

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought

Study and Examination Regulations

as amended by the Academic Senate

§1 Scope

The purpose of this document is to give an overview of the content, structure and aims of the BA program in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought. Overall regulations governing programs of study at Bard College Berlin as well as the rights and obligations of members of the college are outlined in the General Study and Examination Regulations.

§2 Aims of the Program

The BA in Economics, Politics, and Social Thought provides specialist training in economics and politics within the framework of a liberal arts education. Alongside economics and politics courses essential for achieving an advanced level of competence in these fields, students complete a core program addressing central developments in intellectual and cultural history from ancient societies to the present day. The program includes courses in civic and social engagement, and a progression toward the capacity to produce and present independent research. In addition, students have the chance to pursue elective study in a wide range of artistic and literary areas of activity. In conjunction with cultivation of the specific skills and knowledge proper to the subjects addressed in each component, the fundamental aim of the BA is to embed the study of the social sciences within larger cultural, intellectual and social context, and to encourage a reflective application of the methods and insights of economics and politics as disciplines.

§3 Content and Approach

The core program—the primary shared element of the BA degrees offered by Bard College Berlin—shapes a wider framework for the study of economics and politics by providing an overview of intellectual history and the key works and debates at the origin of the disciplines of philosophy, literature, art history, economics, and the natural and social sciences. Accompanying study in the core in the first two years are the foundational components in economics and politics, which transmit the indispensable basis of knowledge in the two areas. The foundational politics modules address the central concepts, debates and theoretical traditions of political science and its subfields comparative politics, international relations, and policy analysis. The economics modules prepare students for the formal and empirical study of economic behavior, including the functioning of firms, markets and entire economies.

In its final stages, the core encompasses the study of developments crucial for the social sciences: the origins of political economy as a nexus of fields, and the emergence of modernism as a response to accelerating technical transformations of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Accompanying this background, advanced study of politics in the program includes further training in social-scientific methodologies, specialized courses in comparative politics and political economy, in public policy, and in the analysis of global and regional political interaction, as well as classes on the theory and practice of social and civic engagement. Advanced study in economics involves attention to the international structure and reach of economic systems, economic development, and the relationship of economic activity to natural resources and the environment. Students acquire mastery of the instruments of economic analysis, including econometrics and the varieties of economic modeling.

An important distinguishing feature of the economics and politics degree at Bard College Berlin is its attention to the interdependency between political and economic systems. Its incorporation of other disciplines and of the study of history and culture allows new insights into the causes and results of economic activity, as well as an awareness of the importance of sources of value that are difficult to quantify. The elective component makes it possible for students to acquire awareness of disciplinary methods and perspectives beyond the social sciences. The 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.

§4 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 multinational 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.

§5 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

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.

<i>Foundational Economics Modules (5 modules)</i>	40
● Mathematics	8
● Principles of Economics	8
● Microeconomics	8
● Macroeconomics	8
● Statistics	8

c) Foundational Politics Component

The foundational politics component introduces the concerns, methods and objects of study of the fields of political science. Students complete one module in each of the following areas: Understanding Politics, Comparative Politics, International Studies and Globalization, and Introduction to Policy Analysis.

<i>Foundational Politics Modules (4 modules)</i>	40
● Understanding Politics	8
● Comparative Politics	8
● International Studies and Globalization	8
● Introduction to Policy Analysis	8

d) Advanced Economics/Politics Component

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.

Advanced Economics Component

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

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 as well as public policy, 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 elective 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
● Qualitative Methods in Social Sciences	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 purpose of the Elective Component is to allow students to explore potential interdisciplinary connections to their chosen focus on economics and politics, and to ensure that their expertise in 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.

<i>Elective Component (8 courses)</i>	64
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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 4
- BA Thesis 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.

§6 Evaluation and Examinations

a) Assessment in the BA in Economics and Politics 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. Classes that 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. The primary aims of the assessment structure are to promote excellence in written and verbal expression, facility in the use of quantitative methods in the social sciences, and the capacity for independent scholarly work.

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

§7 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 December 9 2022.

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		Understanding Politics 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS		
2	Medieval Literature and Culture 8 ECTS	Mathematics 8 ECTS		Comparative Politics 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS		
3	Renaissance Art and Thought 8 ECTS	Micro-economics 8 ECTS		Policy Analysis 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS		
4	Early Modern Science 8 ECTS	Macro-economics 8 ECTS	Statistics 8 ECTS	International Studies and Globalization 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	Understanding Politics 8 ECTS		Principles of Economics 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS			
2	Medieval Literature and Culture 8 ECTS	Comparative Politics 8 ECTS		Mathematics 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS			
3	Renaissance Art and Thought 8 ECTS	Policy Analysis 8 ECTS		Micro-economics 8 ECTS		Elective 8 ECTS			
4	Early Modern Science 8 ECTS	International Studies and Globalization 8 ECTS		Macro-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						
8			Public Policy 8 ECTS			Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS	Individual Project 4 ECTS	BA Thesis 12 ECTS
ECTS	48	72		40		72		24	