

OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF
“Fachspezifische Bestimmungen für den Masterstudiengang
‘Politics, Economics and Philosophy (M.Sc.)’
vom 12. Juli 2017“
(Amtliche Bekanntmachung Nr. 74, vom 8. November 2017)

THIS TRANSLATION IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY –
ONLY THE GERMAN VERSION SHALL BE LEGALLY
VALID AND ENFORCEABLE!

Subject-Specific Provisions for the Master of Science in
Politics, Economics and Philosophy

dated 12 July 2017

On 14 August 2017 in accordance with Section 108 subsection 1 of the Hamburg higher education act (Hamburgisches Hochschulgesetz, HmbHG), the Executive University Board of Universität Hamburg ratified the revised Subject-Specific Provisions for the Master of Science in Politics, Economics and Philosophy that were adopted by both the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities on 12 July 2017 pursuant to Section 91 subsection 2 no. 1 HmbHG dated 18 July 2001 (HmbGVBl. p. 171), as amended on 16 November 2016 (HmbGVBl. p. 472).

Preamble

These Subject-Specific Provisions supplement the examination regulations for the Master of Science degree programs in the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences dated 15 June 2016, as amended, and provide a description of the modules for the Master of Science in Politics, Economics and Philosophy.

I. Supplemental provisions

Section 1

Program and examination objectives, academic degree, and implementation of the Degree Program

Section 1 subsection 1:

(1) The Master of Science in Politics, Economics and Philosophy is a research-orientated consecutive degree program. The Degree Program aims to intensify knowledge acquired in a subject-specific degree program and to supplement and expand interdisciplinary viewpoints and methods. Students acquire the ability to apply, synthesize, and contrast methods and findings from the three disciplines of political science, economics, and philosophy within the context of individual and collective decisions.

(2) The consecutive Master of Science in Politics, Economics and Philosophy builds on a first higher education degree in economics, a comparable business degree with an applicable focus on economics, or a relevant first higher education degree in political science or philosophy.

(3) The Master of Science in Politics, Economics and Philosophy

(a) enables students to conduct independent scientific work by augmenting the knowledge and methods acquired during an undergraduate degree program,

(b) imparts the academic knowledge and skills that will qualify students for doctoral studies, and

(c) will more generally prepare students for professional work with a specific academic profile but not specifically focused on a particular field of activity. Students will be qualified to work in positions of responsibility in academia, the private sector, public administration, and nongovernment organizations. The Degree Program will prepare them for this by imparting a solid grounding in the subject as well as the ability to apply this knowledge in a reflected, problem-oriented, and methodologically sound manner.

Section 1 subsection 4:

The Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities shall administer the Degree Program.

Section 2

Regular period of study

The regular period of study is four semesters.

Section 3
Subject advising

Section 3 subsection 1:

Attending an introductory orientation course at the beginning of the program shall discharge the obligation to meet with a subject advisor pursuant to Section 51 subsection 1 HmbHG.

Section 4
Program and exam organization, modules, and ECTS credits

Section 4 subsections 2 and 3:

(1) The program is subdivided into five required modules and one required elective module, which students must complete within the first three subject semesters. In the required elective module students may select “open” courses offered in other master’s degree programs administered by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences as well as in the Master of Arts in Philosophy in the Faculty of Humanities. The required elective module gives students the opportunity to expand and deepen their specialized knowledge in the three disciplines beyond the required curriculum. The master’s thesis must be completed in the fourth subject semester. The preparation course Intermediate Microeconomics shall be offered before the beginning of the first semester as a voluntary block course for students who have no or very little prior knowledge of economic theory.

(2) The Master of Science in Politics, Economics and Philosophy encompasses a total of 120 ECTS credits. They are distributed as follows over the subject-specific required modules, the required elective module, and the master’s thesis:

Subject-Specific Required Modules:		78	ECTS
		credits	
Module 1:	Epistemology and History of Ideas	12	ECTS credits
Module 2:	Philosophy and Economics of Individual and Social Choice	12	ECTS credits
Module 3:	Individual and Collective Decisions	12	ECTS credits
Module 4:	Institutions in Economic and Political Perspective	18	ECTS credits
Module 5:	Interdisciplinary Seminars	24	ECTS credits
Required module	elective	12	ECTS credits
Master’s thesis:		30	ECTS credits

Program organization and modules

	Preparation Course	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
Required elective module		Required Elective Module 6 ECTS credits	Required Elective Module 6 ECTS credits		Master's thesis 30 ECTS credits
Courses in the disciplines	Intermediate Microeconomics	History of Economic Thought 6 ECTS credits	Public Choice 6 ECTS credits	Behavioral Economics 6 ECTS credits	
		Epistemology of Social Sciences: 6 ECTS credits	International Political Economy 6 ECTS credits	Economics and Politics of Institutions 6 ECTS credits	
		Social Choice and Welfare 6 ECTS credits		Political Theory 6 ECTS credits	
		Ethics 6 ECTS credits			
Interdisciplinary seminars			Interdisciplinary Seminar I 12 ECTS credits	Interdisciplinary Seminar II 12 ECTS credits	

**Section 5
Course types**

Section 5 subsection 1:

Interactive courses are courses that:

1. consist predominately of lectures,
2. require independent preparation and follow-up on course content, for example, in the form of independent reading,
3. require and promote a high degree of subject-specific interaction during classes,
4. demand regular preparatory and follow-up work, including short essays and practice exercises, and
5. support the development of academic debate through brief presentations and discussions.

Each interactive class shall contain a combination of lectures and practical courses, presentations and moderation of presentations, and discussion of practical exercises.

All courses in the Master of Science in Politics, Economics and Philosophy shall be held either as lectures, seminars, or interactive courses.

Section 5 subsection 2:

All courses shall be held in English.

Section 5 subsection 4:

Attendance is compulsory for all courses, also in cases where students are repeating the examination.

Section 10

Number of attempts to pass an examination

Section 10 subsection 1:

Seminars and interactive courses in which the examination consists of at least two exam components and the time schedule does not permit repetition of the individual exam components (e.g., a presentation and term paper) shall be considered special courses. For these courses, the course examinations shall only be offered once during each module cycle. In this case, any option to retake an examination shall only apply to all examination components for the course in their entirety.

Section 12

Examiners

Section 12 subsection 1:

The chair of the Examinations Board shall appoint the examiner.

Section 13

Completed coursework and module examinations

Section 13 subsection 1:

In addition to compulsory attendance, students may be required to complete the following coursework: preparation of or follow-up on study of topics dealt with in the course in the form of short essays, exercises, and short presentations that train skills in academic discourse. The type and scope of coursework shall be announced at the beginning of the course. At this point in time, it will also be announced if and how successfully completed coursework will result in any bonus points. Bonus points may improve a successfully completed course examination by a maximum of 0.7 points.

Section 13 subsection 6:

All examinations will be held in English.

Section 14
Master's thesis

Section 14 subsection 2:

In order to be admitted to the master's thesis, students must accrue at least 72 ECTS credits, 12 of which must derive from interdisciplinary seminars. An application for admission to the master's thesis must be submitted no later than six weeks after passing the last module examination.

Section 14 subsection 6 sentence 2:

The master's thesis must be written in English.

Section 14 subsection 7:

Students shall have six months to complete their master's thesis from the date of admission.

Section 15
Evaluation of examinations

Section 15 subsection 4 sentence 5:

If the overall module examination is comprised of several examination components, then the overall grade for the module shall be calculated on the basis of the average grades for each component weighted according to the ECTS credits assigned to each component.

Section 15 subsection 5 sentence 3:

The grade for the master's degree shall be calculated from the average of the grades from the required modules, the required elective module, and the master's thesis weighted according to the ECTS credits assigned to each part.

Section 15 subsection 5 sentence 7:

The overall grade "passed with distinction" shall be awarded if the master's degree program was passed with a 1.0 average.

II. Module descriptions

The Master of Science in Politics, Economics and Philosophy shall be comprised of the following modules:

Module number: Module 1 Module type: required module Title: Epistemology and History of Ideas	
Curriculum	<p>a) Epistemology of Social Sciences: This lecture initially introduces students to issues relating to the construction, functionality, and development of empirical theories. Concepts such as “causality” play a central role. Further thematic focuses are the correlation between the development of theory and the development of concepts, the relationship between theories and models, and the examination of controversies surrounding explanatory and interpretive approaches in the social sciences. These issues will be explained and discussed using both selected classical standpoints within the philosophy of science and current academic debates.</p> <p>(b) History of Economic Thought: This course discusses the following topics from the viewpoint of the history of economic theory: individual decisions, their macroeconomic effects (on welfare), explicit and implicit coordination mechanisms, the possibility or necessity of sovereign intervention, and related issues. It compares and analyzes different solutions from various schools of thought. The course explores and reflects critically upon the evolution of economic theory, for example, in the classic tradition of Smith, Mill, and Marx or by using selected political and economic controversies of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an overview of the most important problems and outcomes of modern epistemology • an overview of the most important tasks, methods, and outcomes in the modern philosophy of science • acquiring the ability to reflect on the methodological fundamentals of one’s own discipline • in-depth knowledge of selected aspects within the field of the history of economic thought • the ability to interpret texts on economic theory and relate these texts to economic history and the history of ideas • the ability to critically reflect on modern contributions to topics covered in light of the history of theory
Types of instruction	<p>(a) Epistemology of Social Sciences: lecture, seminar, or interactive course (2 credit hours per week)</p> <p>(b) History of Economic Thought: lecture, seminar, or interactive course (3 credit hours per week)</p>
Course and examination language	English
Course prerequisites	None
Type,	Prerequisites for admission to course examinations: successfully

requirements, and language of module exam	<p>completed coursework, the extent and scope of which shall be announced at the beginning of courses</p> <p>Type of examinations: Course examinations will be held for both courses Epistemology of Social Sciences and History of Economic Thought pursuant to Section 13 subsection 4 of the Examination Regulations. The exact type of examination shall be announced at the beginning of each course. The examinations shall be held in English.</p>
Course workload (components)	<p>(a) Epistemology of Social Sciences: 6 ECTS credits (b) History of Economic Thought: 6 ECTS credits</p>
Module frequency	Once a year
Total workload for the module	12 ECTS credits
Duration	The entire module lasts one semester.
Recommended semester	Semester 1

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

the module	
Duration	The entire module lasts one semester.
Recommended semester	Semester 1

Module number: Module 3 Module type: required module Title: Individual and Collective Decisions	
Curriculum	<p>(a) Public Choice: The course introduces the fundamental concepts of classic public choice theory. It deals with the behavioral model and the range of methodological instruments in economics as applied to political agents, institutions, and processes. Political agents such as governments, parties, administrations, or special interest groups are modeled as rational utility maximizing agents. The course also addresses new findings deriving from consideration of boundedly rational behavior and the design and effect of institutions. Public choice includes a range of sub-theories: the theory of preference aggregation, constitutional political economy and the economic theory of democracy, autocracy, special interest groups, and bureaucracy.</p> <p>(b) Behavioral Economics: The course addresses fundamental insights of behavioral economics, which are based primarily on laboratory experiments on individual and collective decision-making. Participants discuss deviations from normative decision theory and possible explanations for empirical findings that have led to new descriptive theories such as prospect theory or the theory of social preferences.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fundamental knowledge of the normative and descriptive theory of individual and collective decisions • an ability to critically analyze the mechanics of modern states and their institutions • ability to independently apply the theories and models dealt with in the module to concrete practical problems of politics
Types of instruction	<p>(a) Public Choice: lecture, seminar, or interactive course (3 credit hours per week)</p> <p>(b) Behavioral Economics: lecture, seminar, or interactive course (3 credit hours per week)</p>
Course and examination language	English
Course prerequisites	None
Type, requirements, and language of module exam	<p>Prerequisites for admission to course examinations: successfully completed coursework, the extent and scope of which shall be announced at the beginning of courses.</p> <p>Type of examinations: Course examinations will be held for the course Public Choice and the course Behavioral Economics pursuant to Section 13 subsection 4 of the Examination Regulations. The exact type of examination shall be announced at the beginning of each course. The examinations shall be held in English.</p>
Course workload (components)	<p>(a) Public Choice: 6 ECTS credits</p> <p>(b) Behavioral Economics: 6 ECTS credits</p>

Module frequency	Once a year
Total workload for the module	12 ECTS credits
Duration	The entire module lasts two semesters.
Recommended semester	Semesters 2 and 3

Module number: Module 4 Module type: required module Title: Institutions in Economic and Political Perspective	
Curriculum	<p>a) International Political Economy: The course addresses selected problems of international political economy by looking at specific policy fields. Topics may include the analysis of trade policy by means of strategic international economic theory, political economy of international migration, political economy of international currency and finance relationships, and international treaties for the environment and use of resources. The course analyzes institutions such as GATT (WTO), the IMF, the World Bank, and selected EU institutions.</p> <p>(b) Economics and Politics of Institutions: The course addresses the problems of collective decision-making in depth. Central to the course is the strategic action of different agents such as governments, parties, special interest groups, and consumers. It will be demonstrated how market or political outcomes are determined through institutions, that is, formal or informal rules and regulations, and how they are influenced by their design.</p> <p>(c) Political Theory: The course addresses the conceptual and practical problems of modern constitutionalism, modern democracy, as well as approaches in governance and compliance and the conceptualization of fundamental norms such as constitutional rights, citizenship, rule of law and human rights, for the latter also pertaining to international society. The works of Rawls, Dworkin, Sandel, Habermas, Tully, Taylor, Nozick, Sen, Jean Cohen, Slaughter, Kratochwil, and Byers, among others, will be discussed during the course. Particular attention will be given to the conceptual elements of the relationships between agents (and institutions) of the market, the law, culture, and politics (see also the connection to the course Social Choice and Welfare).</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ability to critically analyze the effect of institutions on individual and collective decision-making against the backdrop of economic and political theory • an in-depth understanding and application of the theoretical insights into individual and collective decision-making and a critical reflection from a political science perspective • ability to independently analyze selected national and international organizations together with the statutes and conventions that establish them as institutions • ability to independently examine modern political theories especially with respect to their application to issues of welfare economics as well as individual and collective decision-making processes • ability to extrapolate and justify normative positions based on modern political theories
Types of instruction	<p>(a) International Political Economy: lecture, seminar, or interactive course (3 credit hours per week)</p> <p>(b) Economics and Politics of Institutions: lecture, seminar, or interactive</p>

	course (3 credit hours per week) (c) Political Theory: lecture, seminar, or interactive course (2 credit hours per week)
Course and examination language	English
Course prerequisites	None
Type, requirements, and language of module exam	Prerequisites for admission to course examinations: successfully completed coursework, the extent and scope of which shall be announced at the beginning of courses. Type of examinations: Course examinations will be held for the course International Political Economy, the course Economics and Politics of Institutions, and the course Political Theory pursuant to Section 13 subsection 4 of the Examination Regulations. The exact type of examination shall be announced at the beginning of each course. The examinations shall be held in English.
Course workload (components)	(a) International Political Economy: 6 ECTS credits (b) Economics and Politics of Institutions: 6 ECTS credits (c) Political Theory: 6 ECTS credits
Module frequency	Once a year
Total workload for the module	18 ECTS credits
Duration	The entire module lasts two semesters.
Recommended semester	Semesters 2 and 3

Module number: Module 5 Module type: required module Title: Interdisciplinary Seminars	
Curriculum	Students shall select two of the following three courses: a) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Economics: various themes relating to individual and collective decisions with a focus on integrating the disciplines of political science and economics b) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Economics: various themes relating to individual and collective decisions with a focus on integrating the disciplines of philosophy and economics c) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Economics: various themes relating to individual and collective decisions with a focus on integrating the disciplines of philosophy and political science
Objectives	Students shall acquire the ability to apply, synthesize, and contrast methods and findings from the three disciplines of political science, economics, and philosophy with respect to specific issues within the context of individual and collective decision-making.
Types of instruction	Seminar (2 credit hours per week)
Course and examination language	English
Course prerequisites	None
Type, requirements, and language of module exam	The module examination shall be comprised of the examinations from the two selected interdisciplinary seminars. The examinations for the courses Interdisciplinary Seminar in Politics and Economics, Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Economics, and Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Politics shall consist of at least two and at the most three examinations from the prescribed list contained in Section 13 section 4 of the Examination Regulations, whereby one of the examinations must be in the form of a term paper pursuant to Section 13 subsection 4c) of the Examination Regulations. The exact number and type of examinations shall be announced at the beginning of the course. The examinations shall be held in English.
Course workload (components)	24 ECTS credits from two of the three following courses: (a) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Politics and Economics: 12 ECTS credits (b) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Economics: 12 ECTS credits (c) Interdisciplinary Seminar in Philosophy and Politics: 12 ECTS credits
Module frequency	Once a year
Total workload for the module	24 ECTS credits
Duration	The entire module lasts one semester.
Recommended semester	Semester 2 or 3

Module number: Module 6	
Module type: required elective module	
Title: Required Elective Module	
Curriculum	In the Required Elective Module, students may select “open” courses offered in other master’s degree programs administered by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences as well as in the Master of Arts in Philosophy in the Faculty of Humanities.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to create an individual profile by concentrating on selected areas in political science, economics, and philosophy • to expand and deepen knowledge acquired in required modules and to reflect upon this from the perspectives of political science, economics, and philosophy
Types of instruction	Lecture, seminar, or interactive course
Course and examination language	English
Course prerequisites	None
Type, requirements, and language of module exam	The course examinations consist of the types of exams set forth in Section 13 subsection 4. The exact type of examination shall be announced at the beginning of each course. The examinations shall be held in English.
Module frequency	Several courses are offered each semester
Total workload for the module	12 ECTS credits
Duration	The entire module lasts two semesters.
Recommended semester	Semesters 2 and 3

Section 23
Effective date

These Subject-Specific Provisions shall become effective on the day following official publication by Universität Hamburg. They shall initially apply to students commencing their studies in Winter Semester 2017/18.

Hamburg, 8 November 2017
Universität Hamburg