfully.

Active, regular participation in the teaching and learning units and successful completion of the examinations in a module are prerequisites for gaining the credit points allocated to each module.

The number of credit points and other examination-related information on each module can be found in Annex 1 of the Examination Regulations for the Master's programme.

Introductory phase

Module: European Integration and the Development of European Societies since 1945				
University/Department/Institute: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of Political and Social Sciences/Institute of Sociology				
Responsible for the module: module lecturers				
Admission requirements: none				
Qualification aims: The students understand the main features of the social history of European societies' development after 1945 and the development of the European Union's political institutional order and can classify these against the background of relevant theories. They can collate and present central theses on the topics covered and lead discussions on them.				
Content: Through lectures and discussions of the relevant specialist literature, the module gives an introduction to the political and social history of the European Union's development; the political system of the EU; the structure of the European multi-level system and how it functions in selected political fields (economic and monetary union, foreign and security policy, environmental and consumer protection, citizenship, equal opportunity policy) and in the current state of the issue of European integration (constitutionalisation, expansion, identity). Core controversies in the discipline itself and in public discourse are studied, guiding students towards independent, research-oriented work and to conscious reflection on the public relevance of the topics covered.				
Teaching and learning units	Attendance (Semester hours per week = SH)	Forms of active participation	Study time (hours)	
Introductory course	2	Recapitulation of lecture, discussion based on preparatory reading, use of interactive learning media	Attendance at introductory course	30
			Preparation and follow-up for introductory course	60
Main seminar	2	Discussion based on preparatory reading, preparing excerpts and thesis papers, taking on presentations and chairing discussions, use of interactive learning media, participation in group work, working on tasks, term papers or essays	Attendance main seminar	30
			Preparation and follow-up for main seminar	90
			Preparation for examination, examination	90
Language of instruction		German, English		
Compulsory regular attendance		Introductory course: attendance recommended; main seminar: yes		
Study time, total hours		300 hours	10 CP	
Duration of module		One semester		
Module offered		Every winter semester		
Application		Master's programme Sociology – European Societies		

Module: Sociological Theories of Social Change and Integration				
University/Department/Institute: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of Political and Social Sciences/Institute of Sociology				
Responsible for the module: module lecturers				
Admission requirements: none				
Qualification aims: Students who have completed the module are able to recapitulate and critically discuss theories of mesosociology and macrosociology focusing on the analysis of national and global society. They are capable of analytical abstraction and have mastered the theoretical methodology for the comparative study of societies and cultures.				
Content: The module covers classical and modern sociological theories of the analysis and comparison of European societies, including comparison with non-European societies; theories of integration and social change (modernisation, rationalisation, differentiation, inclusion, emergence of values); theories relating to mesoprocesses (creation of elites, social movements, development of social networks) and mesostructures (institutions, organisations, interest groups). These theories are discussed in more depth in relation to lectures and thorough reading of primary and secondary literature; their applicability to current topics of European research is examined.				
Teaching and learning units	Attendance (Semester hours per week = SH)	Forms of active participation	Study time (hours)	
Introductory course	2	Recapitulation of lecture, discussion based on preparatory reading, use of interactive learning media, passing a test	Attendance at introductory course	30
			Preparation and follow-up for introductory course	60
Main seminar	2	Discussion based on preparatory reading, preparing excerpts and thesis papers, taking on presentations and chairing discussions, use of interactive learning media, participating in	Attendance at main seminar	30
			Preparation and follow-up	90

	group work, working on tasks	for main seminar Preparation for examination, examination	90
Language of instruction	German, English		
Compulsory regular attendance	Introductory course: attendance recommended; main seminar: yes		
Study time, total hours	300 hours		10 CP
Duration of module	One semester		
Module offered	Every winter semester		
Application	Master's programme Sociology – European Societies		

Module: Methods of Comparative Research in Social Sciences			
University/Department/Institute: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of Political and Social Sciences/Institute of Sociology			
Responsible for the module: module lecturers			
Admission requirements: none			
Qualification aims: Students have deepened their knowledge of comparative empirical methods of social analysis. They are familiar with the basic processes of data collection and analysis used in comparative research and are aware of relevant controversies within the discipline about appropriate methods of comparative social analysis. They can estimate the advantages and challenges of a range of methods and discuss and classify empirical studies accordingly. They are capable of developing comparative research designs and carrying out small-scale empirical studies both independently and in a team.			
Content: Methods of comparative social research have some special features in comparison to nation state analyses. These are illustrated using a range of research designs, quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and data analysis (e.g. aggregate data analysis, interviews, secondary analysis and content analysis). The students' knowledge of the special features of comparative methods is deepened through discussing examples of comparative analyses in the literature or in relation to the students' own small-scale comparative analyses.			
Teaching and learning units	Attendance (Semester hours per week = SH)	Forms of active participation	Study time (hours)
Introductory course	2	Recapitulation of lecture, discussion based on preparatory reading, use of interactive learning media	Attendance at introductory course 30
Main seminar	2	Discussion based on preparatory reading, preparing excerpts and thesis papers, taking on presentations and chairing discussions, use of interactive learning media, participation in group work, working on tasks, term papers or essays	Preparation and follow-up for introductory course 60 Attendance at main seminar 30 Preparation and follow-up for main seminar 90 Preparation for examination, examination 90
Language of instruction	German, English		
Compulsory regular attendance	Introductory course: attendance recommended; main seminar: yes		
Study time, total hours	300 hours		10 CP
Duration of module	One semester		
Module offered	Every winter semester		
Application	Master's programme Sociology – European Societies		

Advanced phase

Module: Social Structure and Inequalities in European Societies			
University/Department/Institute: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of Political and Social Sciences/Institute of Sociology			
Responsible for the module: module lecturers			
Admission requirements: none			
Qualification aims: Students are familiar with the basic concepts of comparative European social structure analysis and can apply them. They can describe the main differences between European societies and between European and non-European societies and analyse the factors behind their development. Finally they have deepened their knowledge about the changes in the social structure of European societies through the European integration process. They are skilled in chairing discussions and presenting findings on the topics covered to a specialist audience. They are also particularly aware of gender-specific issues.			
Content: The module gives students an introduction to fundamental theories and concepts of social structure analysis and Europe's special position in global comparison; it covers the welfare state regime and a European social model and compares European societies in selected aspects (e.g. participation in education and educational opportunities, migration and integration processes, population/family, gender, economic and employment structure, material standard of living, political participation and communication structures). Comparative empirical studies on individual topics are discussed, giving an insight into the current state of research in comparative social structure analysis and the			

applicability of a range of empirical procedures.			
Teaching and learning units	Attendance (Semester hours per week = SH)	Forms of active participation	Study time (hours)
Specialisation lecture	2	Recapitulation of lecture, discussion based on preparatory reading, use of interactive learning media, passing a test	Attendance at specialisation lecture 30 Preparation and follow-up for specialisation lecture 60
Main seminar	2	Discussion based on preparatory reading, preparing excerpts and thesis papers, taking on presentations and chairing discussions, use of interactive learning media, participation in group work, working on tasks	Attendance at main seminar 30 Preparation and follow-up for main seminar 90 Preparation for examination, examination 90
Language of instruction		German, English	
Compulsory regular attendance		Specialisation lecture: attendance recommended; main seminar: yes	
Study time, total hours		300 hours	10 CP
Duration of module		One semester	
Module offered		Every summer semester	
Application		Master's programme Sociology – European Societies	

Module: Culture and Values in European Societies			
University/Department/Institute: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of Political and Social Sciences/Institute of Sociology			
Responsible for the module: module lecturers			
Admission requirements: none			
Qualification aims: Students can describe and apply a range of theoretical concepts of culture. They can differentiate between European countries in terms of different value dimensions; they can identify the effects of the framework of social conditions on cultural differences in European and non-European societies. They can independently analyse the impact of the European unification process on the development of a common European culture, as well as preparing and appropriately presenting the findings of this analysis.			
Content: The module focuses on theoretical concepts of culture (macro- and microsociological cultural theories); it compares European cultures (e.g. religious orientation, political values, economic cultures, family cultures, remembrance cultures, values relating to equality and gender relations) and concepts for explaining the development of values, changing values and the relationship between culture and social structure. Related theories (e.g. on culture, changing values) are discussed in relation to more detailed reading and current empirical cultural comparison studies in relation to selected topics among those mentioned are analysed.			
Teaching and learning units	Attendance (Semester hours per week = SH)	Forms of active participation	Study time (hours)
Specialisation lecture	2	Recapitulation of lecture, discussion based on preparatory reading, use of interactive learning media, passing a test	Attendance at specialisation lecture 30 Preparation and follow-up for specialisation lecture 60
Main seminar	2	Discussion based on preparatory reading, preparing excerpts and thesis papers, taking on presentations and chairing discussions, use of interactive learning media, participation in group work, working on tasks	Attendance at main seminar 30 Preparation and follow-up for main seminar 90 Preparation for examination, examination 90
Language of instruction		German, English	
Compulsory regular attendance		Specialisation lecture: attendance recommended; main seminar: yes	
Study time, total hours		300 hours	10 CP
Duration of module		One semester	
Module offered		Every summer semester	
Application		Master's programme Sociology – European Societies	

Module: Globalization and Regional Development			
University/Department/Institute: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of Political and Social Sciences/Institute of Sociology			
Responsible for the module: module lecturers			
Admission requirements: none			
Qualification aims: The students have deepened their knowledge of globalisation and regional development (in particular of the societies in Western and Eastern Europe, North and South America) and the theories relating to the topic. They can analyse the regional and local adaptation to global trends, and describe and explain any differences and common features. They can chair discussions competently and present findings on the topics covered to a specialist audience.			
Content: The module gives a more detailed introduction to historical parameters and theoretical approaches to globalisation, current global trends and the development of European and non-European societies in the global context and compares different regions. The development of (West) European societies is examined and analysed in comparison with that of other regions, in particular in Eastern Europe, North and Latin America. Globalisation and regionalisation processes in different parts of the world are discussed in more depth in relation to current specialist literature.			
Teaching and learning units	Attendance (Semester hours per week = SH)	Forms of active participation	Study time (hours)
Specialisation lecture	2	Recapitulation of lecture, discussion based on preparatory reading, use of interactive learning media, passing a test	Attendance at specialisation lecture 30 Preparation and follow-up for specialisation lecture 60
Main seminar	2	Discussion based on preparatory reading, preparing excerpts and thesis papers, taking on presentations and chairing discussions, use of interactive learning media, participation in group work, working on tasks	Attendance at main seminar 30 Preparation and follow-up for main seminar 90 Preparation for examination, examination 90
Language of instruction		German, English	
Compulsory regular attendance		Specialisation lecture: attendance recommended; main seminar: yes	
Study time, total hours		300 hours	10 CP
Duration of module		One semester	
Module offered		Every summer semester	
Application		Master's programme Sociology – European Societies	

Specialisation phase

Module: Research Practicum			
University/Department/Institute: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of Political and Social Sciences/Institute of Sociology			
Responsible for the module: module lecturers			
Admission requirements: none			
Qualification aims: The students are able to independently develop a theory-based research issue in a central field of comparative European social research, to carry it out empirically and to present and critically evaluate the findings of their research appropriately.			
Content: The practical research comprises carrying out a small-scale theory-based empirical study in one of the following fields: (1) social structure and social inequality in European societies in comparison, (2) values and culture in a comparative European perspective, (3) globalisation and regional development. Students generate hypotheses from theoretical issues, prepare a research plan and select, prepare, document and analyse suitable data. They present and discuss the findings in the research practicum module and compile a research report.			
Teaching and learning units	Attendance (Semester hours per week = SH)	Forms of active participation	Study time (hours)

Research project	4	Participating in teaching discussions; preparing exposés and research plans; independent selection of secondary data (or independent data collection), preparing data, evaluating and documenting data, preparing excerpts and literature reports, presenting findings, use of interactive media (e-learning), participation in dialogue for learning	Attendance at research project Preparation and follow-up of research project Preparation for examination, examination	60 240 150
Language of instruction		German, English		
Compulsory regular attendance		yes		
Study time, total hours		450 hours	15 CP	
Duration of module		One semester		
Module offered		Every winter semester		
Application		Master's programme Sociology – European Societies		

Module: Area of Specialisation			
University/Department/Institute: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of Political and Social Sciences/Institute of Sociology			
Responsible for the module: module lecturers			
Admission requirements: none			
Qualification aims: The students can analyse and discuss the current state of research in core fields of comparative European social research. They are able to give a comparative presentation of partly contradictory research findings and to evaluate them, to identify related gaps in research and to develop strategies to fill the gaps.			
Content: Through reading and discussing current specialist literature (in particular empirical comparative studies), the specialisation seminars cover current theoretical and empirical research findings in the following fields: (1) social structure and social inequality in European societies in comparison, (2) values and culture in a comparative European perspective, (3) globalisation and regional development. Among other things, reports on the status of research are compiled and prognoses about the development of research fields prepared.			
Teaching and learning units	Attendance (Semester hours per week = SH)	Forms of active participation	Study time (hours)
Specialisation seminar	2	Participating in teaching discussions, preparing reviews, literature reports and hand-outs, taking on presentations and chairing discussions, using interactive media for learning (e-learning) participating in group work, working on tasks, term papers or essays	Attendance at specialisation seminars Preparation and follow-up for specialisation seminars Preparation for examination, examination
Specialisation seminar	2	Participating in teaching discussions, preparing reviews, literature reports and hand-outs, taking on presentations and chairing discussions, using interactive media for learning (e-learning) participating in group work, working on tasks, term papers or essays	60 240 150
Language of instruction		German, English	
Compulsory regular attendance		yes	
Study time, total hours		450 hours	15 CP
Duration of module		One semester	
Module offered		Every winter semester	
Application		Master's programme Sociology – European Societies	

Annex 2: Sample programme plan

Semester	Modules		
1 st semester (30 CP)	European Integration and the Development of European Societies since 1945 (10 CP)	Sociological Theories of Social Change and Integration (10 CP)	Methods of Comparative Research in Social Sciences (10 LP)
2 nd semester (30 CP)	Social Structure and Inequality in European Societies (10 CP)	Culture and Values in European Societies (10 CP)	Globalization and Regional Development (10 CP)
3 rd semester (30 CP)	Research Practicum (15 CP)	Area of Specialisation (15 CP)	
4 th semester (30 CP)	Master's Thesis with accompanying colloquium (30 CP)		