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# Curriculum

for the Bachelor's Combination Degree  
Programme  
*Social Sciences*

Programme Code UL 033 510  
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# Curriculum for the Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme *Social Sciences*

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## Section 1 General remarks

- (1) The Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme *Social Sciences* is a Bachelor's degree programme pursuant to Part B, Section 8a (2) of the University Statute.
- (2) The Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme *Social Sciences* comprises 180 European Credit Transfer System credits (ECTS credits) and consists of one major worth 120 ECTS credits and either one minor worth 60 ECTS credits, or two minors worth 30 ECTS credits each. This corresponds to a planned duration of six semesters. The Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme with the major *Social Sciences* is assigned to the group of studies in Social and Economic Science pursuant to Section 54 (1) of the Universities Act 2002 (hereinafter: UG).
- (3) The student workload related to the individual academic achievement is expressed in ECTS credits. The workload for one year should amount to 1,500 full hours, for which 60 ECTS credits are assigned (Section 54 (2) UG). The workload comprises independent study as well as the semester hours/contact hours, including participation in the assessment procedure.
- (4) The major of the Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme *Social Sciences* is taught in English.

## Section 2 Qualification profile and competences

- (1) The qualification profile describes the academic and professional qualifications that students acquire by completing the Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme in the major.
- (2) Upon completion of the degree programme, graduates possess a sound theoretical and methodological education in the social sciences, together with advanced empirical knowledge in selected fields of societal problems. This broad qualification opens pathways both to diverse Master's degree programmes and to a wide range of professional fields in different sectors of society, for example in public administration, civil society organisations, policy consulting, research institutes, the media and communication sector, companies, or supranational and international organisations.
- (3) The required theoretical, methodological, and practical competences are taught in the tiered required subjects (Introduction to Social Sciences; Theoretical Foundations I & II; Methodological Foundations I & II) and further developed and supplemented in the three thematic specializations (Democracy, peace & justice; Science, technology & responsible innovation; Environment, space & sustainability), where they are deepened in the corresponding research and practice fields and applied in a dedicated research project. The basic competences include:

(A) Social science competences: The degree programme consists of an interdisciplinary set of social science perspectives, in particular from sociology, geography, psychology, science and technology studies, political science, and media and communication studies. Students acquire sound theoretical knowledge and analytical skills. They gain an in-depth understanding of key theories and concepts from central fields of the interdisciplinary social sciences and are able to critically reflect on them and relate them to ongoing developments. They also gain insights into advanced current debates in the social sciences and develop problem-oriented approaches to contemporary societal challenges, including those of a global nature.

Drawing on the specialist knowledge they have acquired from various social science disciplines, students learn about the effectiveness of different analytical approaches to social phenomena and how interpretations depend on perspective. Analytical competences in dealing with theories promote critical reflection on concepts, such as the critical questioning of assumptions, whether these are rooted in everyday social life or in academic traditions.

(B) Methodological competences: With regard to empirical social science methods, students acquire fundamental qualitative and quantitative methods and also knowledge of new methodological developments, particularly in the digital social sciences. The methods studied during the course are applied to questions of methodology and research practice, and are also tested using examples. Graduates possess comprehensive methodological competences in the application of qualitative and quantitative, including digital, methods. This enables them to investigate complex societal problem situations and processes. In this way, the degree programme provides the foundations both for subsequent Master's degree programmes and for problem-oriented, knowledge-based professional practice.

The distinctive competence profile is achieved through the integration of fundamental and specialized methods from several social science disciplines, as well as through teaching skills in information retrieval and processing and the application of relevant interdisciplinary concepts from the social sciences. Students are also trained in various approaches to social science theory formation. Their analytical skills, the development of their own research questions, and subject-specific argumentation are promoted in a targeted manner.

(C) Social competences: During their studies, students develop important social competences that enable them to work effectively in teams and adapt to interdisciplinary contexts. They learn to resolve conflicts constructively and to foster positive dynamics in group projects.

(D) Systemic competences: Students acquire systemic competences that enable them to analyse and critically reflect on complex societal phenomena with regard to divergent institutional and organisational rationalities. They develop the ability to identify current challenges at different scales of societal change and to find practice-oriented solutions using their acquired knowledge and specific methods. These competences strengthen their problem-solving ability and enable them to make informed decisions in dynamic social environments.

(E) Foreign language skills: Studying in English enables students to develop advanced foreign language skills, giving them access to international specialist literature and strengthening their ability to communicate effectively in diverse, including multicultural, teams. These language skills prepare them for internationally oriented academic and non-academic working environments and enable them to participate actively in transnational communication processes.

(F) Gender and diversity competences: Students develop a nuanced awareness of gender and diversity challenges, which are addressed throughout the degree programme as a cross-cutting theme alongside other dimensions of social conflict. This also highlights gender and diversity as key reference points for corresponding forms of social inequality and injustice, as well as for the related processes of social disintegration and integration.

In summary, the competence profile can be described as follows: students develop a strong range of subject-specific and transferable competences. They acquire instrumental competences in working with theories and methods, while writing, as a core academic skill, is fostered throughout the degree programme. They also develop interpersonal competences in academic argumentation and discussion, interdisciplinary knowledge, skills in moderation and mediation, and collaborative forms of learning in research contexts. Systemic competences are fostered through the development of connected thinking and new empirical knowledge, through socio-historical contextualisation, and through the reconstruction of interdependencies between scientific ideas and societal developments

### **Section 3 Admission requirements**

- (1) The provisions of the UG regarding admission to the Bachelor's degree programme apply.
- (2) Individuals whose first language is not English are required to have English language skills at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

### **Section 4 Academic degree**

Graduates of this Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme are awarded the academic degree 'Bachelor of Arts' (BA). When used, the academic degree must be placed after the holder's name.

## Section 5 Structure & organisation of the degree programme/intended learning outcomes

The Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme *Social Sciences* comprises 180 ECTS credits. Of these, 110 ECTS credits are allocated to the required subjects, 60 ECTS credits to the minor or the minors, 8 ECTS credits to the Bachelor's thesis, and 2 ECTS credits to the Bachelor's seminar.

<i>Subject/ academic achievement</i>	<i>Designation</i>		<i>Intended learning outcomes</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>	<i>Sem. / contact hours</i>
<i>Required subjects</i>	1	<i>Introduction to social sciences</i>	Upon completion of this subject, students possess the basic skills required for successful study. They gain a clear understanding of the structure and requirements of the degree programme and are able to identify and explain fundamental questions, concepts, and perspectives of the social sciences. Students understand the importance of social science perspectives for complex global challenges, can illustrate these using selected examples, and can describe central fields of activity for social scientists. Students know elementary principles of academic work and research ethics, can prepare academic texts, research relevant sources, and use applications of artificial intelligence responsibly. Students are able to reflect on their own choice of studies and to develop corresponding personal future perspectives.	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
	2	<i>Theoretical foundations I</i>	Upon completion of this subject, students are able to present fundamental social science theories relating to society, the state, and the individual and to explain their historical development and central concepts. They are able to distinguish between different micro- and macro-theoretical perspectives on social phenomena and to explore connections between social structures	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>

			and individual action. Students understand the relationship between the individual, the group, and society, as well as between the state, law, and social orders, and they integrate gender and diversity aspects as cross-cutting themes into their consideration of social interrelations. In addition, students know and understand central theoretical approaches to current societal debates and challenges. Using selected examples, students are able to relate theoretical concepts to social phenomena and to understand their analytical value.		
	3	<i>Methodological foundations I</i>	Upon completion of this subject, students have a sound understanding of fundamental qualitative and quantitative social science research methods, as well as of their aims and areas of application. They confidently distinguish between different procedures of data collection and data analysis, assess their suitability for specific research questions, and are able to apply them independently in simple empirical investigations. In addition, students have developed competences in argumentation and conversation skills, moderation, and communication and are able to apply them in group processes and knowledge transfer.	12	6
	4	<i>Theoretical foundations II</i>	Upon completion of this subject, students are able to explain central social science approaches to technology, space, economy, and culture and to present their significance for societal processes. They are able to apply these perspectives to selected social phenomena and to describe fundamental interactions between social structures and individual agency. In doing so, students systematically integrate gender and diversity perspectives into their	16	8

			analyses of spatial, technological, economic, and cultural dynamics. Students are able to compare and critically evaluate different disciplinary and theoretical approaches in order to understand current societal developments in a differentiated way and to develop independent perspectives on processes of social transformation.		
	5	<i>Methodological foundations II</i>	Upon completion of this subject, students are able to independently design research projects for social science questions and to justify their methodological decisions systematically. They know advanced methods of the social sciences, for example computer-assisted social research, apply them competently, and evaluate their potential and limits in a differentiated manner. Students produce academic texts according to academic standards, can use applications of artificial intelligence responsibly and with research integrity, and develop methodologically sound, theoretically informed arguments. Students have developed a critical awareness of methodological and ethical questions relating to different approaches within empirical social research.	12	6
	6	<i>Thematic specialization I: Democracy, Peace &amp; Justice</i>	Upon completion of this subject, students are able to understand complex challenges for democracy, peace, and justice from different social science perspectives and to reflect critically on various theoretical and practical approaches to solving them. They are able to combine questions and insights from different social science perspectives into coherent problem analyses. Students	14	6

			design independent research projects in teams on current questions of democratic transformation, conflict dynamics, or social justice, and carry them out on a theoretically and methodologically sound basis. In addition, they are able to critically discuss normative assumptions, power relations, and questions of inequality, participation, and violence. They are able to formulate and communicate academically sound, practice-relevant potential courses of action for political and civil society actors.		
	7	<i>Thematic specialization II: Science, technology &amp; responsible innovation</i>	Upon completion of this subject, students are able to understand and analyse the interdependent relationships between science, technology, and society from interdisciplinary perspectives and to evaluate innovations in science and technology in a differentiated manner with regard to their societal implications. They are able to apply concepts of responsible innovation to concrete technological developments and to include different constellations of actors and interests. Students are able to develop independent research projects on questions of responsible innovation, digital transformation, or the shaping of technological futures and to carry them out collaboratively with methodological competence. In addition, students are able to communicate research findings in a way that is appropriate to the target audience and to develop academically grounded potential courses of action for stakeholders in politics, academia, and business.	14	6

	8	<i>Thematic specialization III: Environment space &amp; sustainability</i>	Upon completion of this subject, students are able to understand and analyse complex human-environment relations and spatial dynamics from different social science perspectives. They can critically reflect on sustainability strategies with regard to their social, spatial, and ecological dimensions. They synthesise insights from different social science disciplines into coherent analyses of social-ecological transformations. Students design independent research projects on topics such as climate change, urban change, or sustainable development and carry them out in teamwork on a methodologically sound basis. They develop innovative approaches to solutions for social-ecological challenges, assess existing concepts in a differentiated manner, and prepare practice-oriented, academically grounded potential courses of action for various societal actors.	14	6
<i>Bachelor's thesis and Bachelor's seminar</i>	9		Students are able to independently formulate an academic research question, develop a coherent research design on that basis, and implement it on a theoretically and methodologically sound basis. Students are able to prepare and present their research results in accordance with academic principles.	8 + 2	1
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>120</b>	
<i>Minor</i>		<i>Minor</i>		60	
<i>or</i>					
<i>Minors</i>		<i>Minor 1</i>		30	
		<i>Minor 2</i>		30	
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>180</b>	

## **Section 6      Introductory and orientation period**

- (1) In accordance with Section 66 UG, the introductory and orientation period (StEOP) provides students with an overview of the essential contents of the degree programme and its further progression and offers an objective basis for a personal assessment of their choice of degree programme.
- (2) The introductory and orientation period takes place in the first semester of the Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme in the major and comprises the following courses totalling 10 ECTS credits: 1.1 Introduction to the study programme (2 ECTS credits); 1.2 Introduction to scientific work (4 ECTS credits); 1.3 Global challenges - why we need social sciences (4 ECTS credits).
- (3) Before completing the introductory and orientation period in full, students may complete further courses totalling 22 ECTS credits in accordance with Part B, Section 14 (7) of the University Statute. According to Section 66 (3) UG, recognised examinations pursuant to Section 78 UG, other academic achievements, activities and qualifications shall not be included in this calculation.
- (4) Students may only choose their minor or minors once they have successfully completed the introductory and orientation period.

## **Section 7      Study-related period abroad/mobility**

- (1) It is strongly recommended that all students on the Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme complete a study-related stay abroad as part of their degree. Transnational EU, state or university mobility programmes can be used for this purpose. Examinations and other academic achievements completed as part of a study-related stay abroad shall be recognised in accordance with the regulations pursuant to Section 78 UG as examinations and other academic achievements prescribed in the curriculum. A stay abroad may be completed either within the major or within the minor, in particular within the minor titled 'liberale' pursuant to Part B, Section 8a (4) of the University Statute. The recommended mobility window is the fourth to fifth semester.
- (2) At the request of degree-seeking students who wish to carry out parts of their studies abroad, a preliminary decision shall be issued in advance to determine which of the proposed examinations and other academic achievements can be recognised (Section 78 (5) UG). In any case, interested students are required to contact the responsible Programme Director in advance to discuss possible and intended recognition.

## **Section 8      Courses in the major**

### **(1) Required subjects:**

- a) Required subjects are those subjects that form the core of the degree programme and which are subject to examination. Students must complete a total of 110 ECTS credits in required subjects.
- b) The courses assigned to the required subjects are listed in the table below:

	<i>Course title</i>		<i>Course type</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>	<i>Sem. hours</i>
<b>Introduction to social sciences</b>	1.1	Introduction to the study programme (STEOP)	VO/VI	2	1
	1.2	Introduction to scientific work (STEOP)	VI/KS	4	2
	1.3	Global challenges - why we need social sciences (STEOP)	VO/VI	4	2
			<i>Total:</i>	10	5
<b>Theoretical foundations I</b>	2.1	Theories of society & social change	VO/VI	4	2
	2.2	State, law and society	VO/VI	4	2
	2.3	Individuals, groups & society	VO/VI	4	2
	2.4	Contemporary debates in the social sciences	PS/VI	6	2
			<i>Total:</i>	18	8
<b>Methodological foundations I</b>	3.1	Qualitative methods	VI/PS/KS	4	2
	3.2	Quantitative methods	VI/PS/KS	4	2
	3.3	Moderation & communication	VI/PS/KS	4	2
			<i>Total:</i>	12	6
<b>Theoretical foundations II</b>	4.1	Technology & society	VI/PS/VO	4	2
	4.2	Space & society	VI/PS/VO	4	2
	4.3	Economy & society	VI/PS/VO	4	2
	4.4	Culture, gender & society	VI/PS/VO	4	2
			<i>Total:</i>	16	8
<b>Methodological foundations II</b>	5.1	Advanced social science methods	VI/PS/KS	4	2
	5.2	Research design	KS/UE	4	2
	5.3	Academic writing	KS/UE	4	2
			<i>Total:</i>	12	6
<b>Thematic specialization I: Democracy, peace &amp; justice</b>	6.1	Special topics in Democracy, peace & justice	SE	6	2
	6.2	Research project in Democracy, peace & justice	KS/SE	8	4
			<i>Total:</i>	14	6
<b>Thematic specialization II: Science, technology &amp; responsible innovation</b>	7.1	Special topics in Science, technology & responsible innovation	SE	6	2
	7.2	Research project in Science, technology & responsible innovation	KS/SE	8	4
			<i>Total:</i>	14	6
<b>Thematic specialization III: Environment space &amp; sustainability</b>	8.1	Special topics in Environment, space & sustainability	SE	6	2
	8.2	Research project in Environment, space & sustainability	KS/SE	8	4
			<i>Total:</i>	14	6

## (2) Minor or minors:

Minors are structured programme offerings. Students must complete one minor worth 60 ECTS credits or two minors worth 30 ECTS credits each. Information on the range of minors offered is available via the student portal and the website of the University of Klagenfurt.

### Section 9 Courses with a limited number of participants

- (1) The course types listed below are subject to the specified maximum number of participants:
  - Course (German abbreviation KS): maximum of 30 students
  - Proseminar / Introductory seminar (PS): maximum of 30 students
  - Seminar (SE): maximum of 30 students
  - Integrated lecture (VI): maximum of 50 students
- (2) If the number of registrations for these courses exceeds the number of places available, course admission will take place according to the following procedure:
  - a) Students whose curriculum specifies the course in question as a required subject shall be given priority.
  - b) If the number of registrations still exceeds the number of available places, the ranking will be based on the ECTS credits already earned in the curriculum that stipulates the course in question as a required subject. Higher totals will be prioritised.
  - c) Students who have already been deferred once or who have completed the course with a fail grade ('unsatisfactory') shall receive preferential treatment.
  - d) If, after applying the criteria in lit. a, b and c, it is still not possible to make a definitive decision on eligibility, the decision shall be made by lot / by random selection.

### Section 10 Courses with special registration requirements

To register for the following courses (column 1), prior successful completion of the following courses (column 2) is required.

<i>Course</i>	<i>Registration requirement</i>
5.1 Advanced social science methods (VI/PS/KS) 5.2 Research design (KS/UE)	3.1 Qualitative methods (VI/PS/KS) 3.2 Quantitative methods (VI/PS/KS)
6.2 Research project in Democracy, peace & justice (KS/SE)	2.1 Theories of society & social change (VO/VI) 3.1 Qualitative methods (VI/PS/KS) 3.2 Quantitative methods (VI/PS/KS) 5.2 Research design (KS/UE)
7.2 Research project in Science, technology & responsible innovation (KS/SE)	2.1 Theories of society & social change (VO/VI) 3.1 Qualitative methods (VI/PS/KS) 3.2 Quantitative methods (VI/PS/KS)

	5.2 Research design (KS/UE)
8.2 Research project in Environment, space & sustainability (KS/SE)	2.1 Theories of society & social change (VO/VI) 3.1 Qualitative methods (VI/PS/KS) 3.2 Quantitative methods (VI/PS/KS) 5.2 Research design (KS/UE)

## Section 11 Bachelor's thesis

- (1) The Bachelor's thesis is an independent piece of written work that must be completed within the framework of courses.
- (2) In the Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme, the Bachelor's thesis must be written in the major.
- (3) The Bachelor's thesis must be written as part of one of the following courses: Research project in Democracy, peace & justice (6.2); Research project in Science, technology & responsible innovation (7.2), Research project in Environment, space & sustainability (8.2). The Bachelor's thesis carries 8 ECTS credits in addition to the course in which it is written and is accompanied by the Bachelor's seminar (2 ECTS credits).

## Section 12 Use of languages other than English

Courses as well as oral and written examinations relating to the Bachelor's Combination Degree Programme are generally conducted in English. This does not apply to courses offered within the range of minors. The Bachelor's thesis and other written assignments must be written in English.

## Section 13 Examination regulations

- (1) The Bachelor's combination degree programme in *Social Sciences* is completed upon successful completion of the following components:
  - a) the courses of the required subjects and the minors in accordance with Section 8, as well as
  - b) the Bachelor's thesis and the Bachelor's seminar in accordance with Section 11.
- (2) Exams for lectures take place at the end of the lecture series or shortly thereafter, and consist of a single examination.
- (3) All other courses involve continuous assessment. Students are expected to actively participate in the process of discussion and reflection.
- (4) In accordance with the university statute, lecturers must inform students of the examination and assessment methods for their courses before the start of each semester.
- (5) The provisions of the statute of the University of Klagenfurt and the Universities Act, as amended, are applicable with regard to the organisation and retaking of examinations.

## Section 14 Effective validity

This curriculum enters into force upon publication in the University of Klagenfurt university bulletin with effect from 1 October 2026 and will apply to all students who commence their Bachelor's degree programme from the 2026/27 winter semester onwards.

**APPENDIX Ia Non-binding recommended course of study (starting in the winter)**

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Recommended semester</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
<i>Required subjects</i>	<i>Introduction to social sciences</i>	1	10
	<i>Theoretical foundations I</i>	1-2	18
	<i>Methodological foundations I</i>	1-2	12
	<i>Theoretical foundations II</i>	2-3	16
	<i>Methodological foundations II</i>	3-4	12
	<i>Thematic specialization I: Democracy, peace &amp; justice</i>	4-6	14
	<i>Thematic specialization II: Science, technology &amp; responsible innovation</i>	4-6	14
	<i>Thematic specialization III: Environment, space &amp; sustainability</i>	4-6	14
<i>Minor 1</i>		2-6	30
<i>Minor 2</i>		2-6	30
<i>or</i>			
<i>Minor</i>		2-6	60
<i>Bachelor's thesis and Bachelor's seminar</i>		6	8+2
<b>Total:</b>			<b>180</b>

**APPENDIX Ib Non-binding recommended course of study - courses (starting in the winter)**

	Course type	ECTS credits	Semester
<b>REQUIRED SUBJECT 1</b>		<b>10</b>	
<b>Introduction to social sciences</b>			
Introduction to the degree programme (STEOP)	VO/VI	2	1
Introduction to scientific work (STEOP)	VI/KS	4	1
Global challenges - why we need social sciences (STEOP)	VO/VI	4	1
<b>REQUIRED SUBJECT 2</b>		<b>18</b>	
<b>Theoretical foundations I</b>			
Theories of society & social change	VO/VI	4	1
State, law and society	VO/VI	4	1
Individuals, groups & society	VO/VI	4	1
Contemporary debates in the social sciences	PS/VI	6	2

<b>REQUIRED SUBJECT 3</b>		<b>12</b>	
<b>Methodological foundations I</b>			
Qualitative methods	VI/PS/KS	4	1
Quantitative methods	VI/PS/KS	4	1
Moderation & communication	VI/PS/KS	4	2
<b>REQUIRED SUBJECT 4</b>		<b>16</b>	
<b>Theoretical foundations II</b>			
Technology & society	VI/PS/VO	4	2-3
Space & society	VI/PS/VO	4	2-3
Economy & society	VI/PS/VO	4	2-3
Culture, gender & society	VI/PS/VO	4	2-3
<b>REQUIRED SUBJECT 5</b>		<b>12</b>	
<b>Methodological foundations II</b>			
Advanced social science methods	VI/PS/KS	4	3-4
Research design	KS/UE	4	3-4
Academic writing	KS/UE	4	3-4
<b>REQUIRED SUBJECT 6</b>		<b>14</b>	
<b>Thematic specialization I:</b>			
<b><i>Democracy, peace &amp; justice</i></b>			
Special topics in Democracy, peace & justice	SE	6	4-5
Research project in Democracy, peace & justice	KS/SE	8	5-6
<b>REQUIRED SUBJECT 7</b>		<b>14</b>	
<b>Thematic specialization II:</b>			
<b><i>Science, technology &amp; responsible innovation</i></b>			
Special topics in Science, technology & responsible innovation	SE	6	4-5
Research project in Science, technology & responsible innovation	KS/SE	8	5-6
<b>REQUIRED SUBJECT 8</b>		<b>14</b>	
<b>Thematic specialization III:</b>			
<b><i>Environment, space &amp; sustainability</i></b>			
Special topics in Environment, space & sustainability	SE	6	4-5
Research project in Environment, space & sustainability	KS/SE	8	5-6
<b>Bachelor's thesis and Bachelor's seminar</b>		<b>8+2</b>	<b>6</b>