
Module Handbook

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Website: <http://www.european-studies.uni-duesseldorf.de/>

General description of the program

This study program is designed for students already having some background in European Studies who are interested in gaining deeper insights into the complex process of European integration. Special emphasis is put on the relevance of European integration for building a region of stable peace.

The study program provides students with comprehensive knowledge of the current state of the art in European Studies based on a social science perspective. Students learn to critically review the literature on European integration and train their skills in conducting their own scholarly research. In addition, the program aims at fostering personal skills, such as independent and analytical thinking, personal commitment, communicative competence and team spirit.

Graduates with a MA degree in European Studies will have acquired the following academic and social skills:

- advanced knowledge of the academic literature and the scientific community related to European Studies;
- advanced knowledge of governance issues related to European integration and their relevance for building stable peace in Europe;
- advanced knowledge of the complex processes of political, social, economic, and cultural integration in Europe;
- the capacity to critically evaluate the relevance of the neofunctionalist approach to European integration for building stable peace in Europe and its possible application to other regions;
- the capacity to independently conduct research and to professionally present the research results, both in research teams and in individual research projects;
- the capacity to analyze, research, and solve new and complex problems methodologically from an interdisciplinary perspective;
- intellectual creativity and the critical power of academic judgment;
- the ability to communicate, coordinate and organize in a multicultural team;
- the capacity to discuss relevant issues and problems related to current research results with experts as well as laypersons.

The program is structured into five modules, consisting of a total of 60 credits. 24 credits must be earned in the two subject modules, 32 credits in the two research modules and 4 credits in the orientation module. The first subject module “governance” is focused on in-depth discussions of the literature on governance issues related to European integration and their relevance for stable peace in Europe. The second subject module “integration” deals with social and cultural integration issues related to the complexities of community-building in Europe. The first research module “team project” supports the development and presentation of a team research project. The second research module “master thesis” focuses on writing a master thesis. Finally, the orientation module is composed of an introduction meeting, a language course and an excursion program.

Orientation Module					
Module code	Workload	Credits	Time	Frequency of module	Duration
P-SOWI-M-MEOM	120 hrs	4 CP	1st and 2nd semester	annually	2 semesters
course code	course type	title / topic			
P-SOWI-L-MEOMa	seminar	Orientation Day			
P-SOWI-L-MEOMb	language course	Language course			
P-SOWI-L-MEOMc	excursion	Excursion program			
Contents					
<p>During the orientation days at the start of each semester students will firstly get an overview of the study program, will secondly be introduced to the lecturers and staff involved in the program, and will thirdly be briefed on administrative details.</p> <p>The language course will help students to acquire basic communication skills in German. Those more advanced in the German language will attend an intermediate language course in German. German native speakers have to attend a language course in one of the other official languages of the EU (except German and English) from among the courses offered by the language center of the university.</p> <p>The excursion program will consist of two major excursions (three to four days each) to the European institutions in Brussels and Strasbourg respectively and will be supplemented by at least three one day excursions to Bonn (focusing on German and European history and on the relationship between the UN and the EU), to the Ruhr industrial area (focusing on the role of the EU in assisting the industrial restructuring) and to one of the Euregios on the German-Dutch or German-Belgian border (focusing on local and regional transborder cooperation).</p>					
Learning outcomes					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be better able to organise their studies and exams and to manage their everyday life as students. • Students will be able to use their language skills and their first-hand experience of European integration to extend the scope of their empirical research or prepare internships. • Students will have first-hand experience of the complex realities of European integration, including its linguistic and regional diversity. • Students will thus be able to substantiate and evaluate abstract knowledge of European integration with practical insights. 					
Learning and teaching methods					
<p>The "Orientation Days" will consist of presentations and a self-introduction of the faculty and staff involved in the study program and will also have Q&A periods.</p> <p>The required language course will be offered in the winter semester. It will be an interactive course focusing on verbal skills and listening comprehension. Students will have the option to continue language training on a voluntary base in the summer semester by adding another language course or by using audiovisuals or textbooks provided by the library.</p> <p>The excursion program will include expert presentations, guided tours, and discussion rounds. Students will contribute to the excursion by preparing additional briefings or by writing reports on parts of the excursion.</p>					
Entry requirements					
Basic communication skills in German are not required, but would be highly advisable before entering the master program.					
Examination					
Certificate of active participation without grade, based on language test passed and on active participation in excursion program (additional briefing or report) (no. 1000).					
Workload: 120 hrs					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation days: 4 hrs • Language course: 30 hrs contact hours plus 30 hrs private study • Excursion program: 52 hrs program (excl. travel) plus 4 hrs. preparation and writing reports 					
Credits: 4 CP					
Credits are certified based on regular attendance and active participation (short language test, briefing or report relating to the excursion program).					
Assignment to study programs					
The basic German language course is exclusively offered to European Studies students. The excursion program and additional language courses will be shared with students from other study programs.					
Weight of module grade for final grade					
N/A					
Module coordinator					
Waldmann, supported by Dr. Quetsch (executive program coordinator) and Dr. Hachenberg (head of the Language Center of the University)					
Additional information					
Details of the language courses and the excursion program will be published on the website of the European Studies program and the university website (via HIS-LSF). The excursions to Brussels und Strasbourg will be organized in cooperation with experienced civic education institutions (such as Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Friedrich Ebert Foundation or Europäische Akademie NRW, Bonn).					

Subject Module: Governance					
Module code	Workload	Credits	Time	Frequency of module	Duration
P-SOWI-M-MESMG	360 hrs	12 CP	1st and 2nd semester	annually	2 semesters
course code	course type	title / topic			
P-SOWI-L-MESMGa	seminar	EU foreign policy (issues include: EU as “civilian power”, Common Foreign and Security Policy, Common Security and Defense Policy, comparative national foreign policies, case studies)			
P-SOWI-L-MESMGb	seminar	EU policy-making and democratic legitimacy (issues include: concepts of democracy, debate on the democracy deficit of the EU, European Parliament, direct democracy, interest groups, NGOs, mass media, the challenges of populism)			
P-SOWI-L-MESMGc	seminar	Political economy of European integration (issues include: global vs. preferential (regional) liberalization, trade related integration, monetary integration)			
P-SOWI-L-MESMGd	seminar	Business and European integration (issue include: product markets, services markets, network industries, competition and state subsidies, taxation, free movement of labor, free movement of capital)			
Contents					
Based on the (neo)functionalist idea of a “working peace” this module deals with the effective and peaceful governance of European integration. Since neofunctionalism is based on “spill-over” from economic cooperation to sustainable peace, the module covers both the economic and the political dimensions of European governance. The courses of this module address the democratic governance of the European multi-level system, the civilian power politics of European Union foreign relations, the management of Europe as an economic community and the specific role of business benefiting from, and thus advancing, European integration.					
Learning outcomes					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will improve their knowledge of the relevant academic literature, including the biographical and institutional backgrounds of authors. • Students will be able to link neofunctionalist theory to specific issues of European governance and will be aware of alternative theoretical interpretations. • Students will be aware of methodological approaches used in the literature and be attentive to methodological challenges of linking social sciences and economics. • Students will be able to apply academic research to current political and economic issues. • Students will be able to take over responsibility within teams and communicate complex issues to an expert public. • Finally, students will be able to evaluate the relevance of European governance in terms of peace building in Europe and will be able to discuss possible lessons for other world regions amongst them as well as with experts and EU representatives. 					
Learning and teaching methods					
The module is delivered through a combination of social science seminars, based on presentations and discussions of assigned readings, and economics lectures, supplemented by joint discussions and exercises. The courses will be backed by course websites, providing the students with the assigned texts and additional information. Students will have the option of making their presentations and papers available to other students via these websites.					
Entry requirements					
Based on the admission criteria for the study program, students are expected to already have a basic knowledge of political and economic institutions and decision-making processes in the European Union and of integration theories.					
Examination					
There will be one oral examination of 20 to 30 minutes (no. 2000). It will be connected to one of the module's social science courses (“EU foreign policy” or “EU policy-making and democratic legitimacy”). In preparing for the examination the candidate has to review additional literature beyond the assigned readings.					
Workload: 360 hrs					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact hours: 4 courses x 2 hrs per week x 15 weeks = 120 hrs • Private study (preparation and follow-up): 120 hrs • Preparation and carrying out of examination: 120 hrs 					
Credits: 12 CP					
Credits are certified based active participation (substantiated by oral presentations and/or course papers in social science courses and by passing written tests in the economics courses) and successful oral examination.					
Assignment to study programs					
The Institute of Social Sciences offers the courses of this module also to students of the other social sciences study programs.					
Weight of module grade for final grade					
one seventh					
Module coordinator/lecturers					
Waldmann / Waldmann, Hummel, Smeets/Brum (Economics), additional lecturers form the disciplines involved					
Additional information					
Course websites will be provided.					

Subject Module: Integration					
Module code	Workload	Credits	Time	Frequency of module	Duration
P-SOWI-M-MESMI	360 hrs	12 CP	1st and 2nd semester	annually	2 semesters
course code	course type	title / topic			
P-SOWI-L-MESMIa	seminar	European social integration (European integration as civilizing process, violence and the rule of law, religion and secularization, nationalism and the modern nation state, interdependence and integration).			
P-SOWI-L-MESMIb	seminar	Social and political actors and social change in Europe (European political parties, European Parliament, European elections; European public sphere, European mass media).			
Each semester one elective to be taken from among European history or European culture or European law; the program will offer at least two options per semester.					
P-SOWI-L-MESMIc	seminar	European history (history of conflict and cooperation in Europe; history of the idea of a European Union)			
P-SOWI-L-MESMI d	seminar	European culture (cultural dimensions of European integration)			
P-SOWI-L-MESMIe	seminar	European law (basic rights and freedoms in the EU, common market law)			
Contents The European Union is a region in which a large-scale use of violence has become unthinkable and where people are bound by a sense of community, mutual trust, and common interests. The integration module deals with past and present "Europeanization" processes having resulted in a comprehensive "security community". The classes of this module address how far community building has advanced in European politics, society and law and how Europe copes with its political pluralism and with its cultural and historical diversity.					
Learning outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will deepen their knowledge of the relevant academic literature, including the biographical and institutional backgrounds of authors. • Students will be able to link community-building theories to specific issues of European integration. • Students will be aware of methodological approaches used in the literature and be attentive to methodological challenges of linking social sciences, law and the humanities. • Students will be able to apply academic research to current political and economic issues. • Students will be able to identify and assess the integrative and disintegrative processes, as well as the continuities and discontinuities, linked to Europeanization. • Student will be able to judge the normative validity claims of the European Union and their applicability to other societies and cultures. 					
Learning and teaching methods The module is delivered through seminars, based on presentations and discussions of assigned readings and on the analysis of case studies. The seminars will be backed by class websites, providing the students with the assigned texts and additional information. Students will have the option of making their presentations and papers available to other students via these websites.					
Entry requirements Based on the admission criteria for the study program, students are expected to already have a basic knowledge of social, political, and cultural integration processes in Europe.					
Examination There will be one oral examination of 20 to 30 minutes (no. 3000). It will be connected to one of the module's social science seminars ("Social and political actors and social change in Europe"). In preparing for the examination the candidate has to review additional literature beyond the assigned readings.					
Workload: 360 hrs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact hours: 4 courses x 2 hrs per week x 15 weeks = 120 hrs • Private study (preparation and follow-up): 120 hrs • Preparation and carrying out of examination: 120 hrs 					
Credits: 12 CP Credits are certified based on active participation (substantiated by oral presentations and/or seminar papers) and successful oral examination.					
Assignment to study programs The Institute of Social Sciences offers the classes of this module also to students of the other social sciences study programs.					
Weight of module grade for final grade one seventh					
Module coordinator/lecturers Waldmann / Waldmann, Hummel, Lorz/Vetter (law), Landwehr/Kiechle (history and culture), additional lecturers from the disciplines involved					
Additional information Course websites will be provided. Each semester there will be at least two options for electives.					

Research Module I: Team Project					
Module code	Workload	Credits	Time	Frequency of module	Duration
P-SOWI-M-MERMTTP	360 hrs	12 CP	1st semester	annually	1 semester
course code	course type	title / topic			
P-SOWI-L-MERMTPa	colloquium	Master forum (winter semester)			
P-SOWI-L-MERMTpb	colloquium	Master meeting (at the end of the winter semester)			
Contents					
<p>Team projects bring together small groups of students with a diverse cultural background who devise research questions relating to European Studies, conduct a research project and present the results orally and in a written report.</p> <p>The weekly master forum offers a regular platform for discussing issues and problems relevant to the course of study, including students' feedback and evaluation of the master program. More specifically, the master forum prepares students for their team projects, including</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a compact presentation of social science methods frequently used in European (including case study method, policy analysis, process tracing, analysis of documents, interview techniques, systematic literature research) the setting up of research teams, the development of research projects, the presentation and discussion of research drafts and the preparation of the master meeting. <p>The master meeting is a small academic conference where the topics, design, execution and results of the team projects are presented to the university public, including lecturers and fellow students. The master meeting is organized by students themselves and resembles a professional academic conference.</p>					
Learning outcomes					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will gain experience with teamwork on an academic level. • Students will be able to identify a research question and devise a research design. • Students will be able to conduct a research project based on social science methods and academic standards. • Students will be able to present a research project to an academic public and discuss crucial aspects with experts. • Students will learn to write a research report collectively. • Students will be able to organize a small academic conference. 					
Learning and teaching methods					
<p>The module is based on teamwork by the students supported by presentations, discussions, and feedback by the lecturers in the master forum. Team teaching is used for conducting the master forum and supervising the team projects.</p>					
Entry requirements					
N/A					
Examination					
<p>The team research project (no. 4000) is part of the master examination. The assessment of the projects is based on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> joint presentation (25%) joint chapters in the research report (25%) individual chapters in the research report (50%) 					
Workload: 360 hrs					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact hours (master forum): 30 hrs • Self-organized research (team research): 320 hrs • Master meeting: 10 hrs 					
Credits: 12 CP					
Credits are certified based on regular attendance in the master forum and on completed team project (presentation and report).					
Assignment to study programs					
Exclusively offered to the European Studies program.					
Weight of module grade for final grade					
two seventh					
Module coordinator/lecturers					
Waldmann, Hummel / Waldmann, Hummel, additional lecturers from the Institute of Social Sciences					
Additional information					
Students will prepare a website for the master meeting.					

Research Module II: Master Thesis					
Module code	Workload	Credits	Time	Frequency of module	Duration
P-SOWI-M-MERMMT	600 hrs	20 CP	2nd semester	annually	1 semester
course code	course type		title / topic		
P-SOWI-L-MERMMTa	colloquium		Master forum (summer semester)		
Contents In a master thesis students demonstrate that they are able to write a major report related to European independently, in limited time, and according to social science methods. The weekly master forum supports students in writing the master thesis. The topics of the master forum include a) the development of research questions and designs b) the presentation of papers relating to the thesis c) comments on paper presentations by fellow students d) group discussions on the papers and related issues. In addition, the master forum offers a regular platform for discussing issues and problems relevant to the course of study, including students' feedback and evaluation of the master program.					
Learning outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be able to identify a research question and devise a research design. • Students will be able to conduct a research project based on social science methods and academic standards. • Students will be able to present and defend their individual research projects. • Students will gain experience in commenting and discussing research projects of fellow students. • Students will learn to write a thesis in limited time (4 months). 					
Learning and teaching methods Students will be free to select a topic related to European Studies, but will be encouraged to build on the work of their team project. The selection of the topic for the master thesis has to be made in consultation with the supervisors. The master forum is based on presentations and discussions of individual research projects, on feedback by the lecturers, on group discussions, and on additional methodological input by the lecturers if necessary. Team teaching is used for conducting the master forum and supervising the thesis. Occasionally, guest lecturers will be invited to the master forum.					
Entry requirements N/A					
Examination The master thesis (no. 6000) is part of the master examination.					
Workload: 600 hrs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact hours (master forum): 30 hrs • Self-organized research (thesis): 570 hrs 					
Credits: 20 CP Credits are certified based on regular attendance in the master forum and on completed master thesis.					
Assignment to study programs Exclusively offered to the European Studies program.					
Weight of module grade for final grade three seventh					
Module coordinator/lecturers Waldmann, Hummel / Waldmann, Hummel, additional lecturers from the Institute of Social Science					
Additional information N/A					