

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought

Study and Examination Regulations as amended by the Academic Senate

22 September 2021

§1 Aims of the Program

The BA in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought aims to provide a foundational training in economics and politics within the framework of a liberal arts education. Alongside economics and politics courses essential for progress towards specialization in these fields, students complete a core program that communicates the central developments in intellectual and cultural history from Ancient Greece to the present day. The purpose of the BA degree is to cultivate a reflective and well-informed engagement with the quantitative and qualitative social sciences, by embedding them within a wider historical and philosophical context. At the advanced level, the degree offers the opportunity for specialization in either economics or politics, as well as support and guidance in the accomplishment of successful independent research work. Throughout the program, students may avail of a wide range of elective courses in the arts and humanities, ensuring that the study of the social sciences remains closely linked with the sources and achievements of aesthetic and cultural innovation.

§2 Content and Approach

The foundation of the degree program consists of core courses that provide an overview of intellectual history and of the key works and debates at the origin of the disciplines of philosophy, literature, art history, economics, and the natural and social sciences. Core courses enable students to consider the interplay between fields and phenomena often treated as separate and distinct—for instance, painting and mathematics, or literary forms and political economy—and to examine the history of philosophy in its widest interactions with the history of science, rhetoric, and the visual arts.

In the first two years of study, students undertake foundational economics modules which prepare them for the formal and empirical study of economic behavior, including the functioning of firms, markets and entire economies. A foundational politics component provides the opportunity to address the methods, concerns, and objects of study of moral philosophy, political theory, political studies, and the social sciences more generally. Advanced study in economics includes attention to the international structure and reach of economic systems, economic development, and the relationship of economic activity to natural resources and the environment. In addition, students acquire mastery of the instruments of economic analysis, including econometrics and game theory. An important distinguishing feature of the economics and politics degree at Bard College Berlin is its attention to other disciplines, encompassing historical approaches and the study of culture, thereby allowing new insights into the causes and results of economic activity, and the role of sources of value that are difficult to quantify.

Advanced study of politics in the degree builds on the study of social-scientific method by exploring key works and movements in social and political theory, the practice of social and civic engagement, advanced methodologies in the social sciences common to politics and economics, and the analysis of global and regional political interaction. An elective component makes it possible for students to take courses in the arts and humanities, and to acquire awareness of disciplinary methods and perspectives beyond the social sciences. The Bard College Berlin learning experience is highly interactive throughout: substantially based on small-group seminar dialogue and conversation, it expects of students thorough preparation and engagement through extensive reading and reflection. Assessment is continuous,

composed of essay assignments, class presentations, mid- and end-of-term tests and examinations. The language of instruction is English, except in the introductory, intermediate and advanced language classes that Bard College Berlin offers throughout the four-year program.

§3 General Learning Outcomes

The degree in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought provides an excellent groundwork for graduate study or professional work in the fields of economics or politics. The degree promotes critical thinking and reflection preparatory to innovative and cross-disciplinary academic work, and to the productive and creative application of academic learning to the demands of professional life, and of civic and cultural engagement. Continuous assessment through writing and essay assignments, as well as class presentations and seminar discussions, forms students who are well prepared to articulate considered views and analyses to an academic audience and to a wider public. The pursuit of academic work in a highly diverse international environment also encourages the capacity to interact with and draw inspiration from distinctive opinions and influences, equipping students both intellectually and socially for the challenges of future work in a cross-border labor market and in multi-national contexts. Specifically, the degree is ideal immediate preparation for employment in any of the fields where a training in the methods of quantitative and qualitative social sciences may be considered an asset: consultancy, journalism, public service in the NGO or state sector, organizational leadership in cultural, educational and public policy projects, initiatives and institutions.

§4 Overview of Structure

- (1) The Bachelor program in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought has a modular structure comprising 256 ECTS credits over four academic years. Students must complete the core modules, the foundational economics component, the foundational politics component, the advanced concentration modules in either politics or economics (a double concentration is also possible), elective modules, a core research colloquium, and a BA thesis project.
- (2) A module handbook containing information on the modules, their learning outcomes and assessment structure is published, along with a full course list keyed to the handbook, for each academic year.
- (3) The BA program in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought consists of the following components:
 - a) Core Component

The core component consists of 6 modules, spaced incrementally over the four years of the BA degree. Students take one core course in each of the first two semesters, and can take the final four in the second, third or fourth years. The core courses are the foundational framework of the degree. Chronological in outline—beginning with Ancient philosophy, literature, mathematics and culture, and ending with Modernism in the early twentieth century—they are also each based on a central concept or pivotal text, and inclined towards a focus on two or more particular disciplines, though all offer a background in the fundamental works, debates and problems of the subject areas of the arts and humanities, the social sciences and the natural sciences. By the end of their degree, students are able to identify the originating and recurrent preoccupations of each disciplinary field, as well as the interconnections between them, in addition to gaining a thorough overview of Western and related non-Western intellectual history.

	ECTS
<i>Core Component (6 Modules, one core course each)</i>	48
• Greek Civilization	8
• Medieval Literature and Culture	8
• Renaissance Art and Thought	8
• Early Modern Science	8
• Origins of Political Economy	8
• Modernism	8
 b) Foundational Economics Component	
<p>The foundational economics component introduces the mathematical tools required for the empirical study of economic behavior, as well as the methods for analyzing the functioning and organization of economic activity.</p>	
<i>Foundational Economics Modules (5 modules)</i>	40
• Mathematics	8
• Principles of Economics	8
• Microeconomics	8
• Macroeconomics	8
• Statistics	8
 c) Foundational Politics Component	
<p>The foundational politics component introduces the concerns, methods and objects of study of the fields of moral and political philosophy and of political studies more generally. Students complete one module in each of the following areas: International Studies and Globalization, Comparative Politics, Policy Analysis, and Political and Moral Thought.</p>	
<i>Foundational Politics Modules (4 modules)</i>	32
• International Studies and Globalization	8
• Comparative Politics	8
• Policy Analysis	8
• Moral and Political Thought	8
 d) Advanced Economics/Politics Component	
<p>Students must declare their concentration (economics or politics) by the end of their second year. 5 advanced modules must be completed in the concentration in the course of the program. A double concentration is possible, with the agreement of the Dean and the student's academic advisor.</p>	
 <i>Advanced Economics Component</i>	
<p>The Advanced Economics component builds on the mathematical and conceptual training completed in the foundational modules by introducing essential instruments of economic analysis, the study of global economic systems, institutions and forces, and the interdisciplinary</p>	

understanding of the motives of economic behavior, choice and action, and of the role played by non-economic sources of value.

<i>Advanced Economics Modules (5 modules)</i>	40
• Ethics and Economic Analysis	8
• Econometrics	8
• Global Economic Systems	8
• Behavioral Economics	8
• Choice, Resources, and Development	8

Advanced Politics Component

The advanced politics component offers the opportunity for further study in the area of global and comparative politics, and for the acquisition of specialized knowledge of the methods and applications of social science research. It also includes a civic engagement component addressing the relationship between theories of political organization and activist commitment, as well as a range of courses dealing with political philosophy and wider philosophical movements relevant to political and social thought.

<i>Advanced Politics Modules (5 modules)</i>	40
• Advanced Topics in Global and Comparative Politics	8
• Philosophy and Society	8
• Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences	8
• Civic Engagement and Social Justice	8
• Public Policy	8

e) Elective Component

The elective component allows students to choose a range of further courses, either in classes in economics or politics, or in the additional areas of study in the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences or the fine arts, offered by Bard College Berlin's faculty and visiting instructors. Assessment standards and expectations will depend on the module to which the course belongs. The Elective Component's purpose is to allow students to explore potential interdisciplinary connections to their chosen focus on economics and politics, and to ensure that their expertise the social sciences is further enhanced by awareness of the objects and approaches characteristic of fields in the humanities and the arts. Like the multi-disciplinary and historically-informed focus of the core, the inclusion of a substantive elective component in the BA degree fulfills one of the key aims of a liberal arts education, embedding specialism within a rich and wide-ranging framework of knowledge. The elective component can include language study, with the possibility of taking language courses for equivalent credit to elective courses. An internship can also be pursued within the elective component, with 8 credits awarded for the completion of a period of practical training in conjunction with an internship course that provides a guide to organizational structures, decision-making, and institutional functioning.

Elective component (9 courses)

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The Elective component may include language study in the language/s offered by the college and/or an internship taken in conjunction with an internship course.

f) Senior Core Colloquium

The senior core colloquium is designed to support students in the conduct of independent research work in their chosen field of concentration during the final year of study. Topics and issues addressed in the senior core colloquium include research methods; contemporary scholarly research (its formats and core questions); peer review; the preparation of research work for presentation in public forums.

Senior Core Colloquium

8

g) BA Thesis Module

The culminating or capstone element of the BA degree is the BA thesis project in the fourth year. The BA thesis module consists of an individual project, serving as a preparation for the BA thesis and including regular meetings with the thesis advisor (to plan and discuss research and writing), and a final BA Thesis, submitted in the second semester of the fourth year, and defended in an oral examination.

BA Thesis Module

16

- Individual Project
- BA Thesis

4

12

(4) Moderation

Moderation is a requirement of the BA in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought which allows the student to enter the advanced stage of their program in either economics or politics. The requirement consists of an interview at the end of the second year of study, to discuss the student's choice of concentration. In preparation for the interview, a short essay must be submitted on the first two years of study, and an essay detailing plans for the final two years, as well as a term essay that the student believes reflects his or her best work to date. The Moderation interview discussion includes review of material from core and foundational modules. Moderation panels are made up of at least two members of the faculty. Successful completion of the moderation requirement permits students to continue to advanced study in their chosen area of concentration.

(5) The progression of the modules in the BA program is structured as shown in Appendix 1.

§5 Course and Semester Structure

- (1) Each semester has a teaching period of 14 weeks.
- (2) Seminar or workshop courses are organized either as 90 minutes sessions taking place twice a week, or as weekly three-hour sessions.
- (3) Courses co-provided with other institutions may be organized in block seminar format in overlapping semester time.
- (4) Courses are normally assigned 8ECTS. Independent study (a course pursued by a student under the supervision of an individual professor) and courses taught as part of a cooperation with another college or university may be assigned fewer credits, depending on duration and workload.
- (5) Language classes consist of 270 minutes of seminar time each week, normally divided into three sessions of 90 minutes.
- (6) In addition to seminar and lecture meetings, students may have additionally scheduled meetings with course instructors or with their academic advisor.
- (7) “Blended” learning classes—seminars in which some of the participants are joining remotely—are planned each semester for a select number of courses provided to students across the international OSUN network of colleges and universities.
- (8) Bard College Berlin reserves the right to transfer its courses and examinations online in the case of general emergency situations where a discontinuation of on-campus, in-person learning is recommended or mandated by law.
- (9) Seminars in a blended learning format may be introduced in general emergency situations that prevent some participating students from travelling to campus, or which necessitate the observance of legally mandated “social distancing” regulations.
- (10) In a case of disruption to continuity of study caused by an emergency situation, students may request to have a course graded pass / fail, or instructors may offer this option to participants in a course.

§6 German requirement

- (1) Students are required to provide documentation of German level B1 CEF by the end of year 2. The requirement can be fulfilled either by the successful completion of courses up to and including B1 level at Bard College Berlin, or by passing a test held at an official German-language testing center.
- (2) If a student fails to provide this documentation, continued registration cannot be guaranteed.

§7 Assessment and Examinations

- (1) Assessment at Bard College Berlin is continuous throughout the semester and modular structure, and involves a number of different types of assignment and test, including essays, examinations, presentations and shorter written or verbal assignments which involve the analysis of course material. The assessment is structured incrementally within each course and over the duration of the degree, with shorter essays or examinations being assigned in the earlier stages of each class, and in the first two years of the BA. At the end of the semesters, and in advanced electives, students undertake longer essay assignments or examinations which are part of their preparation for undertaking the research and writing work required for the BA thesis in the fourth year. The aim of the assessment structure is to promote excellence in written and verbal communication, both for academic purposes and in wider contexts.

a) *Writing at Bard College Berlin*

Assessment at Bard College Berlin is intensively focused on writing assignments. It encompasses the following exercises: short analyses of articles, art works, literary texts or theoretical arguments, thesis-driven papers centered on coursework material; independently researched academic papers devised in consultation with an advisor.

b) *Other Forms of Assessment*

Other forms of assessment at Bard College Berlin include class presentations, short examinations or test exercises. Examinations and other test exercises may substitute entirely for essay assessment in the quantitatively-based courses. Classes which include a practical or non-academic element may incorporate workshops, the presentation of individual student projects and a variety of practical assignments as part of the assessment range. Assessment in language courses is organized around homework exercises and regular in-class examinations.

(2) The module handbook provides detailed information on the assessment structure in each module.

§8 Grading Overview and Requirements

(1) The following table is used to grade coursework:

Note	Basic Grade Point	Grade Range	Corresponding German Grade
A	4.0	3.86 – 4.00	1,0 (sehr gut)
A-	3.7	3.46 – 3.85	1,3
B+	3.3	3.16 – 3.45	1,7
B	3.0	2.86 – 3.15	2,0 (gut)
B-	2.7	2.46 – 2.85	2,3
C+	2.3	2.16 – 2.45	2,7
C	2.0	1.86 – 2.15	3,0 (befriedigend)
C-	1.7	1.36 – 1.85	3,3
D	1.0	0.51 – 1.35	4.0 (ausreichend)
F	0.0	0.00 – 0.50	5.0 (ungenügend)

(2) A minimum grade of D is needed to pass an examination module.

(3) Students attaining a GPA below grade C in any semester shall be called to a hearing with the examination board. The examination board may give the student a deadline in which to improve the GPA. If this has not improved by the end of the given period, the examination board may decide to remove the student from the student register.

(4) The final grade shall be calculated from the total of grades achieved in all marked modules, weighted according to the number of credits in each module.

(5) The final grade shall be supplemented by its classification according to the following ECTS grading scale:

Grade	Percentage in reference group
A	The best 10%
B	The next 25%
C	The next 30%
D	The next 25%
E	The next 10%

Regulation of Academic Requirements and Assessment

- (6) An examination board shall be constituted each academic year to ensure that requirements for the attainment of degree credits are fulfilled, and to make the final decision in cases of any doubt.
- (7) The examination board shall be appointed by the Academic Senate and shall consist of the Dean, the registrar, and at least two professors. Decision is reached by majority vote.
- (8) The term of office of the professorial members of the examination board shall be one year. Reappointment is possible.
- (9) The examination board shall appoint a chair from among its members.
- (10) The examination board may revocably delegate its powers of decision either in whole or only in certain matters to the chair, who shall report to the examination board on any decisions made.
- (11) Examination board meetings are not open to the public and are strictly confidential.

§9 Specific Regulations Governing the BA Thesis

- (1) The bachelor thesis is an independent research paper grounded in the student's field of concentration.
- (2) The subject of the bachelor dissertation is decided together with a supervisor as part of the BA Thesis Module.
- (3) The student shall submit the title of the thesis and the name of the supervisor and of the second reviewer to the examination board for approval at the end of week 13 in semester 1 of the fourth academic year. Unless it has occurred for a reason beyond the student's control, late registration of the thesis project will not be accepted.
- (4) The student shall receive confirmation of registration of the title within one week.
- (5) The bachelor thesis shall be submitted on the Friday of week 10 in semester 2 of the fourth academic year by 15:00. It should be delivered in triplicate to the examination board. An additional electronic copy must be submitted by the same deadline.
- (6) Late submission of the BA Thesis will result in a fail.
- (7) Each copy must include a declaration signed by the student to the effect that the work was produced independently and without recourse to any sources but those named in the paper.
- (8) The bachelor thesis should comprise 10000 to 12000 words.

§10 Transfer of Credits from Other Universities

- (1) Credits from another university are transferred, except in cases where comparability in learning outcomes and quality standards cannot be established. Comparability is given where no essential differences in such outcomes or standards appear.
- (2) Courses and assessed coursework completed during a period of exchange study are agreed upon in advance through a study plan agreement.
- (3) Transfer of credits can only be processed upon a written application for the transfer by the student. This application must be submitted to the chair of the examination board, together with relevant documentation. The examination board decides on the transfer of credits.
- (4) If credits are transferred, the grades received shall be applied and included in the overall GPA if the grading systems are comparable. If the grading systems are not comparable, the work shall be awarded a 'pass'.

§11 Requirements for the award of a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought

A Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought shall be awarded if:

- a) All modules are successfully completed
- b) The candidate can prove knowledge of German at level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages according to the stipulations of §6
- c) The bachelor dissertation is marked at least with a grade of D.

§12 Cases of Failure to Comply with Regulations

- (1) A failed course may be repeated during the study program.
- (2) Resubmitting passed assignments or examinations to improve the grade is not possible.
- (3) Assessed coursework shall be classed as a fail if the student fails to attend an examination without adequate cause or if they withdraw from the examination without adequate cause once it has started. The same shall apply if a written piece of assessed coursework is not submitted by the prescribed deadlines.
- (4) The student must complete assessed coursework independently and without help from a third party. Where a student attempts to influence the result of his or her coursework by deception or through the use of unauthorized aids, the relevant coursework may be classed as a fail and the examination board may decide to remove the student from the student register, based on an evaluation of the manner and degree of deception.
- (5) If a student incorporates a literary or academic work or idea by a third person in full or in part into a written paper, the quotation must be marked accordingly. This shall also apply to material taken from electronic media. Where quotations are not marked as such, the full or partial presentation of a third person's literary or academic works and ideas as the student's own work shall be considered plagiarism (intellectual theft). The same shall apply to the submission of the same written paper for a different course or examination.
- (6) In a case of plagiarism the relevant coursework will be classed as a fail and the examination board may decide to remove the student from the student register, based on an evaluation of the scope and degree of the plagiarism.

§13 Certificates and Transcripts

- (1) Students passing all assessments and completing the 256 ECTS credits of the BA program in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought shall be awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought.
- (2) A certificate shall be issued stating that the Bachelor degree has been awarded.
- (3) A transcript listing the work carried out in the individual modules and a diploma supplement will also be issued.

§14 Removal from the Student Register and Leaves of Absence

- (1) After receipt of the Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought the student shall be removed from the student register by the end of the semester in which the student has graduated.
- (2) The student shall be removed from the register once they have passed all assessments or has failed them irrevocably.

- (3) An infringement of the codes and regulations introduced by the college may result in a cancellation of the student contract and, as such, in the removal of the student's name from the register.
- (4) In exceptional cases the college may grant the student formal leave of absence if the application is made in writing and a good reason is given.

§15 Subsequent Invalidity of Bachelor Examination or Withdrawal of Bachelor Degree

- (1) If a student has cheated in coursework or examinations and this fact does not become known until they have received the degree certificate, the examination board may correct the grades for the course in which the student cheated after the fact, and declare the examination a fail either in whole or in part.
- (2) The incorrect transcript and diploma supplement shall be withdrawn and, if applicable, re-issued.
- (3) If the Bachelor examination as such is classed a fail due to deception, the Bachelor degree and the certificate shall be withdrawn. The examination board is responsible for such a decision.

§16 Appeal Proceedings

- (1) A final decision on negative rulings and other administrative decisions related to these examination regulations shall only be taken after a hearing of the student in question. They shall be explained in writing and shall include instructions on the right to appeal.
- (2) Students who feel that their work has been graded unfairly may ask the relevant instructor for a re-assessment. If this is not granted, they may appeal in writing to the examination board, which shall review the matter, hear the persons concerned and make a decision.

§17 Specific Regulations Concerning Students Whose Studies are Interrupted or Slowed for any Important Medically Documented Cause

- (1) The specific position of students whose studies are interrupted or slowed for any medically documented cause (such as students with chronic diseases or special needs) will be taken into account. If a student provides valid documentation that they are not able to perform assessed coursework in the prescribed manner or time because of his or her chronic disease or special needs, or for any other important medically documented cause, the examination board decides upon an extension of deadlines or an alternative mode of assessment.
- (2) If it can be foreseen that a student will not be able to complete the BA program in the form and timeline specified in these regulations because of his or her specific needs, it is possible to develop an individual study plan together with the examination board.
- (3) The examination board decides upon the cases outlined in §18 (1) and (2) upon written request and on the basis of a medical certificate.

§18 Legal Validity

- (1) These study and examination regulations come into effect on the basis of the resolution of the Academic Senate of Bard College Berlin on 22 September 2021.

Appendix 1: Sample Structure of the BA in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought
Sample Structure Concentration in Economics

Semester	Core	Foundational and Advanced Economics Components		Foundational Politics Component	Electives	Electives	Senior Year Research	
1	Greek Civilization 8 ECTS	Principles of Economics 8 ECTS		International Studies and Globalization 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS		
2	Medieval Literature and Culture 8 ECTS	Macroeconomics 8 ECTS		Comparative Politics 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS		
3	Renaissance Art and Thought 8 ECTS	Mathematics 8 ECTS		Policy Analysis 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS		
4	Early Modern Science 8 ECTS	Microeconomics 8 ECTS	Statistics 8 ECTS	Moral and Political Thought 8 ECTS				
<i>Moderation</i>								
5	Origins of Political Economy 8 ECTS	Behavioral Economics 8 ECTS			Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS		
6	Modernism 8 ECTS	Econometrics 8 ECTS			Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS		
7	Senior Core Colloquium 8 ECTS	Choice, Resources, and Development 8 ECTS	Ethics and Economic Analysis 8 ECTS				Individual Project	BA Thesis
8			Global Economic Systems 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS	4 ECTS	12 ECTS
ECTS	48	80		32	72		24	

Sample Structure Concentration in Politics

Semester	Core	Foundational and Advanced Politics Component		Foundational Economics Component		Electives		Senior Year Research	
1	Greek Civilization 8 ECTS	International Studies and Globalization 8 ECTS		Principles of Economics 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS			
2	Medieval Literature and Culture 8 ECTS	Comparative Politics 8 ECTS		Macro-economics 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS			
3	Renaissance Art and Thought 8 ECTS	Policy Analysis 8 ECTS		Mathematics 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS			
4	Early Modern Science 8 ECTS	Moral and Political Thought 8 ECTS		Micro-economics 8 ECTS	Statistics 8 ECTS				
Moderation									
5	Origins of Political Economy 8 ECTS	Philosophy and Society 8 ECTS				Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS		
6	Modernism 8 ECTS	Civic Engagement and Social Justice 8 ECTS				Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS		
7	Senior Core Colloquium 8 ECTS	Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences 8 ECTS	Advanced Topics in Global and Comparative Politics 8 ECTS					Individual Project 4 ECTS	BA Thesis 12 ECTS
8			Public Policy 8 ECTS			Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS		
ECTS	48	72		40		72		24	