

## **PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

### **CULTURE, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY**

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**Office:** Quellenstraße 51 / Room B403

**Degree offered:** BA in Culture, Politics, and Society

**Duration of the program:** 3 Academic Years

**Structure of the Academic Year:** 3 terms: Fall, Winter, and Spring

**Duration of the Fall Term:** 12 weeks

**Duration of the Winter Term:** 12 weeks

**Duration of the Spring Term:** 11 weeks (teaching period is 6 weeks)<sup>1</sup>

**Amount of credits required per Academic Year:** 60 ECTS

**Overall amount of required credits:** 180 ECTS

**Number of modules in entire program:** 18

**Number of modules per academic year:** 6

### **Program Structure**

Each Academic Year is subdivided into six modules: three thematic, two skills-oriented, and one project-oriented.

**First year:** Students are required to earn 12 ECTS in each of the thematic modules, 8 ECTS in each of the skills-oriented modules and 8 ECTS in the project-oriented module. All courses in the first year are mandatory.

**Second year:** Students are required to earn a minimum of 8 ECTS in each module.

**Third year:** Students are required to earn a minimum of 8 ECTS in each module, 16 ECTS are earned through mandatory courses.

### **Program Specializations**

Students graduate with a specialization, which are listed on pages 5-8. To complete one, students must earn 32 ECTS in a specialization throughout years two and three of their studies, plus 16 ECTS of thesis courses, and complete their thesis project in the field of their specialization.

Students also have the option to complete their degree with a dual specialization. In order to complete two specializations, students must take 32 ECTS in each of their chosen

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<sup>1</sup> Assignments maybe be due within two weeks of the end of teaching time.

disciplines and complete an interdisciplinary thesis. Credits from an individual course may only be counted towards one specialization.

### **Second Year Experiential Learning**

Students in the BA must spend a spring term pursuing an experiential learning module. Experiential learning enables students to be immersed in an organization, or project, outside university coursework, in which students learn how contemporary work, and collaborative projects are organized. Students will have the opportunities to pursue internships, partnerships, or research assistantships, with institutions such as NGO's, museums, businesses, professionals, international organizations, social or political movements, community groups, or with individuals such as activists, artists, scientific researchers, or experts. The Experiential Learning module comprises two distinct parts – a practical component in which students individually pursue a practical project related to their academic or career interests and a seminar in which students will be expected to share and reflect on their experiences completing the project.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Identify an experiential learning setting of interest
- Decipher how an organization, practice, or profession works
- Apply communication skills outside the classroom
- Plan and complete projects
- Work in a team
- Reflect upon feedback from others
- Clarify their career aspirations
- Analyse the experiential site in relation to previous coursework

### **Third Year Thesis**

Students in the BA program must expand a course assignment to develop an advanced thesis project. The choice of disciplinary or multi-disciplinary specialization defines the final degree specialization. This BA project can take multiple forms, drawing from the skills accumulated through the Modes of Expression Modules. Students develop increased specialization in a research topic of their choice, and deepen their specialized knowledge in a specific discipline, or in a multi-disciplinary specialization. Depending on students' previous coursework and individual interests, and in deliberation with staff members, students choose their own thesis topic.

## Program Modules

The Culture, Politics, and Society Program consists of modules, from which students are required to draw their courses over the course of the three-year program. Modules are completed successfully once students have passed the compulsory and elective courses in the module.

The modules in the CPS program are:

<b>Module</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	
<i>Culture and Self I</i> 12 ECTS	The module aggregates courses which – in spite of their diverse disciplinary origins – are all focused on the perception and understanding of selfhood and personal identity, and the ways these are shaped by and practiced in different cultures.
<i>Society and Culture I</i> 12 ECTS	This module introduces students to the basic understanding of what is society, what is modernity, what are the fundamental social categories which organize social and cultural life, and what are today's primary social challenges, such as inequality and environmental change.
<i>Politics and Society I</i> 12 ECTS	This module is constituted by courses introducing students to a variety of perspectives on politics - past and present, national, international and transnational - in their relation to the broader social world.
<i>Modes of Interpretation I</i> 8 ECTS	The module develops students' capacity to read and interpret multiple textual genres, ranging from traditional written texts, to visual data and media such as painting, sculpture, photography, film, and digital media.
<i>Modes of Expression I</i> 8 ECTS	This introductory module comprises two mandatory courses, one on academic writing, and the other on communicating through image and sound.
<i>Culture, Politics, and Society in Context I</i> 8 ECTS	Drawing upon the city of Vienna, the surrounding region, or neighboring cities, as sites for learning, this module takes students out of the classroom to vividly connect coursework to the past and present of the city, its institutions, and its surroundings.

<b>Year 2</b>	
<i>Culture and Self II</i> min. 8 ECTS	This module is constituted by courses from various disciplines focused on the practices and ideas about selfhood and personal identity as these are manifested in diverse cultures.
<i>Society and Culture II</i> min. 8 ECTS	This interdisciplinary module is constituted by courses introducing students to the various ways of studying social and cultural wholes and social forces. Students learn how the social sciences are a way of knowing, with debates not only about the central social categories structuring social life, but also debates within the social sciences about how to best understand the social world.
<i>Politics and Society II</i> min. 8 ECTS	This interdisciplinary module puts together courses that advance students' understanding of the activity of politics and the variety of political orders, past and present.
<i>Modes of Interpretation II</i> min. 8 ECTS	This module advances students' critical interpretive capacities by focusing on the components that construct a text or media artefact, and the components that construct a research question.
<i>Modes of Expression II</i> min. 8 ECTS	In this module students will select a minimum of two courses among a range of elective courses which are each devoted to gaining basic proficiency in a single medium, from video to photo, audio, creative writing, data visualization, or coding.
<i>Culture, Politics, and Society in Context II</i> min.8 ECTS	Students must spend a spring term pursuing an experiential learning module, enabling students to be immersed in an organization, or project, outside university coursework, in which students learn how contemporary work, and collaborative projects are organized.
<i>Culture and Self III</i> min. 8 ECTS	This module continues exploring the practices of selfhood and personal identity from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, while concentrating on developing students' analytical skills.
<i>Society and Culture III</i> min. 8 ECTS	This module trains students to formulate their own questions, to embark on their own analyses of the social world, and to consider if, and how, to act upon the social world.
<i>Politics and Society III</i> min. 8 ECTS	This module focuses on developing students' analytical skills by considering questions of agency, normative frameworks,

	social contexts, and institutional settings.
<i>Modes of Interpretation III</i> min. 8 ECTS	The module develops students' capacity to critically analyze research, media, and texts, by linking interpretative strategies to fundamental questions in the social sciences, humanities, and media studies, on establishing causality, the broader history and effects of media, and the gaps between argument, evidence, and establishing a fact.
<i>Modes of Expression III</i> min. 8 ECTS	Students will have the opportunity to take advanced courses in a given medium, such as coding or filmmaking, while also continuing to take basic courses from a variety of media, gaining a broader basic proficiency across disciplines as well.
<i>Third Year Thesis</i> 16 ECTS	In this module, students expand a previous course assignment into a third year thesis, which can take multiple forms, drawing from the skills accumulated through the Modes of Expression Modules. Additionally, students are given the opportunity to explore career options related to their field.

Please refer to the CEU Course Hub (<https://courses.ceu.edu/unit/undergraduate-studies>) for up-to-date course offerings each year.

**Specializations:**

***Critical Humanities***

Critical Humanities educates students in diverse traditions of knowledge to become creative and critical thinkers with the capacity for transcultural, ethical, and social sensitivities. Within the specialization, interdisciplinary approaches are applied in order to foster innovative conversations across various scholarly fields, cultures and media, and special emphasis is placed on cultural and literary studies.

***Cultural Heritage***

Cultural Heritage Studies focus on developing aptitudes for the critical assessment of tangible structures and objects such as buildings, monuments, archaeological sites, and works of art; on intangible heritage like traditions, languages, and knowledge; and on environmental heritage connected to human-nature interactions, offering a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches.

### ***Environmental Studies***

Environmental Studies emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to solving environmental problems, while focusing on international or trans-boundary issues in sustainable environmental development. Students are introduced to the entry-point of a network of environmental professionals from developed and developing countries worldwide.

### ***Gender Studies***

Gender Studies emphasize a rich variety of intertwined scholarly and practical interests, such as gender and (post) state-socialist studies, nationalism, theory, cultural studies, transnationalism, and international political movements. It prepares students for the development of socially relevant knowledge based on these approaches and ongoing critical interrogation of past and present practices related to gender in culture and society.

### ***History***

History seeks to prepare students who would continue their education to become future scholars, academic and public leaders and professionals with a broad social horizon, eager to go beyond established geographical and temporal boundaries with a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective.

### ***Human Rights***

Human Rights offers intellectual and methodological tools to help students handle complexity and understand the relevance of various disciplines such as law, politics, economics, philosophy, international relations, sociology and history to understanding, assessing and addressing injustice. It aims to equip students with a sound and critical understanding of issues of human rights and justice and to introduce them to modern human rights frameworks. The courses offer a solid knowledge-base and skills training, while placing a strong focus on critical thinking and problem-solving, preparing students for the next stage of their careers or education.

### ***International Relations***

International Relations integrates international relations scholarship with regional expertise. It introduces students to international relations theory, in both its traditional and critical forms, as well as multi-disciplinary approaches to the study of increasingly diverse global actors.

***Medieval Studies***

Medieval Studies focuses on different methods of communication, migration of peoples, mobility of objects, texts, and ideas in the larger medieval oikumene, including Europe, Asia and North Africa.

***Nationalism Studies***

Nationalism Studies prepares students for empirical and theoretical study of issues of nationalism, self-determination, problems of state-formation, ethnic conflict, minority protection, language and citizenship rights and constitutional design in ethnically divided societies.

***Philosophy***

Philosophy prepares students for further study of philosophy and thorough training in all of its major fields of philosophy. It combines historical and analytical approaches in philosophy.

***Political Science***

Political Science prepares students wishing to develop the analytical skills necessary to achieve excellence in their areas of study, such as political philosophy, democratization and regime change, constitutional politics, political economy, media, voting behavior, party politics and human rights, in a comparative manner.

***Sociology and Social Anthropology***

Sociology and Social Anthropology presents students with multi-scalar, global, and critical perspectives on current social issues. Students are introduced to the study of migration, post-colonialism, urbanism, political and economic sociology, sociology of culture, development, network analysis, anthropology of religion, visual anthropology, and sociology of gender and sexuality.

***Visual Theory & Practice***

Visual Theory & Practice introduces students to visual arts, film, photography and performance. It prepares students for an engagement with theories and practices of analogue and digital image-making as well as interpretation through a web of interrelated activities.

*Please note that Visual Theory & Practice is not offered as a standalone major. Students looking to hoping to complete a major in Visual Theory & Practice must do so in conjunction with a major in another subject and will therefore complete a double major.*

\*Up to date course lists for each major discipline can be found on the Undergraduate Studies website (<https://undergraduate.ceu.edu/students>)