

**Examination Regulations
for the Bachelor's degree program Political Conflict Studies
at the Department of Humanities and Theology
of TU Dortmund University
dated 27 April 2026**

Pursuant to Section 2 (4) in conjunction with Section 64 (1) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz NRW*, HG) of 16 September 2014 (GV.NRW. p.547), as last amended by Article 2 of the Act of 19 December 2024 (GV.NRW. p.1222), TU Dortmund University has issued the following regulations:

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I. General Provisions

Section 1

Scope of validity of the Bachelor's Examination Regulations

- (1) These Bachelor's Examination Regulations apply to the English-language Bachelor's degree program Political Conflict Studies at the Department of Humanities and Theology of TU Dortmund University. In accordance with Section 64 of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz NRW*, HG), they govern the structure of the Bachelor's degree program.
- (2) The module descriptions in the module handbook outline the individual course components, the course content, and the competencies to be acquired. They are not part of these Examination Regulations. They are approved by the relevant Department Council and must be reported to the Rectorate.

Section 2

Purpose of examinations and objectives of the degree program

- (1) Upon successful completion of the Bachelor's degree program, students earn a degree that qualifies them for professional practice. Upon successful completion of the degree program, students will have acquired the in-depth specialized knowledge necessary for the transition to professional practice, enabling them to conduct interdisciplinary analyses of socially relevant issues, gain an overview of the interconnections within their field, and develop nuanced approaches to addressing topics in political science. They possess the ability to apply academic methods and findings independently.
- (2) The Bachelor's degree program is designed to provide students with the necessary subject-specific knowledge, skills, and methods - taking into account the demands and changes in the professional world as well as current academic discourse - in such a way that they are equipped to engage in scientific work and critically evaluate scientific findings. Students are also expected to apply their ability to think and discuss critically in their future participation in social life. Social engagement, responsible action, and personal development are also integrated into the degree program as cross-cutting themes. In this regard, the degree program prepares students to address and resolve social and political conflicts, thereby developing skills that enable graduates to contribute to social interaction and political processes. In this way, the degree program contributes to the development of responsible citizens. The degree program's international focus also enables students to gain new perspectives, which supports their personal development.
- (3) Upon successful completion of the Bachelor's degree program, graduates are also qualified to pursue further scientific qualification at the Master's level.

Section 3

Access requirements

- (1) Admission to the Bachelor's degree program Political Conflict Studies at TU Dortmund University requires a Higher Education Entrance Qualification (*Hochschulzugangsberechtigung*, HZB) or another qualification as defined in Section 49 HG.
- (2) In addition to the requirement specified in subsection 1, applicants must meet the following criteria:
 - a) Since this is an exclusively English-language degree program, applicants must demonstrate a good command of the English language at a level of at least B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Proficiency is generally considered demonstrated
 - with the certificate of a general or subject-specific university entrance qualification (*allgemeine oder fachgebundene Hochschulreife*) valid under the German Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*, GG),
 - with an internationally recognized language certificate (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS) or a comparable certificate, or
 - by having attended an English-language school for at least one year, or
 - for applicants whose native language is English.
 - b) International applicants who are not considered equivalent to German citizens under international treaties must demonstrate their academic aptitude (*Studierfähigkeit*) through the results of a TestAS with the subject module in Humanities, Cultural Studies, and Social Sciences. A minimum of 100 points is required in both the core module (referred to as the "score" for the digital TestAS and the "standard value" for the paper-based TestAS) and the subject module. The test must not be more than one year old at the time of application. Applicants with a German university entrance qualification (HZB) or those deemed equivalent to it under international treaties are exempt from demonstrating their academic aptitude.

Section 4

Bachelor's degree

Upon successful completion of the Bachelor's examination, TU Dortmund University, through the Department of Humanities and Theology, confers the academic degree "Bachelor of Arts" ("B.A.").

Section 5

Credit point system

- (1) The degree program is structured on the basis of a credit point system that is compatible with the *European Credit Transfer System* (ECTS).
- (2) Each module is assigned a number of credit points based on its workload. One credit point, as defined in these Examination Regulations, corresponds to one

ECTS credit and is awarded for work requiring a workload of approximately 30 hours. As a rule, 30 credit points must be earned per semester.

- (3) Credit points are awarded on the basis of successfully and fully completed modules.

Section 6

Standard program duration, scope of studies, and structure of study

- (1) The standard duration of the Bachelor's degree program is six semesters (three years) and includes the completion of the Bachelor's thesis.
- (2) In total, the Bachelor's degree program comprises 180 credit points, which correspond to approximately 5,400 student work hours and are divided into compulsory and compulsory elective components.
- (3) English is the language of instruction and examination throughout the entire Bachelor's degree program. The only exceptions are language courses and the working language during the internship.
- (4) The degree program has a modular structure, with each module spanning no more than two consecutive semesters. These modules are self-contained study units that are complete in terms of both content and duration, typically comprising at least 5 credit points.
- (5) The appendix outlines the structure of the Bachelor's degree program as well as the modules, including the credit points to be earned and the type of examination (module examination or partial assessments).
- (6) The degree program can only be started in the winter semester.

Section 7

Practical phase ("Focus on Practice")

- (1) The practical phase, which generally takes place in the fifth semester, consists of either an internship and a language course or a practice-oriented module comprising university courses. Further information can be found in the module handbook.
- (2) The internship lasts a total of at least 4 weeks, with a minimum of 180 student work hours and 6 credit points. The choice of internship placement must significantly facilitate the application of the learned study content and must be approved in advance by the degree program's module or internship coordinator. In addition, students complete a language course of their choice in a language other than their native language and the language of instruction for the degree program. The details, as well as the specific language courses to be taken, are outlined in the module handbook.

- (3) In both variants, the practical phase concludes with an ungraded activity or experience report in the form of a pre-structured presentation. The report takes the form of a presentation during a structured reflection session and is worth 3 credit points. Successful completion of the practical phase earns a total of 15 credit points.

Section 8

Admission to courses with limited number of participants

- (1) The number of participants in courses offered as part of the Bachelor's degree program Political Conflict Studies may be limited for the reasons specified in Section 59 (2) sentence 1 of the Higher Education Act (HG).
- (2) The decision to limit the number of participants and to set a maximum number of participants for the respective courses is made by the Department Council of the Department of Humanities and Theology and is announced in an appropriate manner.
- (3) If the number of applicants exceeds the capacity, the Dean or a teacher appointed by the Dean shall regulate access at the request of the respective teacher with the participation of the Department Commission for Teaching and Studies (*Fakultätskommission für Lehre und Studium*). Applicants shall be considered in the following order:
1. Students who, based on their study plan within their chosen degree program, are required to take the course at this time. This includes, on the one hand, students for whom the course is scheduled, according to the module descriptions in the module handbook and the study plan, in the subject semester in which the course is offered; second, students who are in the final semester of their degree program according to the standard program duration or in a later semester and who need the course to complete their degree program within the standard program duration or in a timely manner.
 2. Students who, based on their study plan within their chosen degree program, are not required to take the course at this time, or students admitted as cross-registered students pursuant to Section 52 (2) HG who, based on their study plan within their chosen degree program, are required to take the course at this time.
 3. Students who are admitted to the respective course as cross-registered students in accordance with Section 52 (1) HG.
 4. Other students of TU Dortmund University, provided they meet the requirements for participation in the course.
- (4) If a selection is necessary within a group, applicants shall be considered in the following order:
1. Students with long-term or permanent disabilities, chronic illnesses, or care responsibilities (care and upbringing of children within the meaning of Section 25 (5) of the Federal Education and Trainings Assistance Act (*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz*, BAföG), care of the spouse, the registered partner, or a relative in direct line or a first-degree relative by marriage, insofar as they are in need of care).

2. Students for whom it is mandatory to repeat a course in the according module.
3. After the remaining criteria have been exhausted, the decision is made by lot.
- (5) Applicants must themselves assert the existence of the conditions related to the criteria according to subsection 4, nos. 1 and 2, to the Dean during the application procedure and within the specified published deadlines.
- (6) The Department of Humanities and Theology shall ensure, within the limits of the available resources, that the students referred to in subsection 3, no. 1, as a rule suffer no loss of time or, at most, lose one semester as a result of the limitation of the number of participants.

Section 9 **Examinations**

- (1) Each module is usually completed with only one examination. In particularly justified cases, several modules may be completed with a joint examination. A module is successfully completed through a graded module examination or through the cumulative completion of graded partial assessments. Partial assessments are completed within the framework of individual courses. The respective examination format and type (module examination or partial assessments) are specified in the appendix to these Examination Regulations.
- (2) Module examinations or partial assessments are conducted throughout the course of study, typically through written, oral, electronic examinations, or examinations conducted via electronic communication (in particular in the form of written examinations, presentations based on written papers, term papers, internship reports, etc.). The respective examiners may, with the approval of the Examination Board, specify other suitable forms of assessment. The examinations required for the acquisition of credit points in the form of module examinations should be taken immediately following the completion of the module.
- (3) The type, format, and scope of the module examinations and partial assessments are specified in the module descriptions in the module handbook. Otherwise, the respective examiners shall announce, at the beginning of each course, the binding requirements regarding the type, format, and scope of the examinations tasks to be completed. Upon request to the Examination Board, deviations from the form of assessment originally specified in the module descriptions of the module handbook may be permitted for a limited period in justified cases.
- (4) For module examinations, written examinations must have a duration of at least 60 minutes and no more than 120 minutes; oral examinations must have a duration of a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes per candidate.

For partial assessments, a maximum duration of 120 minutes is to be allowed for written examinations, and for oral examinations, a duration of 15 to 30 minutes per candidate.

- (5) Written examinations are administered under supervision and are not open to the public. The permitted aids for each examination will be announced by the examiners no later than four weeks before the examination. The results of the written examination will be communicated to the candidates, if possible, no later than four weeks after the examination date, subject to compliance with data protection requirements.
- (6) Written examinations may be conducted entirely or partially using a multiple-choice format. In particular when using this format, care must be taken to ensure that the examination questions are based on the content and required knowledge taught in the modules or corresponding courses and that they yield reliable examination results. For examinations to be graded by two examiners, the examination questions are developed jointly by both examiners. When formulating examination questions, it must be specified which answers will be accepted as correct.
- (7) Oral examinations are always conducted as group or individual examinations before two examiners or before one examiner in the presence of a knowledgeable observer (Section 15 (1)). In group examinations, no more than four candidates are admitted at a time. The main topics and results of the oral examination must be recorded in a protocol respectively minutes. The result of the examination must be communicated to the candidate immediately following the examination. Students who wish to take the same examination during a later examination period are admitted as listeners, subject to available space, unless the candidate objects. The admission of listeners does not extend to the consultation or the announcement of the examination result. If listeners influence or disrupt the examination, the examiner may exclude them from the examination.
- (8) If an oral examination is administered by a single examiner, the examiner must consult with the observer before determining the grade in accordance with Section 20 (1). If an oral examination is administered by two examiners, each examiner shall assign an individual grade for the oral examination performance in accordance with Section 20 (1). The grade for the oral examination performance is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the two individual grades in accordance with Section 20 (7).
- (9) Examination performance in written or oral examinations that conclude a degree program, and in repeated examinations for which no opportunity for make-up is provided in the event of a final failure, must always be evaluated by two examiners in accordance with Section 15 (1).
- (10) For electronic examinations, the regulations governing written examinations shall apply accordingly.
- (11) Written examinations as defined in subsection 9, with the exception of the Bachelor's thesis, must be graded separately by both examiners in accordance with Section 20 (1). The grade for the written examination is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the two individual grades. Section 20 (7) applies accordingly.

- (12) In modules that conclude with a module examination, additional coursework may be required in the individual courses. These may include, in particular: oral presentations, e.g., in the form of (group) presentations, and written assignments, e.g., in the form of essays, reports, or short seminar papers. Coursework may be graded or evaluated as “passed” or “failed.” For coursework that may be repeated an unlimited number of times, Section 20 (4) (b) does not apply. A prerequisite for taking the module examination is the successful completion of all coursework required for that module.
- (13) The requirements for coursework are significantly less demanding in terms of form and content than those for a module examination. Unless the format in which coursework for a module is to be completed is defined in the module descriptions in the module handbook, it will be announced by the teachers at the beginning of each course.
- (14) A requirement for regular attendance may be established for courses whose learning objectives cannot be achieved without the active participation of the students. When establishing attendance requirements, the constitutional principle of proportionality must be observed. Decisions regarding mandatory attendance are made either on the basis of a relevant vote by the Study Advisory Council (*Studienbeirat*) or on the basis of a two-thirds majority of the Department Council. Mandatory attendance must be specified in the module description in the module handbook. The exact details of the mandatory attendance requirement are communicated to the students in an appropriate manner at the beginning of the course.
- (15) Examination procedures shall take into account absences due to care responsibilities (care and upbringing of children within the meaning of Section 25 (5) of the Federal Education and Trainings Assistance Act (*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz*, BAföG), care of the spouse, the registered partner, or a relative in direct line or a first-degree relative by marriage, insofar as they are in need of care).

Section 10

Disadvantage compensation

- (1) If students provide a medical certificate to make credible that they are unable to take an examination in whole or in part in the intended form, duration, or time limit due to a long-term or permanent disability or chronic illness, the Chairperson of the Examination Board shall determine the alternative form, duration, or time limit for the examination. This also applies to the acquisition of a participation requirement. Furthermore, deviations may be provided with regard to the use of aids or assistants as well as the number of and requirements for the repetition of examination performances. In the case of persons with a disability or chronic illness, this should apply to all examinations to be taken during the degree program, unless a change in the illness or disability is to be expected. In case of doubt, the person or office responsible for questions concerning the interests of disabled students is consulted (e.g., the Division of Disability and Studies within the Center for Higher Education of TU Dortmund University, *DoBuS/zhb*).

- (2) Compensation for disadvantages (called *academic accommodation*) is granted on a case-by-case basis on application to the Examination Board and must be submitted to the Central Examinations Office.

Section 11

Maternity protection

The statutory maternity protection periods as well as the corresponding provisions of the Maternity Protection Act (*Mutterschutzgesetz*, MSchG) apply, cf. Section 64 (2) no.5 and (2a) North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act (HG NRW).

Section 12

Deadlines and dates

- (1) Registration for each examination is required no later than two weeks before the examination begins. The registration period must be at least two weeks. Withdrawal without providing a reason is permitted for oral examinations up to one week before the start of the respective examination, and for written examinations up to one day before the start of the respective examination. The student is then considered not registered for the examination. For examinations conducted by another department as part of the degree program Political Conflict Studies, different registration and withdrawal deadlines may apply.
- (2) The dates for written examinations are set by the Chairperson of the Examination Board and must be announced as early as possible, generally four weeks before the end of the lecture period. Time periods for oral examinations are announced at least four weeks before the earliest examination date. Individual examination dates are announced one week before the examination.
- (3) The examination for a course or module may be taken at the end of the semester in which the course associated with the module was offered or in which the module ends (main spring examination period or main fall examination period). This examination may also be taken during the immediately following make-up exam session (make-up spring exam session or make-up fall exam session). Unless otherwise specified in the respective module description, the examiners shall announce the binding nature and scope of the examination to be taken during the make-up examination period no later than four weeks after the start of the lecture period in which the corresponding main examination period falls.
- (4) Provided that a proper examination procedure is ensured, the Examination Board may, upon prior request and with the examiner's consent, grant exceptions to the examination procedure regarding the nature, location, and timing of the examination if a justified study-related stay abroad is planned for the scheduled examination date and participation in the regular examination procedure is unreasonable.

The request must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Examination Board in a timely manner before the start of the examination process, no later than six weeks before the examination date, and must include a written justification.

Section 13

Repetition of examinations, passing the Bachelor's examination, irrevocable failing

- (1) The module examinations and the individual partial assessments can be repeated twice if they have not been passed or are regarded as failed. If a partial assessment is failed, only that component must be repeated. To ensure comparability and fairness in grading, repetitions must be conducted in the same format as the initial examination. Examinations that have been passed cannot be repeated.
- (2) Upon submission of a request to the Examination Board within three months of the announcement of the grade for the second repetition, the candidate shall be granted an additional repetition of a single examination that he or she is no longer permitted to repeat under subsection 1. If no request is submitted within this deadline, the Bachelor's examination is deemed irrevocably failed.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection 1, the Bachelor's thesis may be repeated only as a whole and only once with a new topic. A change in the topic of the Bachelor's thesis pursuant to Section 21 (7) is only permitted if the candidate did not make use of this option when writing the unsuccessful Bachelor's thesis.
- (4) The Bachelor's examination is considered passed if all 180 credit points from coursework and the Bachelor's thesis have been earned.
- (5) The Bachelor's examination is definitively and irrevocably failed if
 - a) the Bachelor's thesis is failed again after repeating it or is regarded as failed, or
 - b) a candidate can no longer meet the required minimum number of credit points or
 - c) one of the compulsory modules listed in the appendix has been irrevocably failed.
- (6) If the Bachelor's examination has been irrevocably failed or if an examination is regarded as irrevocably failed, the Chairperson of the Examination Board shall issue a written notice to the candidate to inform about this effect. The notification must include information on the right to appeal. Upon request, the candidate is issued a certificate listing the passed examinations; the certificate must include a note stating that it is not valid for submission to another institution of higher education respectively university.

Section 14 Examination Board

- (1) The Department of Humanities and Theology shall establish an Examination Board to organize the examinations and carry out the tasks assigned by these Examination Regulations. The Examination Board consists of five members: three members from the group of university teachers, one member from the group of scientific staff members, and one member from the group of students of the Bachelor's degree program Political Conflict Studies. The members are elected by the Department Council, separated by group, for a term of three years; the member from the student group is elected for a term of one year. The Examination Board elects the Chairperson and the deputy from among its members who are university teachers. The Department Council elects substitutes for the members of the Examination Board, with the exception of the Chairperson and the deputy. Re-election is permitted. The composition of the Examination Board is announced by the Dean. If the election of the Examination Board or of individual members is declared invalid after they have taken office, this does not affect the legal validity of previously adopted resolutions and official acts.
- (2) The Examination Board ensures compliance with the provisions of the Examination Regulations and oversees the proper conduct of examinations. In particular, it is responsible for ruling on appeals against decisions made during the examination process. In addition, the Examination Board must report regularly - at least once a year - to the Department Council of the Department of Humanities and Theology and to the Institute of Philosophy and Political Science on trends in examinations and the duration of studies. It makes recommendations for reforming the Examination Regulations and the curricula. The Examination Board may delegate the following tasks to the Chairperson: decisions on admission and admission with stipulations, questions of recognition, urgent decisions, complaints, the appointment of examiners and observers, decisions on applications for viewing of records pursuant to Section 27 (2) and (3), as well as decisions on applications pursuant to Section 13 (2). Decisions regarding appeals and the reporting obligation to the Department Council and the Institute of Philosophy and Political Science cannot be delegated to the Chairperson of the Examination Board.
- (3) The Examination Board has a quorum if, in addition to the Chairperson or the deputy and one other member from the group of university teachers, at least one other member with voting rights is present. The Examination Board makes decisions by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson has the deciding vote. Abstentions are permitted; they are not counted toward determining the majority of votes. Decisions may be made by written circulation of resolutions. The student members of the Examination Board do not participate in pedagogical or academic decisions. These include, in particular, the evaluation of students, the recognition of academic achievements, the determination of examination questions, and the appointment of examiners and observers.

- (4) The members of the Examination Board have the right to attend examinations.
- (5) The meetings of the Examination Board are not open to the public. The members of the Examination Board, including their substitutes and student representatives, the examiners, and the observers are bound by professional confidentiality. Unless they are public servants, they must be bound to confidentiality by the Chairperson of the Examination Board. At the invitation of the Chairperson, guests may participate in the deliberations and voting of the Examination Board; they are likewise bound by a duty of confidentiality but are not entitled to submit motions or vote.
- (6) In carrying out its duties, the Examination Board makes use of the administrative assistance provided by the Central Examinations Office of TU Dortmund University.

Section 15

Examiners and observers

- (1) The Examination Board appoints the examiners and observers in accordance with statutory requirements. It may delegate the appointment to the Chairperson of the Examination Board. University teachers of TU Dortmund University and other persons authorized to conduct examinations within the meaning of Section 65 (1) HG may be appointed as examiners. Any person who has acquired at least the qualification to be assessed by the examination or a comparable qualification may be appointed as an observer.
- (2) Examiners are independent in the implementation of their examination duties.
- (3) The candidate may propose examiners for the Bachelor's thesis. The candidate's proposals shall be taken into consideration whenever possible. However, the proposals do not constitute a legal entitlement.

Section 16

Recognition of examination achievements, placement in advanced program semesters

For the recognition of examination achievements and placement into advanced semesters, the currently valid Recognition Regulations of TU Dortmund University (*Anerkennungsordnung der TU Dortmund*) for all Bachelor's and Master's degree programs at TU Dortmund University shall apply.

Section 17

Absence, withdrawal, deception, and violation of regulations

- (1) An examination is considered to have received a grade of "insufficient" (5.0) or "failed" if the candidate fails to appear for an examination appointment without a valid reason, or if he or she withdraws from the examination after it has begun without a valid reason.

The same applies if the candidate fails to complete a written examination within the allotted time.

- (2) The reasons cited for the withdrawal or absence must be reported to the Examination Board in writing without delay and substantiated. In the event of illness of the candidate or of a child for whose care the candidate is primarily responsible, a medical certificate in German must be submitted. In the event of the candidate's illness, the medical certificate must attest to the candidate's inability to take the examination. In the case of a subsequent withdrawal from an examination that has already been taken, the medical certificate must indicate that the impairment of performance during the examination was not apparent to the student for health reasons and that there was no reasonable cause to doubt the student's ability to perform. If the Examination Board does not accept the reasons for the withdrawal or absence, the candidate will be notified in writing.
- (3) If an examination performance is influenced by deception respectively cheating (e.g., use of unauthorized aids, copying text passages without citing them as quotations, copying or having someone else copy for you, or providing assistance to others in their attempts to cheat, etc.), the examination in question shall be graded as "insufficient" (5.0) or "failed." This also applies to an attempt at cheating. If, during an examination, an attempt at cheating or an act of cheating as defined in the first sentence is detected by the supervisor, the supervisor shall document the attempt at cheating or the act of cheating. The decision as to whether an attempt at cheating or an act of cheating has occurred - and thus whether the examination is to be graded as "insufficient" (5.0) or "failed" - is made by the respective examiners. A candidate who disrupts the proper conduct of the examination may, as a rule, be excluded from continuing the examination by the respective examiner or the supervisor following a warning; in this case, the examination in question is considered to have been graded "insufficient" (5.0) or "failed." The specific reasons for these decisions must be documented. In serious cases of cheating or disruption, the Examination Board may exclude the candidate from taking further examinations.
- (4) For module examinations or partial assessments, the Examination Board may require the candidate to provide a written statement confirming that they have written the work - or, in the case of group work, a clearly identified portion of the work - independently, have used no sources or aids other than those specified, and have properly cited both verbatim and paraphrased quotations. Section 21 (9) remains unaffected.
- (5) The candidate may, within a period of 14 days, request that decisions made pursuant to subsection 3 be reviewed by the Examination Board. Adverse decisions must be communicated to the candidate in writing without delay, accompanied by a statement of reasons and information on available legal remedies. Prior to the decision, the candidate must be given the opportunity to be heard.

II. The Bachelor's examination

Section 18

Admission to Bachelor's examination

- (1) Upon enrollment in the Bachelor's degree program Political Conflict Studies at TU Dortmund University or upon admission as a cross-registered student pursuant to Section 52 (2) HG, students are regarded as admitted to the examinations for this degree program, unless enrollment or admission is denied pursuant to subsection 2.
- (2) Enrollment or admission must be denied if
 - a) the candidate has irrevocably failed an examination required under these Examination Regulations in the Bachelor's degree program Political Conflict Studies at TU Dortmund University or in another degree program that is substantially similar in content to this degree program, or
 - b) the candidate, after having taken an examination in one of the aforementioned degree programs, has not yet received a final and legally binding decision regarding the irrevocable failure to pass due to a subsequent appeal of the examination decision.

Section 19

Scope of Bachelor's examination

- (1) The Bachelor's examination consists of examinations taken throughout the course of study, in which a total of 162 credit points must be earned. Of these, 15 credit points are earned by completing a practical phase. An additional 18 credit points must be earned through a Bachelor's thesis module, including the Bachelor's thesis and its oral defense.
- (2) The type of examination (module examination or partial assessments) and the number of credit points to be earned in each case are specified in the appendix to these Examination Regulations.

Section 20

Assessment of course-related examination performances, acquisition of credit points, calculation of grades

- (1) The grades for the individual examination components are determined by the respective examiners. The following grades are to be used:
 - 1 = very good = an outstanding performance,
 - 2 = good = a performance that significantly exceeds average requirements,
 - 3 = satisfactory = a performance that meets average standards,

- 4 = sufficient = a performance that, despite its deficiencies, still meets the requirements,
- 5 = insufficient = a performance that no longer meets the requirements due to significant deficiencies.

By adjusting individual grades up or down by 0.3, intermediate grades may be assigned for a more nuanced evaluation; however, the grades 0.7, 4.3, 4.7, and 5.3 are excluded.

- (2) In consultation with the Examination Board, for examination performances that are not included in the final grade, the performances may be evaluated either according to the grading scale specified in subsection 1 or according to the following simplified scale:

passed = a performance which at least meets the requirements, or

failed = a performance which no longer meets the requirements due to significant deficiencies.

- (3) The number of credit points assigned to the respective module is earned if the module has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) or "passed."
- (4) A written examination conducted exclusively using a multiple-choice format is considered passed if
 - a) 60% of the total possible points have been achieved, or
 - b) at least 50% of the maximum possible score has been achieved and the score obtained is no more than 22% below the average examination performance of the candidates who took the examination.
- (5) If the candidate has achieved the minimum score specified in subsection 4 and has thus passed the examination, the grade is as follows:
 - 1 = very good, if they score at least 75%,
 - 2 = good, if they score at least 50% but less than 75%,
 - 3 = satisfactory, if they score at least 25% but less than 50%,
 - 4 = sufficient, if they scored none or less than 25%

of the points to be earned above the minimum score.
- (6) If a written examination is conducted only partially using the multiple-choice format, the multiple-choice questions are graded in accordance with subsections 4 and 5. The remaining questions are graded according to the standard procedure applicable to them. The grade for the written examination is determined based on both evaluations, taking into account the respective proportions of the total possible points. Subsection 7 applies accordingly.
- (7) If the module is completed by a module examination, that grade is also the module grade. For partial assessments, the module grade is calculated as the arithmetic

average of the unrounded grades - weighted by the corresponding credit points - for the partial assessments completed as part of the respective module.

The module grades are then expressed in words as follows:

For an average of

up to 1.5	= <i>very good</i> ,
above 1.5 to 2.5	= <i>good</i> ,
above 2.5 to 3.5	= <i>satisfactory</i> ,
above 3.5 to 4.0	= <i>sufficient</i> ,
above 4.0	= <i>insufficient</i> .

When calculating module grades, only the first decimal place is taken into account; all subsequent decimal places are omitted without rounding.

- (8) The overall grade for the Bachelor's examination is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the grades for all graded modules, including the Bachelor's thesis, as determined in accordance with subsection 7, with each individual grade weighted by the respective number of credit points associated with that module. Subsection 7 applies accordingly. Instead of the overall grade "very good," the distinction "passed with distinction" is awarded if the Bachelor's thesis is graded 1.0 and the overall grade is no lower than 1.2.
- (9) The overall grade is reported in the form of a grade according to the *European Credit Transfer System* (ECTS). In addition, ECTS grades may be reported for all graded examinations. This requires a corresponding resolution by the Examination Board. The ECTS grades are reported as follows:
- A = generally the top approximately 10% of successful students;
B = generally the next approximately 25% of successful students;
C = generally the next approximately 30% of successful students;
D = generally the next approximately 25% of successful students;
E = generally the next approximately 10% of successful students.
- As an alternative to the ECTS grade, the grade distribution can be presented in the form of an ECTS grading table.
- (10) ECTS grades or the reference group for the ECTS grading table are generally determined by comparing cohorts from the last six semesters. If this group consists of fewer than 50 students, the reference group must be determined based on the last 10 semesters. As a general rule, the current semester should not be included for the determination of the reference group. As long as no statistical data are available to calculate a relative assessment, no ECTS grades will be issued. To ensure legal certainty in the awarding of grades, the Examination Board may decide to refrain from assigning ECTS grades. The same applies to the creation of the ECTS grading table. When composing the reference group, a distinction must be made based on the degree and the degree program. Furthermore, in cases where there are objective grounds, a

different composition of the reference group may be adopted. This requires a corresponding resolution by the Examination Board.

Section 21 Bachelor's thesis

- (1) The Bachelor's thesis is completed in the field of political science. Through the Bachelor's thesis, the candidate is expected to demonstrate that he or she can independently address a problem from his or her field using scholarly methods within a specified timeframe.
- (2) The Bachelor's thesis may be assigned and supervised by any university teacher or a member of the Department of Humanities and Theology with a post-doctoral lecture qualification (*Habilitation*). Other scientists who meet the requirements pursuant to Section 65 (1) HG may assign and supervise the Bachelor's thesis with the approval of the Examination Board; in such cases, the candidate must be assigned a university teacher from the department participating in the degree program as a secondary supervisor.
- (3) The Bachelor's thesis is assigned at the candidate's application through the Chairperson of the Examination Board. Before the Bachelor's thesis is assigned, the candidate must have earned at least 140 credit points. Proof of fulfillment of these requirements must be attached to the application. The date of assignment must be recorded in the official records.
- (4) In their application, the candidate may make suggestions regarding the topic of the Bachelor's thesis. Section 15 (3) must be observed. If the candidate waives the right to make a suggestion, the Chairperson of the Examination Board assigns a topic and a supervisor for the Bachelor's thesis.
- (5) The Bachelor's thesis must always be written independently as an individual piece of work. However, this does not preclude the topic of the Bachelor's thesis from being addressed within a working group. In such cases, it must be ensured that the individual's contribution - which is to be evaluated as an examination performance - is clearly distinguishable and assessable according to objective criteria and meets the requirements set forth in subsection 1. The page count specified in subsection 8 must reasonably exceed the requirements for an individual work.
- (6) The processing time for the Bachelor's thesis is 12 weeks, or a maximum of 14 weeks for an empirical topic, and begins when the topic is assigned. The topic and the assignment must be structured in such a way that the Bachelor's thesis can be completed within the specified time frame. Upon a justified request by the candidate, the Examination Board, in consultation with the supervisor, may, in exceptional cases, grant a one-time extension of up to four weeks. A request for an extension must be submitted to the Examination Board no later than 14 days before the end of the processing time. In the event of illness, the submission deadline may be extended by a maximum of half the processing time. A medical certificate is required for this. The extension corresponds to the duration of the illness. If the duration of the illness

exceeds half the processing time, the candidate is assigned a new topic without credit for the examination attempt.

- (7) The topic of the Bachelor's thesis may be returned only once and only within the first 14 days of the processing time; in that case, the Bachelor's thesis is considered not to have been started.
- (8) The length of the Bachelor's thesis should generally be about 40 pages.
- (9) Upon submission of the Bachelor's thesis, the candidate must affirm in a sworn statement that he or she has written the thesis independently, has used no sources or resources other than those cited, and has properly cited both verbatim and paraphrased quotations. Unpublished works must also be included in the bibliography. A standard form provided by the Central Examinations Office must be used for this affidavit; it must be signed and bound into the Bachelor's thesis as an integral part of the thesis upon submission, or, in accordance with the digital submission procedure under Section 22 (1), uploaded as a single file together with the thesis.

Section 22

Submission and assessment of the Bachelor's thesis

- (1) The submission of the Bachelor's thesis is governed by the provisions of the Regulations on the Submission of Theses (Bachelor's/Master's) of TU Dortmund University, as amended. If, for technical reasons, the upload of individual theses or parts thereof is not feasible, and/or if there is a contractual agreement with third parties that precludes the publication of theses or parts thereof, the Examination Board may decide to apply the previous analog procedure for submitting theses as set forth in subsection 2.
- (2) For the traditional analog submission method, the Bachelor's thesis must be submitted by the deadline to the Central Examinations Office of TU Dortmund University in two bound copies and, in addition, in an electronic version suitable for use with plagiarism-detection software; the time of submission must be recorded. If submitted by mail, the date of the postmark applies. If the Bachelor's thesis is not submitted by the deadline, it will be graded "insufficient" (5.0).
- (3) The Bachelor's thesis must always be assessed and graded by two examiners. One of the examiners should be the supervisor (first assessor). The second examiner (second assessor) is appointed by the Chairperson of the Examination Board. At least one of the examiners must be affiliated with the Institute of Philosophy and Political Science. Each examiner must evaluate the thesis individually in accordance with Section 20 (1), and provide a written justification for their grade.
- (4) The grade for the Bachelor's thesis is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the two individual grades, provided that the difference between the individual grades does not exceed 2.0.

If the difference between the two individual grades is greater than 2.0, or if only one of the examiners grades the Bachelor's thesis as at least "sufficient" (4.0), the Examination Board appoints a third examiner to evaluate the Bachelor's thesis. In this case, the grade for the Bachelor's thesis is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the two higher grades. However, the Bachelor's thesis can only be graded "sufficient" (4.0) or higher if at least two grades are "sufficient" (4.0) or higher. The candidate must be notified of the grade for the Bachelor's thesis no later than three months after its submission. Section 20 (7) applies accordingly.

- (5) Before the final module grade is determined, the candidate must defend the Bachelor's thesis - which has been graded at least "sufficient" (4.0) - by giving a presentation to the examiners in accordance with subsections 3 and 4. Section 9 (7) to (9) applies accordingly. The grade is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the two individual grades. One-third of the module grade is based on the presentation, provided it is graded at least "sufficient" (4.0). The Bachelor's thesis is considered passed overall if the module, taking into account the proportional weighting of the written thesis and the presentation, is graded at least "sufficient" overall. If the presentation is not passed, the Bachelor's thesis is not passed overall.

Section 23

Additional qualifications

- (1) The student may complete examination requirements in modules other than the required ones before passing or irrevocably failing. No credit points can be earned for these examinations.
- (2) Additional qualifications are not taken into account for the determination of the final grade. Upon the student's request to the Central Examinations Office, the grades of these examinations are included in the *Transcript of Records*.

Section 24

Certificate, documents for a change of university

- (1) Upon passing the Bachelor's examination, the candidate generally receives a certificate six weeks after the final examination result has been evaluated. The certificate includes the overall grade for the Bachelor's examination, including the ECTS grade according to Section 20 (9), the modules, the topic and the grade of the Bachelor's thesis, as well as the module grades and the number of credit points earned in each module. At the candidate's request, the certificate shall also include the duration of study required to complete the Bachelor's degree. The certificate is signed by the Chairperson of the Examination Board and bears the seal of the Department of Humanities and Theology. The date of the certificate shall be the day on which the last examination was taken. The certificate is also issued in English.

- (2) If an ECTS conversion table is created for the degree program in accordance with Section 20 (9), it is made available to students separately.
- (3) A *Diploma Supplement* is issued together with the certificate. It describes in particular the essential course content underlying the degree, the course of study, the competencies acquired with the degree, and the awarding institution. The *Diploma Supplement* is issued in German and English. Furthermore, an overview of the academic achievements (*Transcript of Records*) is attached to the certificate.
- (4) Upon the candidate's request, the *Transcript of Records* lists additional performances that were not included in the module and cumulative overall grades. In addition, voluntary internships completed during the course of study - which were approved by the Examination Board upon request and are substantively and academically related to the chosen degree program - may be included. The Transcript of Records is issued in both German and English.
- (5) Upon request by the candidate, a certificate of academic performance (*Notenbescheinigung*) is issued even before the completion of the Bachelor's degree examination. It contains a list of the successfully completed modules, including the earned credit points, examination results, and grades in accordance with Section 20 (1). This certification is issued in both German and English.

Section 25 **Bachelor's Diploma**

- (1) The candidate shall be presented with a Bachelor's Diploma bearing the date of the certificate in both German and English. The Bachelor's Diploma attests to the awarding of the academic degree in accordance with Section 4. The graduate's degree program must be specified on the Bachelor's Diploma.
- (2) The Bachelor's Diploma is signed by the Dean of the Department of Humanities and Theology and by the Chairperson of the Examination Board and bears the seal of the Department of Humanities and Theology.

III. Final provisions

Section 26 **Invalidity of examination results and withdrawal of the Bachelor's degree**

- (1) If the candidate has deceived/cheated in an examination and this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, the Examination Board may subsequently correct the grades for those examination performances in which the candidate deceived and declare the examination wholly or partially failed.

- (2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not met without the candidate intending to deceive, and this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, this deficiency shall be remedied by passing the examination. If the candidate has intentionally obtained admission under false pretenses, the Examination Board shall decide on the legal consequences under consideration of the Administrative Procedure Act NRW (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz für das Land Nordrhein-Westfalen, VwVfG NRW*).
- (3) Before a decision is made in accordance with subsection 1 and 2, the concerned person shall be given the opportunity to comment orally or in writing.
- (4) In the case of a decision pursuant to subsection 1 and subsection 2, sentence 2, the incorrect examination certificate shall be withdrawn and, if necessary, a new one shall be issued. A decision pursuant to subsection 1 or subsection 2, sentence 2, shall be excluded after a period of five years following the issuance of the certificate.
- (5) The Bachelor's degree shall be revoked and the Diploma shall be withdrawn if it subsequently transpires that it was obtained by deception or if essential requirements for its award were mistakenly considered to have been met. The Department Council of the Department of Humanities and Theology shall decide on the revocation.

Section 27

Viewing of examination records

- (1) After the announcement of an examination result, a viewing of the examination records is granted. During the viewing, copies or other faithful reproductions may be made. The use of copies and other reproductions of the examination is permitted only for personal use for the purpose of reviewing the examination. In particular, publication, reproduction, distribution, and any form of exploitation, as well as disclosure to third parties, are prohibited. Violations result in significant legal consequences. The time and place for viewing the examination papers are determined by the examiners and communicated to students in an appropriate manner no later than the announcement of the examination results.
- (2) Students may view the results of other written examinations upon request. The request must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Examination Board within one month.
- (3) Students may inspect the assessments of the examiners pertaining to the respective examinations, as well as the examination records of the oral examinations, upon request. The request must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Examination Board within three months of the announcement of the examination results. The Chairperson of the Examination Board shall determine the time and place for the viewing.

Section 28**Scope of application, entry into force, and publication**

- (1) These Examination Regulations are published in the Official Communications of TU Dortmund University and shall enter into force on 1 October 2026.
- (2) They apply to all students enrolled in the Bachelor's degree program Political Conflict Studies at TU Dortmund University.

Issued on the basis of the resolutions of the Department Council of the Department of Humanities and Theology dated 15 April 2026, and the resolution of the Rectorate of TU Dortmund University dated 21 January 2026.

Note

Attention is drawn to the fact that, pursuant to Section 12 (5) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz*, HG NRW), a violation of procedural or formal requirements of the university's regulatory or other autonomous law can no longer be asserted after the expiry of one year from the date of this announcement, unless

1. the regulations have not been duly published,
2. the Rectorate has previously objected to the decision of the committee adopting the regulations,
3. the formal or procedural fault has been notified to the university in advance and the violated legal provision and the fact giving rise to the fault have been indicated, or
4. the legal consequence of the exclusion of the right to complain was not pointed out when the regulations were publicly announced.

Dortmund, 27 April 2026

The President
of TU Dortmund University

Professor Dr. Manfred Bayer

Appendix: Overview of modules

Module	Examination Type	graded/ ungraded	Prerequisites for module examination	Credit points
Module L-a: German Language Skills	module examination	graded	none	9 CP
Module L-b: Expanding Language Skills	partial assessments	graded/ ungraded		9 CP
Module 1: Onboarding	module examination	graded	none	13 CP
Module 2: Introduction to the Disciplines of Political Science	module examination	graded	none	12 CP
Module 3: Introduction to the Methodology of Political Science	partial assessments	graded		9 CP
Module 4: Introduction to Political Conflict	module examination	graded	coursework for the module completed	9 CP
Module 5: Fragmentation and Transformation of Societies	module examination	graded	coursework for the module completed	9 CP
Module 6: Spheres for Political Action to Address Conflict	module examination	graded	coursework for the module completed	9 CP

Module 7: International Politics: Perspectives on Conflict	module examination	graded	coursework for the module completed	9 CP
Module 8: Comparative and Systems Perspectives on Conflict	module examination	graded	coursework for the module completed	9 CP
Module 9: Political Theory Perspectives on Conflict	module examination	graded	coursework for the module completed	9 CP
Module 10: Distinctive Challenges I: Sustainability	module examination	graded	coursework for the module completed	12 CP
Module 11: Distinctive Challenges II: Culture, Religion, and Identity	module examination	graded	coursework for the module completed	12 CP
Module 12: Political Action and Strategies for Solutions I	module examination	graded	coursework for the module completed	9 CP
Module 13- a: Focus on Practice – Academic Schedule	module examination	ungraded	none	15 CP
Module 13- b: Focus on Practice – Internship	module examination	ungraded	none	15 CP

Module 14: Political Action and Strategies for Solutions II	module examination	graded	Modules 1–4 completed; coursework for the module completed	9 CP
Module 15: Interdisciplinary Open Electives	partial assessments/ module examination	ungraded		6 CP
Module 16: Peer Mentoring and Networking	no examinations			2 CP
Module 17: Bachelor's Thesis	partial assessments	graded	see above	18 CP

* Here, students select courses from the offers of other disciplines as part of their *Studium Fundamentale*, so the examination format may vary and is determined by the requirements of the other degree programs.