

MA International Relations Module Catalogue (May 2019)

This document is meant to give students and potential applicants a better insight into the curriculum of the program. Note that where information given in this catalogue (including information on requirements) deviates from stipulations in the current seminar outlines (syllabi), the latter take priority.

“PL” stands for *Prüfungsleistungen*, i.e. graded exams (in the widest sense). “SL” is shorthand for *Studienleistungen*, i.e. exams (in the widest sense) that must be passed but for which there is no grade. The bracketed information refers to the type of assignment that the specific module exam represents. The underlying typology is [annexed](#) to this document.

Actors, Institutions, and Global Governance (IR-A1) (Marco Verweij)¹

Content

This module introduces the first-year students to the most influential International Relations theories of the past fifty years. It does so by providing a critical overview of the approaches and concepts from the third and the fourth of the so-called ‘Great Debates’ in the study of world politics. It will be discussed, for each of these theoretical frameworks, which actors are perceived to be influential in international relations, how these interact with institutions, and how this interaction brings forth global governance. Particular attention will be paid to why it was deemed necessary to replace the theories and concepts from the third Great Debate with those from the fourth, and whether these later frameworks are satisfactory. Although the module focuses on theory, empirical applications and examples will be offered and discussed every week, including some of the most pressing international issues of today, such as climate change, development aid, and European

¹ person in charge of the module; for details on the faculty see [here](#)

integration. Finally, the students will be introduced to a theory that has been developed in anthropology and political science, and will critically assess whether this approach can help overcome some of the alleged weaknesses of the approaches from the fourth Great Debate.

Results

- knowledge of a wide range of international relations theories and concepts
- familiarity with a cutting-edge anthropological theory highly relevant to world politics
- ability to apply these tools to empirical problems and issues

IR-A1a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- weekly quiz (ten minutes each class) [short in-class exam] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- mid-term exam (120 min.) [short in-class exam] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- final take-home exam (7 days) [long take-home exam] (50%) (3 CP) (PL)

IR-A1b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours

- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- weekly quiz (ten minutes each class) [short in-class exam] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
 - mid-term exam (120 min.) [short in-class exam] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
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International History (IR-B1) (Julia Timpe)

Content

The module traces the origins of modern internationalism and the emergence of modern international relations. The module links the study of political and social movements trying to reform society and politics through transnational cooperation to the process of internationalizing cultural, political, and economic practices. The historical perspective reveals the increasing, yet ambivalent transnational linking of societies. The tension between globalization and fragmentation will be studied in various areas, including the formation of states, colonialism, consumer culture, peace movements, governmental organizations, and transnational corporations. The module provides students with a critical understanding of the making of today's international world. A secondary objective of this module is to familiarize students with some main schools of thought in history as an academic discipline such as social history, conceptual history, and global history.

Results

- familiarity with the history of the international society since the nineteenth century
- ability to read sources critically

- ability to link historical concepts and detailed analysis

IR-B1a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- short presentation (15 min., summary 600 words) [short presentation] or two small papers (book reviews, related to class and due in class, c. 750 words each) [short seminar paper] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- exposé of term paper (due in the last class meeting, up to 300 words) (SL)
- term paper (c. 5,000 words, due 1 March) [long seminar paper] (75%) (4.5 CP) (PL)

IR-B1b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- short presentation (15 min., summary 600 words) [short presentation] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
 - two small papers (book reviews, related to class and due in class, c. 750 words each) [short seminar paper] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
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Modern Social Theory (IR-C1) (Martin Nonhoff)

Content

The purpose of this module is to learn from classic and contemporary texts of modern social theory. By studying those texts, we can elaborate concepts concerning fundamental characteristics of social developments and adapt them for the analysis of contemporary societal problems. By combining distinguished and contradictory perspectives, we will focus on those achievements which prepare a better understanding and explanation of long-term developments that are of extreme importance also for challenges of governance and social change in the 21st century. Topics for discussion include the methodological status of social theory, different characterizations of modern society (in particular capitalist society), the relation of agency and structure, power and hegemony, the critique of certain features of modern society, and the relevance of the categories of race and gender. The module will serve as a general introduction to modern social theory – it does not require any previous knowledge of this field, but the willingness to engage with theoretical texts and their sometimes complex arguments.

Results

- knowledge and understanding of classic and modern texts of social theory
- ability to make, defend, and rebut arguments in social theory

- ability to transform classical and modern theories while describing and explaining current social trends
- ability to apply major theoretical concepts to selected empirical problems

IR-C1a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- two position papers (c. 750 words each, variable due-dates) [short seminar paper] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL) *or* short presentation (15 min., summary 600 words) [short presentation] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- exposé of term paper (due in the last class meeting, up to 300 words) (SL)
- term paper (c. 5,000 words, due 1 March) [long seminar paper] (75%) (4.5 CP) (PL)

IR-C1b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- two position papers (c. 750 words each, variable due-dates) [short seminar paper] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
 - short presentation (15 min., summary 600 words) [short presentation] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
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Research Design (IR-D1) (Peter Mayer)

Content

The module aims to introduce students to the logic of inquiry in International Relations (IR) and other social sciences and thus to help prepare the ground for subsequent, more advanced modules in the methodology component of the program. The focus of the module is on learning about and discussing methodological principles and rules the purpose of which is to help students of international relations plan, structure, and organize their research endeavors in ways that maximize the probability of achieving valid and relevant results, particularly in the area of “theory-oriented research”. (“Theory” in this context will refer almost exclusively to “positive” rather than “normative” theory.) The module deals with questions such as the following: What are the features of a good research design? Which research questions are worth studying? What is a theory? How can we build and test theories? What is a scientific explanation? In addition, the module looks at some problems of the philosophy of social science, especially the debate between “naturalists”, who argue that social science is about explaining collective human behavior in an “objective” manner, and “interpretivists”, who argue that social life can only be understood from within the social world.

Results

- basic understanding of the epistemological foundations of the social sciences

- familiarity with the main research strategies in the social sciences, including their advantages and disadvantages and ranges of applicability
- ability to select appropriate research strategies according to the nature of the research problem at hand

IR-D1a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- short paper (research question) (300 words) (SL)
- two short seminar papers (1,500 words each) [medium-sized seminar paper] (50%) (3 CP) (PL)
- term paper ("research proposal") (c. 3,000 words, due 1 March) [medium-sized seminar paper] (50%) (3 CP) (PL)

IR-D1b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- short paper (research question) (300 words) (SL)
 - two short seminar papers (1,500 words each) [medium-sized seminar paper] (100%) (3 CP) (PL)
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International Political Economy (IR-A2) (Marco Verweij)

Content

Two dimensions define many of the theoretical disagreements in the International Political Economy (IPE) literature: international and domestic forces on the one hand, and state and social forces on the other. The module examines these theories by studying cross-border movements of trade, capital, and people. It looks at determinants of the development of world markets and at sources and modes of national and international economic policy and regulation. Special emphasis is placed on a comparison between present day globalization and the international political economy of the pre-World War I, interwar, and postwar periods and on a comparative view on IPE-theories and theoretical concepts from international economics and economic history. Examples of thematic foci of the module include the history of economic globalization, economic policies of the interwar period, the Bretton Woods System, financial market globalization since the 1970s, the Great Recession of 2008, the Euro Crisis, the nexus between political polarization, structural change and economic shocks in OECD countries, the “decline of the west” and “the rise of the rest”, restraints on economic development as well as current international migration flows and remittances.

Results

- familiarity with theoretical IPE concepts
- factual knowledge of the globalization process

- ability to apply theoretical concepts to empirical facts
- ability to analyze current media debates on the international political economy

IR-A2a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- three short papers (reflecting on mandatory readings, due in the respective class; c. 500 words each) [short seminar paper] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- one small paper (country profile providing and discussing empirical data, due in week 10; 1-1,500 words) [short seminar paper] or short presentation of an additional empirical aspect (15 min., handout/summary 600 words) [short presentation] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- final in-class exam (90 min.) (covering about half of the topics of the seminar) [short in-class exam] (50%) (3 CP) (PL)

IR-A2b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- three short papers (reflecting on mandatory readings, due in the respective class; c. 500 words each) [short seminar paper] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
 - one small paper (country profile providing and discussing empirical data, due in week 10; 1-1,500 words) [short seminar paper] *or* short presentation of an additional empirical aspect (15 min., handout/summary 600 words) [short presentation] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
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Transformation of the State (IR-B2) (Kerstin Martens)

Content

The state is widely considered to be the most important entity in international governance and, at the same time, a key concept in the social and political sciences. In recent years it has been argued that profound transformations are taking place which challenge the very foundations of the externally and internally sovereign modern state. The main tendencies of these transformations are the emergence of increasingly autonomous public and private institutions at the international level and the emergence of semi-autonomous functional subsystems and powerful private actors at the domestic level. International governance thus takes place in a complex multi-level system with a variety of public and private actors. This module analyzes these developments and their consequences for modern governance, both theoretically and empirically. We first explore major concepts and theories of the state before looking secondly at different concrete examples in greater detail.

Results

- familiarity with theories of the state

- knowledge of main development trends of the state
- ability to analyze state change

IR-B2a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- short presentation (up to 20 min., summary c. 600 words) [short presentation] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- exposé of term paper (due last class meeting, up to 300 words) (SL)
- term paper (essay, c. 5,000 words, due end of August) [long seminar paper] (75%) (4.5 CP) (PL)

IR-B2b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- short presentation (up to 20 min., summary c. 600 words) [short presentation] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
 - small paper (response paper, related to class and due in class; c. 1,500 words) [short seminar paper] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
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Social Theory and International Relations (IR-C2) (Roy Karadag)

Content

This module provides an overview of established theories and major developments in the field of International Relations (IR). While it links IR concepts to the discourses and themes addressed in the first semester module “Modern Social Theory”, it aims at highlighting the specific nature of the international. This connection is essential in order to fully grasp contemporary transnational and global political dynamics. With a strong social theory foundation, students will learn to re-evaluate prevalent notions of national identity, security, sovereignty, cooperation, rationality, and development. The module will provide them with the necessary analytical tools to historically contextualize current events in world politics and relate them to the works of classical social theorists. As a result, students will be able to gain a fuller understanding not only of real-world developments, but of the inner dynamics of the field of International Relations as well. Accordingly, the various ‘turns’ in IR and the debates between rationalism and constructivism, cosmopolitanism and communitarianism, and between the various camps of critical IR scholarship can be made sense of from a sociological perspective.

Results

- knowledge of main social theory concepts and their connection to international politics

- critical reflection of IR developments
- capacity to engage in academic debates and to contextualize IR positions

IR-C2a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- small presentation (up to 30 min.; handout/summary, c. 600 words) [short presentation] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- exposé of large paper (due last class meeting, up to 300 words) (SL)
- term paper (due end of August, c. 5,000 words) [long seminar paper] (75%) (4.5 CP) (PL)

IR-C2b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- small presentation (up to 30 min.; handout/summary c. 600 words) [short presentation] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
 - small paper (due in class, c. 1,500 words) [short seminar paper] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
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Advanced Quantitative Methods (IR-D2) (Adalbert Wilhelm)

Content

The module aims to provide an overview and understanding of the current state-of-the-art applied statistical techniques in the field of international relations. The standard setting will be the supervised learning situation in which there is one target variable, the behavior of which is to be predicted by some other predictor variables. It will cover methods for both continuous responses as well as categorical responses. To integrate the diverse methodological background of students a brief revision of the essentials of confirmatory statistics will be given, including hypothesis testing, significance, and power. Primarily, the module deals with multiple regression techniques, its extensions to binary and count data, and the handling of panel data structures. Students will acquire both passive and active knowledge on quantitative methods by reproducing quantitative analyses of relevant articles published in the leading journals of empirical international relations studies. The module is advanced in terms of concepts and methods, rather than in statistical theory or algebra. The focus will be on real-world applications and on discussing the assumptions, limitations, and interpretations of widely used statistical techniques.

Results

- familiarity with common multivariate statistical procedures
- ability to link theoretical concepts and empirical operationalization

- ability to conduct state-of-the-art statistical analyses using R and other statistical software packages
- experience in replicating, understanding, and critically commenting on empirical studies in the field of international relations
- ability to assess appropriateness of quantitative techniques for empirical studies in international relations

IR-D2a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- two multiple-choice quizzes (in weeks 4 and 8, respectively) [short in-class exam] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- research project presentation (15 minutes; in week 13 or 14; handout/summary c. 600 words) [short presentation] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- research report (c. 2,500 words; due 1 July) [medium-sized seminar paper] (50%) (3 CP) (PL)

IR-D2b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours

- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- two multiple-choice quizzes (in weeks 4 and 8, respectively) [short in-class exam] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- research project presentation (15 minutes; in week 13 or 14; handout/summary c. 600 words) [short presentation] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)

War and Peace (IR-A3) (Klaus Schlichte)

Content

This module discusses the most salient issues in war and peace studies. We deal first with theories on the causes and conduct of war and peace, ranging from classics to recent contributions. We also look at war and peace from the perspective of different IR theories. We then proceed to issues of research, and both quantitative and qualitative methods. Another major topic is what happens during contemporary wars and conflicts. We discuss military organization, political economies, identities, state formation, and violence. The last few sessions are dedicated to peacemaking in theory and practice. As an option, the module can also include case analyses of ongoing major armed conflicts. An emphasis is put on the discussion of methods and theories. In term papers, students shall link their own thematic interest with common ideas and debates in IR and conflict studies. Generally, our sessions will consist of structured discussions of the mandatory readings. These debates will be supplemented by short inputs by the instructor as well as students' presentations.

Results

- knowledge of main theories of war and peace
- familiarity with strategies to enhance international security
- familiarity with main threats to international security
- familiarity with main discussions in security studies

IR-A3a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- small presentation (15 min.; handout/summary, c. 600 words) [short presentation] or essay (on the topic of a single session; due in class, c. 1,500 words) [short seminar paper] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- exposé of term paper (due last class meeting, up to 300 words) (SL)
- term paper (due 15 March, c. 5,000 words) [long seminar paper] (75%) (4.5 CP) (PL)

IR-A3b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours

- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- small presentation (15 min.; handout/summary, c. 600 words) [short presentation] *or* essay (on the topic of a single session; due in class, c. 1,500 words) [short seminar paper] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- essay (on one of three thematic blocs; due in class, c. 1,500 words) [short seminar paper] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)

Legalization and International Law (IR-B3) (Manfred Hinz)

Content

The purpose of the module is to explore the place of legislation in international law within the context of global governance. Questions the module wants to explore are: Where does international law come from? Who were the main actors of public international law in the past? Who are the main actors today? To what extent does public international law contribute to the solution of international conflicts? The first part of the module looks at interpretations of the role and function of public international law as offered in scholarly reflections of public international law and by theories of international relations. The second part focuses on the different makers of public international law. The third part is devoted to special areas that illustrate international law-making as part of international political processes: The development of international trade law within the framework of the World Trade Organization, the call to legalize so-called third generation human rights, and the attempts to translate sustainability into law are examples for analysis.

Results

- knowledge of the main theories of international law and the understanding of international law in the theories of international relations
- knowledge of basic structures of international law, its sources, its agents, and its implementation
- knowledge of the making of international law as a continuous process
- ability to analyze transformations of international law

IR-B3a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- complementary presentation (30 min.; handout/summary c. 600 words) [short presentation] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- presentation of case analysis (15 min.; handout/summary c. 600 words) [short presentation] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- literature review (due 15 March, c. 2,500 words) [medium-sized seminar paper] (50%) (3 CP) (PL)

IR-B3b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- complementary presentation (30 min.; handout/summary c. 600 words) [short presentation] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- presentation of case analysis (15 min.; handout/summary c. 600 words) [short presentation] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)

Normative Theories of International Order (IR-C3) (Peter Mayer)

Content

This module deals with the ethical dimension of world politics. In the first part of the module students are introduced to moral and political philosophy as well as to the most important schools of thought in international ethics. Next, we will look at human rights, which are often viewed as guiding principles for international action and institutions, addressing both their (in)compatibility with broader views in contemporary political theory and the clash between the claim to universality inherent in human rights and the fact of cultural diversity. Subsequently, the module focuses its attention on a range of more specific problems, each viewed from a normative perspective: the ethics of force and coercion (including intervention) in international politics; the nature and scope of distributive justice at the

international and transnational levels (including the problem of intergenerational justice that comes into play in such issues as climate change); and the moral requirements of the global polity. In conclusion, the module will deal with the fundamental question of the proper scope of morality in international relations.

Results

- understanding of the distinctness and the mutual relationship of positive (descriptive or explanatory) and normative questions in international relations
- familiarity with the most important approaches to international ethics
- ability to apply normative principles and modes of reflection to concrete problems of world politics and international order

IR-C3a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- two position papers (due in weeks 2-7 and weeks 8-13, respectively; c. 750 words each) [short seminar paper] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- exposé of term paper (due last class meeting, up to 300 words) (SL)
- term paper (due 15 March, c. 5,000 words) [long seminar paper] (75%) (4.5 CP) (PL)

IR-C3b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- two position papers (due in weeks 2-7 and weeks 8-13, respectively; c. 750 words each) [short seminar paper] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- take-home exam (3 days) [short take-home exam] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)

Advanced Qualitative Methods (IR-D3) (Adalbert Wilhelm)

Content

This module will give an overview of qualitative research methodology and methods, and it will also provide students with hands-on knowledge of techniques they may want to apply in their own research. The social sciences have come into existence as a distinct field of scientific enquiry at the beginning of the 20th century. Since then, the qualitative/quantitative distinction has become a productive methodological divide. In this module students will be introduced to the assumptions underlying qualitative research, issues of design and sampling, the case study as a qualitative empirical methodology, methods for data collection and analysis, and criteria for evaluation. Special attention will be paid to data collection (participant observation, interviews, focus groups, and working with visual materials) and data analysis (coding, frames, computer-assisted qualitative analysis,

causal mechanisms, process tracing, qualitative comparative analysis). Discourse and content analysis will be discussed as major approaches in qualitative research. Finally, one section of this module will review recent trends in qualitative analyses of International Relations, such as operationalizing narratives, political ethnography, and mixed methods.

Results

- familiarity with qualitative empirical research, its most important assumptions and basic concepts
- knowledge of at least two major approaches in qualitative research: discourse and content analysis as well as knowledge of several data collection and data analysis techniques
- ability to select a suitable research design and methodology depending on the research question and to conduct an empirical qualitative research project
- ability to evaluate qualitative research and reflect upon quality criteria

IR-D3a (Large Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 180 hours

Total: 270 hours = 9 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- research design (due end of October, c. 1,500 words) [short seminar paper] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- research report I (due end of November, c. 1,500 words) [short seminar paper] (25%) (1.5 CP) (PL)

- research report II (due end of December, c. 2,500 words) [medium-sized seminar paper] (50%) (3 CP) (PL)

IR-D3b (Small Version)

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 56 (4x14) hours
- preparation of classes: 34 hours
- preparation and performance of exams: 90 hours

Total: 180 hours = 6 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- research design (due end of October, c. 1,500 words) [short seminar paper] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)
- research report (due end of November/December [depending on the selected topic], c. 1,500 words) [short seminar paper] (50%) (1.5 CP) (PL)

Master Thesis (IR-MAT) (Peter Mayer/Marco Verweij)

Content

The concluding module of the program encompasses the Master's thesis as well as the MA thesis seminar. The purpose of the thesis is for the students to demonstrate that they are able to produce a piece of scientific work on an appropriate scientific and methodological level within a certain period of time. The purpose of the thesis seminar is to support students in the process of conceiving, designing, and writing the thesis, complementing

the input they receive from their supervisors. The thesis seminar consists of three workshops: In the first workshop students present their thesis topic and initial ideas about how to tackle it. The second workshop gives students an opportunity to present and discuss their fully elaborated research design, i.e. precise statements of their (final) research question, its (normative, scientific, or practical) relevance, its place in the literature, their working hypothesis (or hypotheses), the role of theory in their study, the methods they are employing and the reasons for choosing them, the data they are using, etc. Finally, the third workshop is devoted to discussing results of students' investigation on the basis of a "writing sample", i.e. a draft of the Introduction or of a key chapter. In each workshop students receive feedback from the instructors and their fellow students helping them to identify problems in their arguments and possible solutions to these problems.

Results

- ability to conceive, design, and produce, in a restricted period of time, an extended social-scientific study which meets pertinent methodological and formal criteria
- ability to engage in a constructive and mutually supportive intercourse with one's peers on an ongoing research project

Calculation of Workload

- class attendance: 28 (2x14) hours
- preparation of workshops: 62 hours
- preparation and performance of exams (i.e. writing the thesis): 810 hours

Total: 900 hours = 30 ECTS credit points

Examination and Grading

- three progress papers (500 words & 1,500 words & 4,000 words) (SL)
- MA thesis (35,000 words) (PL)

Annex: Module Assignments: Types and Credit Points

Credit Points	Assignments
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● short seminar paper² (1-1,500 words) ● short presentation (with handout/summary up to 600 words) (15-30 min.) ● short in-class exam (90-120 min.; covering about half of the seminar's topics) ● short take-home exam (c. 3 days; covering about half of the seminar's topics) ● short oral exam (c. 30 min.; covering about half of the seminar's topics)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● medium-sized seminar paper (2,5-3,000 words) ● long presentation (with handout/summary up to 1,200 words) (whole session, as a group) ● long in-class exam (150-180 min.; covering the whole seminar) ● long take-home exam (c. 7 days; covering the whole seminar) ● long oral exam (c. 60 min.; covering the whole seminar)
4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● long seminar paper (5-6,000 words)

Note: This is an unofficial “reading” version of the module catalogue. The most recent version of this document is accessible via the [program website](#) (section: “The Program”).

² The singular must be taken with a grain of salt: a “seminar paper” in the sense of this table may consist of a series of papers. The same applies to “in-class exam”.