

## Module Catalog Master of Arts in Sociology

According to a decision made by the school council of the School of Social Sciences on XX XXX 2015

This version applies to students admitted to the M.A. in Sociology from fall semester 2016.

- I. Module: Foundations of Sociological Theory
- II. Module: Sociological Research Fields
- III. Module: Cross-Sectional Data Analysis
- IV. Module: Advanced Research Methods
- V. Module: Research Design
- VI. Module: Research Project
- VII. Module: Master's Thesis

### Abbreviations:

VL – lecture  
S – seminar  
FS – research seminar  
K – colloquium  
PR – examination  
Ü – Übung  
P - Internship

HWS – fall semester  
FSS – spring semester  
  
PL – examinations  
SL – coursework

## I. Module: Foundations of Sociological Theory

Sem.	Type	Course Title	Required Coursework	Required Examination	Type of Assessment	ECTS
1. (HWS)	VL	Foundations of Sociological Theory	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 5,000 words)	PL	6
1. (HWS)	Ü	Foundations of Sociological Theory	Minutes, project-related papers, reports, presentations, evaluations, posters, websites, research proposals, extracts, homework, oral participation, obligatory attendance		SL	3
						9
<b>Contact Hours</b>		2 ECTS				
<b>Self-study</b>		7 ECTS				
<b>Requirements</b>		Good level of English proficiency				
<b>Preliminary Coursework for the Examination</b>		Preliminary coursework is equivalent to the coursework required for this module. The examiner decides on the composition of preliminary coursework and the scope of obligatory attendance. His or her decisions are announced using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.				
<b>Content and Learning Outcomes</b>		<p>The lecture covers central aspects of sociological theory development and its foundations based on scientific theory. It offers an overview of the methodology of sociological explanations and the central, general components of sociological theories in research. A particular focus lies on how to use theory to appropriately explain empirical sociological findings and how theory governs empirical evidence.</p> <p>The exercise course deepens the discussion on the reading from the lecture.</p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>(1) An understanding of the methodology of sociological explanations.</p> <p>(2) Knowledge of sociological theories and their components; their assessment and classification in relation to their explanatory power.</p> <p>(3) The ability to critically assess the link between sociological theories and empirical-analytical research.</p>				
<b>Example Topics</b>		Foundations and problems of sociological theory; explanations and theories in social sciences; theories of social actions; the micro-macro problem/analytical sociology; theoretical models to explain social change.				
<b>Module Usability</b>		Mandatory module				
<b>Group Size</b>		Max. 60 participants				
<b>Module Frequency</b>		Every fall semester				
<b>Module Duration</b>		One semester				
<b>Module Leader</b>		Professor responsible for the program				
<b>Coursework and Examinations</b>		Lecture: There are several coursework and examination options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually				

	<p>at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.</p> <p>Exercise Course: There are several coursework options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.</p>
<b>Grades</b>	<p>The grade of the examination is also the final grade of the respective module.</p>

## II. Module: Sociological Research Fields

Sem.	Type	Course Title	Required Coursework	Examinations	Type of Assessment	ECTS
1. (HWS)	S	Elective Seminar	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 5,000 words)	PL	6
2. (FSS)	S	Elective Seminar	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 5,000 words)	PL	6
2. (FSS)	S	Elective Seminar	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 5,000 words)	PL	6
3. (HWS)	S	Elective Seminar	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 5,000 words)	PL	6
3. (HWS)	S	Elective Seminar	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 5,000 words)	PL	6
						30

<b>Contact Hours</b>	5 ECTS
<b>Self-study</b>	25 ECTS
<b>Requirements</b>	Basic knowledge of empirical social research methods; good level of English proficiency
<b>Preliminary Coursework for the Examination</b>	Preliminary coursework is equivalent to the coursework required for this module. The examiner decides on the composition of preliminary coursework and the scope of obligatory attendance. His or her decisions are announced using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.
<b>Content and Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Selected topics relating to sociological research are introduced in these seminars to support the research project (module: Research Project) and to prepare for the final thesis (module: Master Thesis). They impart a deeper insight into the current status of research in each field, which is used to determine open questions and perspectives for further research.</p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p>

	<p>(1) Basic knowledge in central sociological research fields.</p> <p>(2) In-depth knowledge of new theoretical and empirical approaches in the sociological research fields covered during the module.</p> <p>(3) The ability to evaluate empirical evidence for theoretical explanations in the sociological research fields covered during the module.</p>
<b>Example Topics</b>	<p>Social inequality &amp; stratification; sociology of migration; urban sociology; comparative welfare state analysis; labor relations; social capital and civil society; organizational theory; networks &amp; segregation; economic sociology; fertility &amp; family formation; sociology of education; labor markets &amp; occupations; ethnic inequality &amp; segregation; modeling social processes; analytical sociology; structuralist theory; game theory; social and institutional change.</p>
<b>Module Usability</b>	Mandatory module
<b>Group Size</b>	Max. 30 participants
<b>Module Frequency</b>	Every semester
<b>Module Duration</b>	Three semesters
<b>Module Leader</b>	Professor responsible for the program
<b>Coursework and Examinations</b>	<p>There are several coursework and examination options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.</p>
<b>Grades</b>	<p>The grade of the examination (weighted by the number of ECTS) is also the final grade of the respective module.</p>

### III. Module: Cross-Sectional Data Analysis

Sem.	Type	Course Title	Required Coursework	Examinations	Type of Assessment	ECTS
1. (HWS)	VL	Cross-Sectional Data Analysis	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 5,000 words)	PL	6
1. (HWS)	Ü	Cross-Sectional Data Analysis	Minutes, project-related papers, reports, presentations, evaluations, posters, websites, research proposals, extracts, homework, oral participation, obligatory attendance		SL	3
						9
<b>Contact Hours</b>		2 ECTS				
<b>Self-study</b>		7 ECTS				
<b>Requirements</b>		Basic knowledge of statistics and methods of empirical sociological research, good level of English proficiency				
<b>Preliminary Coursework for the Examination</b>		Preliminary coursework is equivalent to the coursework required for this module. The examiner decides on the composition of preliminary coursework and the scope of obligatory attendance. His or her decisions are announced using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.				
<b>Content and Learning Outcomes</b>		<p>Processes for cross-sectional regression analysis (linear and categorical) are covered at an advanced level during the lecture. The worksheets, distributed by the lecturer at the start of the semester are discussed during the exercise course. The exercise course contains an introduction to current statistics programs such as Stata or R.</p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Knowledge of different cross-sectional regression processes</li> <li>(2) The ability to perform regression analyses using current statistic programs such as Stata or R</li> <li>(3) Advanced knowledge of different estimation procedures (e.g. OLS, maximum likelihood estimate)</li> <li>(4) Regression diagnostics</li> <li>(5) Model selection</li> </ol>				
<b>Example Topics</b>		Estimation procedures (OLS, Maximum Likelihood), linear regression, IV regression, binary decision models, ordinal decision models, multinomial decisions models, numerical data models, other regression models, regression diagnostics.				
<b>Module Usability</b>		Mandatory module				
<b>Group Size</b>		Max. 60 participants				
<b>Module Frequency</b>		Every fall semester				
<b>Module Duration</b>		One semester				
<b>Module Leader</b>		Professor responsible for the program				

<b>Coursework and Examinations</b>	<p>Lecture: There are several coursework and examination options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.</p> <p>Exercise Course: There are several coursework options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.</p>
<b>Grades</b>	The grade of the examination is also the final grade of the respective module.

#### IV. Module: Advanced Research Methods

Sem.	Type	Course Title	Required Coursework	Required Examinations	Type of Assessment	ECTS
2. (FSS)	VL	Longitudinal Data Analysis	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 5,000 words)	PL	6
2. (FSS)	Ü	Longitudinal Data Analysis	Minutes, project-related papers, reports, presentations, evaluations, posters, websites, research proposals, extracts, homework, oral participation, obligatory attendance		SL	3
						9

<b>Contact Hours</b>	2 ECTS
<b>Self-study</b>	7 ECTS
<b>Requirements</b>	Good level of English proficiency.
<b>Preliminary Coursework for the Examination</b>	Preliminary coursework is equivalent to the coursework required for this module. The examiner decides on the composition of preliminary coursework and the scope of obligatory attendance. His or her decisions are announced using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.
<b>Content and Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>The analysis of event history data and panel data is taught during the lecture.</p> <p>Practical research methods are taught during the exercise course using secondary data and information from other sources.</p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>(1) The ability to critically assess potential and problems of analyses based on cross-sectional and longitudinal data</p> <p>(2) The ability to carry out advanced data analyses, particularly event history and panel data analyses</p> <p>(3) Understanding of inferences using longitudinal data</p> <p>(4) Use of statistic software to carry out analyses of longitudinal data</p>
<b>Example Topics</b>	Estimation procedures (maximum likelihood), time-series regression, event history and panel data regression, regression diagnostics
<b>Module Usability</b>	Mandatory module
<b>Group Size</b>	Max. 60 participants
<b>Module Frequency</b>	Every spring semester
<b>Module Duration</b>	One semester
<b>Module Leader</b>	Professor responsible for the program
<b>Coursework and Examinations</b>	<p>Lecture: There are several coursework and examination options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.</p> <p>Exercise Course: There are several coursework options available. The</p>



	examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.
<b>Grades</b>	The grade of the examination is also the final grade of the respective module.

## V. Module: Research Design

Sem.	Type	Course Title	Required Coursework	Examinations	Type of Assessment	ECTS
3. (HWS)	VL	Research Design	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 5,000 words)	PL	6
3. (HWS)	Ü	Research Design	Minutes, project-related papers, reports, presentations, evaluations, posters, websites, research proposals, extracts, homework, oral participation, obligatory attendance		SL	3
3. (HWS)	P	Research Internship	Participation and report (max. 1,500 words)		SL	6
						15

<b>Contact Hours</b>	8 ECTS
<b>Self-study</b>	7 ECTS
<b>Requirements</b>	Good level of English proficiency.
<b>Preliminary Coursework for the Examination</b>	Preliminary coursework is equivalent to the coursework required for this module. The examiner decides on the composition of preliminary coursework and the scope of obligatory attendance. His or her decisions are announced using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.
<b>Content and Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>This module should put students in a position to develop a suitable research design for a concrete research question (particularly with regard to the master's thesis), and be able to select and use the available information bases. The lecture provides an overview of the most important sociological research designs and discusses their strengths and weaknesses. Practical research methods are taught during the exercise course using secondary data and information from other sources.</p> <p>The Research Internship is a period of work experience lasting at least six weeks (180 hours) at a sociological research institution. This institution can be, but does not have to be, active in the academic field</p> <p>OR</p> <p>in equivalent position as a student assistant with a degree at the School of Social Sciences</p> <p>OR</p> <p>participating in a Summer School which has an empirical focus and takes place over at least two weeks. The suitability of the Summer School is to be confirmed by the Internship Office at the School.</p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>(1) The ability to critically assess potential and problems relating to different research designs and the capability to develop a suitable research design for a concrete research question.</p> <p>(2) Knowledge of available sociological data sources and the ability to assess their suitability and apply them to a concrete research question.</p> <p>(3) Gaining a practical insight in to empirical sociological research through the</p>

	research internship.
<b>Example Topics</b>	Causal analysis; goals of sociological research and methodological problems; experiments and case studies; cross-sectional and longitudinal studies; international comparisons
<b>Module Usability</b>	Mandatory module
<b>Group Size</b>	For lecture and exercise course: max. 60 participants
<b>Module Frequency</b>	Every fall semester
<b>Module Duration</b>	One semester, including a six week research internship or a two week Summer School. A combination is possible with agreement from the Internship Office of the school.
<b>Module Leader</b>	Professor responsible for the program
<b>Coursework and Examinations</b>	<p>Lecture: There are several coursework and examination options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.</p> <p>Exercise Course: There are several coursework options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.</p> <p>Internship: Participation and report (max. 1,500 words). Details are governed by the Internship Regulations.</p>
<b>Grades</b>	The grade of the examination is also the final grade of the respective module.

## VI. Module: Research Project

Sem.	Type	Course Title	Required Coursework	Examinations	Type of Assessment	ECTS
2. (FSS)	S	Seminar in Research Methods	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 5,000 words)	PL	6
2. (FSS)	Ü	Exemplary Empirical Studies	Minutes, project-related papers, reports, presentations, evaluations, posters, websites, research proposals, extracts, homework, oral participation, obligatory attendance		SL	3
3. (HWS)	FS	Research Project	Oral participation, homework, presentations, obligatory attendance	Written examination (90 min.), oral examination, written term paper (max. 6500 words)	PL	6
3. (HWS)	K	Colloquium	Minutes, project-related papers, reports, presentations, evaluations, posters, websites, research proposals, extracts, homework, oral participation, obligatory attendance		SL	3
						18

<b>Contact Hours</b>	4 ECTS
<b>Self-study</b>	14 ECTS
<b>Requirements</b>	Good level of English proficiency.
<b>Preliminary Coursework for the Examination</b>	Preliminary coursework is equivalent to the coursework required for this module. The examiner decides on the composition of preliminary coursework and the scope of obligatory attendance. His or her decisions are announced using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.
<b>Content and Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>The Seminar in Research Methods deepens and extends knowledge of advanced methods of empirical social research in preparation for the subsequent seminar Research Project. During the exercise course, Exemplary Empirical Studies, explanation approaches are evaluated using exemplary new publications; and formal and stylistic standards for academic texts are taught. In the final research seminar, Research Project, students prepare an empirical-analytical study in a focus area of sociological research.</p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Deeper knowledge of advanced econometric techniques and the latest methodological developments in empirical social research.</li> <li>(2) Knowledge of formal and stylistic requirements for academic texts</li> <li>(3) Deeper understanding of causal explanations and the ability to evaluate them</li> <li>(4) The ability to carry out theory-based empirical investigations into social</li> </ol>

	processes in one or more of the sociological research fields.
<b>Example Topics</b>	Seminar: Bayesian statistics & inference; multilevel models; comparative-historical analysis; models of network structure; game theory & social processes; sequence analysis/optimal matching; Exercise Course: Presentation, defense and criticism of studies. Citations, research (electronic media, databases, SSCI), ASA manual
<b>Module Usability</b>	Elective course
<b>Group Size</b>	For seminars, research seminars and colloquia: max. 30 participants For exercise courses: max. 60 participants
<b>Module Frequency</b>	Start: every spring semester
<b>Module Duration</b>	Two semesters
<b>Module Leader</b>	Professor responsible for the program
<b>Coursework and Examinations</b>	Seminar and Research Seminar: There are several coursework and examination options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.  Exercise Course and Colloquium: There are several coursework options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.
<b>Grades</b>	The grade of the examination (weighted by the number of ECTS) is also the final grade of the respective module.

## VII. Module: Master's Thesis

Sem.	Type	Course Title	Required Coursework	Required Examinations	Type of Assessment	ECTS
4. (FSS)	K	Master's Forum Day	Minutes, project-related papers, reports, presentations, evaluations, posters, websites, research proposals, extracts, homework, oral participation, obligatory attendance		SL	1
4. (FSS)	K	Master's Thesis Colloquium	Minutes, project-related papers, reports, presentations, evaluations, posters, websites, research proposals, extracts, homework, oral participation, obligatory attendance		SL	3
4. (FSS)	PR	Master's Thesis		Written final thesis according to section 18 of Examination Regulations	PL	26
						30

<b>Contact Hours</b>	2 ECTS
<b>Self-study</b>	28 ECTS
<b>Requirements</b>	At least 70 ECTS have to have been obtained in order to participate in the Master's Thesis module.
<b>Preliminary Coursework for the Examination</b>	Preliminary coursework is equivalent to the coursework required for this module. The examiner decides on the composition of preliminary coursework and the scope of obligatory attendance. His or her decisions are announced using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.
<b>Content and Learning Outcomes</b>	Preparation and production of the master's thesis. Research questions, research designs and initial empirical findings are presented during the Master's Forum Day. The colloquium accompanies the production of the master's thesis.  Learning Outcomes: (1) Independent scientific, theory-based work in a focus area of sociology (2) Critical reception of the available literature and current state of research (3) Competent use of appropriate methods
<b>Example Topics</b>	Selection and specification of a research question, research draft and thesis structure, research in literature and sociological publications, independent assessment of available research results, presentation of results
<b>Module Usability</b>	Mandatory module
<b>Group Size</b>	For colloquia: max. 30 participants

<b>Module Frequency</b>	Every spring semester
<b>Module Duration</b>	One semester
<b>Module Leader</b>	Professor responsible for the program
<b>Coursework and Examinations</b>	<p>Colloquia: There are several coursework options available. The examiner decides on their type, composition and weighting, and announces his or her decision using appropriate means in due time, usually at the beginning of the relevant lecture period.</p> <p>Master's thesis: printed master's thesis of max. 10,000 words including a bibliography.</p>
<b>Grades</b>	The grade of the examination is also the final grade of the respective module.