

Master in Border Studies

Module Descriptions

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Introductory Module

(Coordinator: Dörrenbächer, UdS)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 1

Module 1: Introductory Module

6 ECTS

45 hours (0 lecture, 30 hours tutorial/seminar, 15 hours excursion)

3 SWS (weekly hours)

Description:

This module teaches the central concepts and methods of research in the study of border regions, their geopolitical, supra-regional/transregional, economic, social, and cultural developments and particularities. In this block seminar, basic concepts of Border Studies used in different academic disciplines and in an inter- and transdisciplinary perspective are presented. The basic knowledge acquired in this introductory seminar should help students gain a deeper understanding of borders and (re-, de-) bordering processes in Europe and other border regions all over the world. This module consists of an introductory block seminar which takes place on a weekend in September and an excursion in the Greater Region.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- understand the central concepts and key terms of Border Studies,
- explore the different methodological and theoretical approaches of interdisciplinary Border Studies,
- gain understanding of in the interdisciplinary field of Border Studies,
- identify and evaluate relevant literature within the field of Border Studies

Evaluation:

Weekend seminar: term paper (graded) (5 ECTS)

Excursion: excursion report/minutes (graded) (1 ECTS)

Basic Module S

(Coordinator: Nienaber, ULu)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 1

Module 2: Basic Module S

12 ECTS

90 hours (0 lecture, 90 hours tutorial/seminar)

6 SWS

Description:

The major aim of the module is to provide students with a general overview as to current conceptual debates in border studies from a spatial/geographical point of view. Theoretical approaches as well as a comparative look at a wide range of borders and border theories will give insights into different schools. A particular focus will be put on the EU context.

National borders can be seen as barriers, filters or open contact spaces for people, trade goods and information. Barriers can be different political, fiscal etc systems or even physical barriers. Borders can also change their functions and characters, becoming more open or closed.

From a national perspective, border regions are often peripheries, but by overcoming the national peripheral deficits new cross-border regions can develop.

Borders are often expressed by inclusion ("we") and exclusion ("them"). This binary can define other (spatial and social) boundaries than national borders, sometimes expressed through cultural or mental fear, conveyed by external stimulation or economically defined. Borders can be dynamic and flexible, or fixed.

The module is divided up into the following courses:

- Course 1: "Introduction to Border Studies in Geography" (University of Luxembourg)
- Course 2: "Introduction to sustainable development of border regions" (University Lorraine)
- Course 3: "Introduction to European integration" (or an equivalent course) (University of Luxembourg)

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to

- grasp the specificity of the spatial/territorial approach,
- differentiate between major paradigms and approaches in Border Studies,
- manage the epistemologic differences between the spatial/political and social/cultural disciplines,
- critically reflect upon different concepts of borders,
- identify the particularities of borders in Europe and to have a knowledge and understanding on different scales of borders,
- differentiate the levels and scales of borders (also bordering/debordering/rebordering processes),
- explore the relevant literature,
- develop relevant research questions on border issues.

Evaluation:

Each course will be evaluated individually.

Course 1: 20% guided reading, 20% participation/group work, 60% final report (oral, written) (all graded) (5 ECTS)

Course 2: commented bibliography on a theme related to cross border sustainable development (100%) (graded) (4 ECTS)

Course 3: participation (100%) (graded) (3 ECTS)

Basic Module C

(Coordinator: Ehrhart, ULu)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 1

Module 3: Basic module C

12 ECTS

90 hours (0 lecture, 90 hours tutorial/seminar)

6 SWS

Description:

This module teaches fundamental and background knowledge to enable a deeper understanding of border regions and contact zones from a linguistic, cultural, and sociological perspective. Dealing with Border Studies from a linguistic and cultural studies perspective does not hide the territorial, nation-state structure of the world, but turns especially to the (re-)production processes, the symbolic dimension of borders, the representations at both the individual and collective level, and their (im-) material manifestations. The introductory course to Border Studies from a linguistic and cultural studies perspective starts here and teaches central concepts and approaches of the cross-disciplinary work field of work in order to enable students to recognize and question practices and discourses which result in borders or refer to them. An introductory course to multilingualism in the field of applied linguistics introduces the topic of multilingualism in a sociolinguistic and ecolinguistic orientation. It highlights the border demarcation between languages with its complex patterns of inclusion and exclusion arising from normative and educational efforts or balanced and unbalanced distributions of power between speech communities, and shows the dynamic relation between language and space in a synchronic and diachronic perspective. This is the link to the third introductory course, which teaches methods and concepts for investigating identities and cross-border practices in border regions from a sociological perspective.

This module consists of the following 3 courses:

- Course 1: "Einführung in die kulturwissenschaftlichen Border Studies" [introduction to Border Studies from a cultural studies approach] (University of Luxembourg & Saarland University)
- Course 2: "Einführung in die Sprachkontaktforschung" [introduction to language contact research] (University of Luxembourg)
- Course 3: "Einführung Border Identität" [introduction to Border Identity] (University of Lorraine)

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- gain an orientation in the interdisciplinary field of Border Studies from a cultural studies perspective and to recognize and reflect central concepts and approaches,
- know methods of Border Studies from a cultural studies perspective and particularities of interdisciplinary work,
- identify, independently access and evaluate relevant literature on Border Studies from a cultural studies perspective,
- distinguish between different forms of multilingualism and assign them to certain spaces,
- understand languages as a social phenomenon and perceive speakers in their mobility,
- reflect critically on border demarcation between languages and their connection/linking to the space,
- understand and apply different situational models of language management,
- perceive and analyze cross-border social dynamics,
- describe dimensions of social science of identity development in border regions.

Evaluation:

The courses will be evaluated individually:

Course 1: 20% active participation/group work (graded), 80% oral presentation and term paper (graded) (4 ECTS)

Course 2: oral exam (30-minute expert discussion) (graded) (4 ECTS)

Course 3: exposé including a written elaboration (term paper) (graded) (4 ECTS)

Advanced Module S 1: Migration Research

(Coordinator: Nienaber, ULu)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 2

Module 4: Advanced Module S 1

6 ECTS

60 hours (0 lecture, 60 hours tutorial/seminar)

4 SWS

Description:

Migration is considered one of the crucial challenges of the 21st century. Not only for this reason is it essential to provide Border Studies students with an in-depth insight into this topic. Furthermore, international migration is closely linked with crossing borders. Therefore, this module deals both with traditional concepts of migration research and newer concepts (such as transnational migration) in more detail. In border regions, border crossers are considered an important form of cross-border mobility (e.g. in the context of work, free time, consumption, living) that only rarely leads to transferring the residence – a precondition for the concept of international migration. In this module, students deal with a wide range of different forms of cross-border migration and mobility and analyze them according to their respective specificities.

Two out of these three courses must be chosen:

- Seminar "Einführung in Konzepte und Theorien der Migrationsforschung" [introduction to the concepts and theories of migration research] (University of Luxembourg)
- Seminar "Methoden der Migrationsforschung" [methods of migration research] (University of Luxembourg)
- Seminar "Raumrelevante Aspekte von Migration und Flucht" [space-relevant aspects of migration and flight] (University of Luxembourg)

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- critically reflect upon migration concepts and theories,
- identify and evaluate relevant literature,
- determine particularities of migration flows,
- know and apply quantitative and qualitative methods of migration research,
- critically reflect upon their own research action,
- critically question/challenge/scrutinize the concepts of citizenship and national borders
- independently develop scientific research questions in the context of international migration,
- analyze space-relevant aspects of different forms of migration and develop application-oriented approaches for further action.

Evaluation:

The courses will be evaluated individually:

Course 1: 20% active participation/group work, 20% text work, 60% oral presentation and term paper (all graded) (3 ECTS)

Course 2: 100% creating an own research design and elaborating the required methods (graded) (3 ECTS)

Course 3: 20% active participation/group work, 20% text work, 60% oral presentation and term paper (all graded) (3 ECTS)

Advanced Module S 2: Diagnostic Methods and Tools

(Coordinator: Hamez, ULor)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 2

Module 5: Advanced Module S 2

6 ECTS

60 hours (30h lecture, 30 tutorial)

4 SWS

Description:

The study of cross-border spaces raises serious challenges in terms of analysis and representation. Indeed, the definition of terms is not the same in various national systems and also varies in the collection of statistical information or in policy management. Accordingly, new statistical and cartographic methods are required to produce a harmonized view of these spaces. This module aims at raising students' awareness for scientific issues of cross-border analysis from a theoretical (signification of information generated by non-harmonized national statistical systems), methodological (learning of methods of statistical analysis and rules of graphic semiology), and technical (ability to use mapping software) point of view. In addition, insofar as diagnostics itself should be shared and developed in cooperation with the actors involved, this course will also emphasize participatory democracy and the development of different methods, which foster consensus.

From a pedagogical perspective, this course is designed in accordance with the modalities of the flipped classroom (blended learning). The students must create a personal diagnostic project on a topic and a space of their choice. The more theoretical elements will be elaborated at home while class time will be used to support the students in applying the theories, methods and techniques they need in their project.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- comprehend the different issues of cross-border diagnostics in terms of multi-scale (between local and national level) and multi-thematic analysis as well as multi-level governance,
- know methodologies of territorial diagnostics/assessment and apply them in different contexts,
- identify the main data producers in Germany, Belgium, France, and Luxembourg and know modalities of harmonizing this data,
- master some of the key principles of statistical analysis (univariate and bivariate),
- master the basic rules of graphic semiology (map design),
- know the issues of participatory democracy in the diagnostics/assessment process.

Evaluation:

The evaluation will mainly assess each student's realization of a territorial cross-border diagnostic assessment, in which questions of data are raised, a basic statistical treatment is realized, a map is produced and the issue of participatory democracy is addressed (6 ECTS).

Advanced Module C 1: Language/s and Society/ies

(Coordinator: Ehrhart, ULu)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 2

Module 6: Advanced Module C 1

6 ECTS

60 hours (0 lecture, 60 hours tutorial/seminar)

4 SWS

Description:

Linguistic and cultural diversity represent a challenge for planning and management on different social levels, from family through school and up to larger political entities such as regions and countries. The educational and administrative systems are not yet sufficiently prepared for the most recent developments. This module will provide a space for reflecting topics of linguistic and cultural contact, especially in border areas, and familiarize students with different forms of handling them. In relation to the foreign, there are principally two opposite positions: fencing off and openness. With the help of examples from the involved disciplines (applied linguistics, language acquisition, ecolinguistics, and sociology), both positions are critically examined and their relevance for special situations is analyzed. Here, the focus will particularly be on possibilities of crossing borders in the mental-cognitive and socio-spatial fields. The access is carried out in very different ways, among others through field work, the analysis of cultural projects or reading relevant texts.

The module is divided into the following two courses:

- Course 1: "Umgang mit Wissen in mehrsprachigen Kontexten" [dealing with knowledge in multilingual contexts]
- Course 2: "Analyse socio-spatiale transfrontalière" [socio-spatial cross-border analysis]

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- critically question and raise their awareness for linguistic and cultural diversity,
- recognize signs for multilingualism in the region (Linguistic Landscape),
- become aware of the importance of linguistic, social, and national borders, e.g. for the working world,
- make use of different possibilities of multilingual communication,
- comprehend different scenarios of implicit and explicit language policies,
- make their own proposals on the language management in exactly defined contexts,
- follow and evaluate different approaches to socio-spatial diversity,
- comprehend cross-border spaces and objects with regard to the aspect of social relationships,
- make use of different methods of data collection.

Evaluation:

The courses will be evaluated individually:

Course 1: 20% active participation/group work (graded), 80% oral presentation and term paper (graded) (3 ECTS)

Course 2: 20% active participation/group work (graded), 80% oral presentation and term paper (graded) (3 ECTS)

Advanced Module C 2: Border Cultures

(Coordinator: Fellner, UdS)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 2

Module 7: Advanced Module C 2

6 ECTS

30 hours (0 lecture, 30 hours tutorial/seminar)

2 SWS

Description:

This module is situated in the field of comparative Border Studies and outlines selected North American and/or other border regions (especially in Anglophone and Francophone cultural spaces) by applying theoretical and conceptual questions, focusing on comparisons of different border literatures, the investigation of different forms of knowledge in "borderland zones", and the elaboration of a border aesthetics. The literatures in the focused border regions will be analyzed in both a diachronic and a comparative way. Special attention is paid to texts which produce other forms of knowledge by focusing on cross-border issues, by dealing with inter- and transcultural phenomena, and by constructing cultural identities in "in-between spaces."

The aim of this seminar is to elaborate on and develop theories and models (border theories), which can be applied to several borderlands.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- critically analyze and theorize literary and cultural representations of border areas,
- deal with inter- and transcultural phenomena in selected border regions as well as to analyze representations of cultural identities which arise in border and in-between spaces,
- identify and evaluate relevant literature,
- critically reflect on one's own research,
- discuss the research topic in a competent and differentiated manner on the latest scientific level,
- introduce their own projects in the seminar and to present findings in an adequate scientific manner,
- independently develop complex research questions and deal with them in an adequate way as to methodology and theory.

Evaluation:

Seminar: graded term paper, course work (oral presentation) (6 ECTS)

Internship

(Coordinator: Hamez, ULor)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 2

Module 8: Internship

12 ECTS

8 to 12 weeks

weekly hours n.sp.

Description:

The internship is to place students in a professional situation. For 8 to 12 weeks, students will work in a professional structure linked to questions of Border Studies (EU services in Brussels, Strasbourg or Luxembourg, State services dealing with cooperations, "Europe" or "cross-border cooperation" services of a territorial authority, etc.). During this internship, students are guided by the provisions in force on labor law; for example, if the internship takes place in France, the period of weekly working time is 35 hours. The internship gives students the chance to apply their theoretical knowledge and the skills acquired in the training course to a concrete case. Alternatively, and if the student aims at an academic career, they can choose to complete their internship in a university laboratory.

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Students will be coached by a pedagogical tutor for the academic part and by a internship supervisor in the hosting structure.

Students will be required to demonstrate their autonomy in a socio-professional context.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- demonstrate their ability to answer an operational demand in the hosting structure,
- be part of a team, and
- mobilize their academic knowledge for the intended purpose.

Evaluation:

The module (12 ECTS) is evaluated in three ways:

Writing a report on the internship in the hosting structure (33%)

Public defense before a jury composed of the coordinator of the master, their pedagogical tutor and a representative from the hosting structure (33%)

Short critical reflection note (4 pages) on the work developed during the internship on the basis of the criteria of scientific research: explanations of the decisions taken, reflection on the employed/used method, and alternative suggestions (33%)

Excursion and Methods Module

(Coordinator: Dörrenbächer, UdS)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 3

Module 9: Excursion and Methods Module

5 ECTS

30 hours + 7 days (0 lecture, 30 tutorial/seminar, 7 days excursion)

4 SWS

Description:

In line with the conception of exemplary learning, this module provides students with knowledge/skills about the development of cross-border cooperations and cross-border cooperation spaces in the framework of a multi-day excursion in different cross-border cooperation spaces. The excursion is organized by several partner universities and includes contents which concern several disciplines involved in the master's program.

By means of a case study in cross-border relationships/cooperations, a course called "Arbeitsmethoden im Gelände" [working methods in the field] provides students with methods of empirical fieldwork and is practically applied in group work.

According to the case study, knowledge on the following methods is acquired:

- Quantitative empirical methods (e.g. standardized survey, content analysis): Survey design, statistical evaluation, presentation of results,
- Qualitative empirical methods (e.g. semi-structured expert interview: Pre-test, categorization, presentation).

The module consists of two courses which are associated with two different course types:

- Excursion to selected cross-border cooperation spaces
- "Arbeitsmethoden im Gelände" [working methods in the field]

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- have knowledge of different forms of cross-border cooperation and the development of different cross-border cooperation spaces,
- critically compare cross-border cooperations,
- have knowledge of quantitative and qualitative methods of spatial and regional analysis, and
- apply those in concrete case studies, and
- present the obtained findings as individual and group work.

Evaluation:

Requirements for the award of ECTS points:

Excursion: excursion report/minutes (graded) (2 ECTS)

Course: presentation (ungraded) and final report (graded) (3 ECTS)

Module Politics and Law in Multi-Level Governance

(Coordinator: Höreth, Uni KI)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 3

Module 10: Module Politics and Law in Multi-Level Governance

5 ECTS

60 hours (30/60 lectures, 0/30 tutorials and seminars)

4SWS

Description:

European integration has contributed significantly to a change in statehood and thus to diverse de- and re-bordering processes. Here, we can distinguish between two dimensions as well as two impact directions which are analyzed in more detail in the module "Politics and Law in Multi-Level Governance (MLG)". Both considered dimensions are, on the one hand, the "negative" integration, and on the other the "positive" one. While the "negative" integration describes the elimination of non-tariff trade barriers, deregulation processes, and the juridical enforcement of the four fundamental freedoms of the internal market, the "positive" integration outlines the political establishment, consolidation, and further development of supranational institutions and demanding re-regulatory policies. The impact directions of integrations are "bottom up" and "top down." The first describes the readiness of the member states to delegate responsibilities to the EU; the latter the effects of the European integration for the member states (not least concerning the diminishing importance of national borders). In courses in law and political science, students acquire deeper knowledge of legal and political problems linked to these developments and investigate them with the help of the theories and concepts offered in the respective disciplines.

- Lecture "Einführung in das Europarecht" [introduction to European law]
- Seminar on European politics

alternative to the seminar:

- Lecture in political science (selectable between the lecture "Regieren im MES" [governance in MLG] and the lecture "Vergleichende Policy-Forschung" [comparative policy research])

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- identify and comprehend the European legal framework of politics in "borderless spaces",
- understand the EU system of government in its specific nature/configuration ("EU Governance") but also the comparability with national democratic systems,
- critically reflect on concepts and theories of integration from legal and political science,
- recognize and analyze legal and political interdependencies between different levels of the MLG,
- recognize the political and legal scopes of action changed by the European integration and to understand the resulting problems,
- critically reflect upon their own research action,
- independently develop scientific research questions in the field of integration research.

Evaluation:

The courses are evaluated individually:

Lecture "Einführung in das Europarecht": active participation and exam (ungraded)

Seminar on European politics/Lecture in political science: active participation, oral presentation, term paper (ungraded)

Oral module exam (graded) (5 ECTS)

Specialization Module S1: Geographical Border Studies

(Coordinator: Dörrenbächer, UdS)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 3

Module 11: Specialization module S 1

6/8 ECTS

60 hours (0 lecture, 60 seminar/tutorial)

4SWS

Description:

Cross-border cooperation spaces are laboratories of spatial institutionalization processes. This module deals with the dialectics of space-formation (regionalizations) due to cross-border relationships and socio-spatial conditionality of cross-border relationships. On the basis of current theoretical approaches from spatial and regional research, effects of different forms of cross-border relationships (e.g. cross-border commuting, purchasing flows, value chains) on the development of border areas and the simultaneous geographical conditionality of cross-border relationships and cooperations are analyzed by means of concrete case studies.

The module consists of two courses which are associated with two different teaching methods/course types:

- Course with lecture and tutorial elements "Grenzüberschreitende Regionen als räumliche Institutionalisierungsprozesse" [cross-border regions as spatial institutionalization processes]
- Seminar "Grenzüberschreitende Regionen – grenzüberschreitende Kooperationen" [cross-border regions – cross-border cooperations]

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- know current theoretical approaches in spatial and regional research,
- be familiar with instruments of cross-border regional politics.

They can apply this knowledge to

- processes of Europeanization,
- the development of cross-border cooperation and cross-border cooperation spaces,
- they are able to critically analyze and present examples of cross-border cooperation and the development of cross-border cooperation spaces.

Evaluation:

Requirements for the award of ECTS points:

Course: attendance/report (graded) (2 ECTS)

Seminar: attendance, talk with presentation (graded) (4 ECTS)

or

Seminar: attendance, talk with presentation (graded), term paper (graded) (6 ECTS)

Specialization Module S 2: European Spaces and Planning

(Coordinator: Pallagst, Uni Kl)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 3

Module 12: Specialization Module S 2

6/8 ECTS

60 hours (30 lecture, 30 tutorial)

4SWS

Description:

This module focusses on issues concerning the discussion and the critical questioning of planning in the European and international context. Here students are offered a more in-depth examination in special spatial relations (Europe, border regions, planning systems). Each course, first of all, offers a theoretical-methodological introduction to spatial planning in Europe or in European countries outside of Germany and teaches the fundamentals and particularities of different planning cultures under discussion. In the tutorial part of the courses, the students work in groups to develop term papers (oral presentations or course wikis) on different states or special planning situations. The courses are purposefully enriched with talks by external guest lecturers. Thus the module allows for a more in-depth engagement with European and international issues in spatial development.

- Course 1: "Internationale Stadtentwicklung/ Internationale Planungssysteme" [International urban development/ international planning systems]
- Course 2: "Europäische Regional- und Strukturpolitik" [European regional and structural policies]

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to

- have an overview of the current requirements for spatial development in the European context,
- have insight into the European cohesion policy and its instruments,
- have comprehensive understanding of selected European programs and can assess them for the partial financing of spatial development projects,
- structure, compare and reflect European planning examples,
- have fundamental knowledge of theories of urban and spatial development,
- be familiar with the basic methods of Comparative Planning thanks to different examples,
- be familiar with current planning methods and problems in the European context and can critically question them,
- show correlations of planning systems and strategies in the international context, also in comparison,
- analyse and present in group work international examples for planning systems and strategies.

Evaluation:

Requirements for the award of ECTS points:

Course 1: term paper (ungraded)

Course 2: term paper (ungraded)

Written module exam (graded) (6 ECTS)

or

Course 1: term paper (ungraded)

Course 2: term paper (ungraded)

Extended written module exam (graded) (8 ECTS)

Specialization Module C1: Interculturality and Diversity

(Coordinator: Fellner, UdS)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 3

Module 13: Specialization Module C1

6/8 ECTS

60 hours (0 lecture, 60 seminar/tutorial)

4SWS

Description:

Using different cultural spaces as examples, students should develop theoretical and methodological cultural studies approaches to the investigation of phenomena of interculturality, cultural contact, cultural transfer, and cultural diversity. The implementation utilizes the examples of Anglophone North American and Francophone cultural spaces, focusing on media representations and intercultural relations and interdependencies, e.g. in the post-colonial context or also in relation to Germany. Thus, this module teaches in-depth expert knowledge on border cultures, cultural theory, and intercultural communication and applies it to concrete examples in case studies, so that a transfer to the students' own research work, also with reference to the SaarLorLux Greater Region, can take place. It is the aim of this module to provide the students with the necessary skills to participate in the increasing number of discussions on cultural diversity, intercultural communication, and cultural contact theories.

The module consists of two courses which are associated with two different course types:

- Tutorial "Cultural Studies"
- Seminar "Interkulturelle Kommunikation und Kulturwissenschaft" [Intercultural Communication and Cultural Studies]

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- acquire in-depth and specialized knowledge in the field of border cultures and in cultural theory,
- develop methodological skills for analyzing phenomena of cultural contact, cultural transfer, and interculturality, especially in the field of media representations,
- develop methodological skills in the field of cultural studies,
- acquire further key qualifications, especially presentation skills and competences in scientific communication and discussion.

Evaluation:

Requirements for the award of ECTS points:

Tutorial: attendance, portfolio (not graded) (3 ECTS)

Seminar: attendance, oral presentation (graded) (3 ECTS)

or

Seminar: attendance, oral presentation (not graded), term paper (graded) (5 ECTS)

Specialization Module C2: Crossing Language Borders

(Coordinator: Polzin-Haumann, UdS)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 3

Module 14: Specialization Module C2

6/8 ECTS

30 hours (0 lecture, 30 hours tutorial/seminar)

2 SWS

Description:

The diversity and variety of languages and cultures and individual multilingualism form complex phenomena which concern different dimensions. Often it is language barriers that hinder or even impede the crossing of borders. Not least because of this, the multilingualism of Europeans is one of the key demands of the common European policy, which aims at the preservation of the diversity of languages and cultures in Europe. Multilingualism is thus considered as one of the European key competences.

This course will discuss ways of achieving individual multilingualism. Intercomprehension is one of the current cross-lingual approaches to (multi-) language learning and is at the center/heart of this course. By gaining their own language learning experiences by means of this principle, the participants acquire receptive (especially reading) competencies in several Romance languages and train, in addition to manifold transfer strategies, their language awareness, language learning awareness, and learner autonomy. From a (learning) theoretical and practical perspective, the linguistic basics as well as the underlying learning processes are covered.

The preoccupation with the theoretical basics and one's own learning experience opens up new perspectives on languages and their acquisition and make instruments available for broadening and de-bordering one's own linguistic horizon.

The course is given in German and makes use of all available linguistic resources of the participants. Knowledge of French and English form the bridge to the transfer-based acquisition of reading competences in several Romance languages. Blended learning units complement attendance time.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- classify different layers and dimensions of (foreign) language acquisition from a scientific perspective,
- reflect on their personal attitude towards the languages of others and their own language skills,
- be aware of their own learning process and to analyze and, if necessary change it,
- explain the role of previous knowledge and the cross-lingual interconnectedness for knowledge transfer and knowledge construction,
- perceive and practice multilingualism as a competence,
- independently build up receptive competences in Romance languages.

Evaluation:

Requirements for the award of ECTS points:

Attendance, talk with presentation or portfolio (graded),
term paper (graded) (6 ECTS)

or

Attendance, talk with presentation or portfolio (graded),
project + term paper (graded) (8 ECTS)

Colloquium

(Coordinators: rotating)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 4

Module 15: Colloquium

6 ECTS

16 hours (0 lecture, 16 hours tutorial/seminar)

1 SWS

Description:

The colloquium serves as an exchange platform where students can discuss their master theses with other students and lecturers of the master degree program in Border Studies. The colloquium takes place in the form of 2 workshops at the beginning and at the end of the 4th semester. Each student is *required* to present and discuss the progress of their master thesis. Special attention is paid to topic, conception, methodology, and evaluation.

The colloquium is complementary to the supervision by both MA thesis-supervisors.

Learning Outcomes:

- On completion of the module, students should be able to formulate and present the results/findings of their independent research work in a professional way,
- critically reflect upon their own scientific work and the work of others,
- to work in a substantially scientific manner.

Evaluation:

100% active participation (ungraded) (6 ECTS)

Master Thesis

(Coordinators: all)

Master in Border Studies - Semester 4

Module 16: Master Thesis

24 ECTS

not spec. hours (not spec. lecture, not spec. hours tutorial/seminar)

not sp. SWS

Description:

In a given period of time, students ought to prepare an independent academic thesis, in which they demonstrate their ability to discuss the research topic in a competent and differentiated manner on the latest scientific level.

Learning outcomes:

On completion of the module, students should be able to:

- independently develop complex scientific topics,
- work on them on a larger scale in a methodologically and theoretically adequate manner within a given period of time. □

Evaluation:

100% master thesis (24 ECTS)