

**DISCLAIMER: This document is for information purposes only. The German examination regulations are the legally binding ones.**

Examination Regulations  
for the Master's degree program Religion, Ethics, and Politics  
of the Faculty of Humanities and Theology  
at TU Dortmund University  
from 27 July 2023

Based on 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 law of 30 June 2022 (GV. NRW. S. 780b), TU Dortmund University has issued the following regulations:

**Inhalt**

I. General .....	2
Section 1 Scope of validity of the Master's examination regulations.....	2
Section 2 Study objectives and Purpose of the examinations.....	2
Section 3 Admission requirements .....	3
Section 4 Master's degree .....	5
Section 5 Credit Point System.....	5
Section 6 Standard program duration, study structure and scope of studies .....	6
Section 7 Practical Phases .....	6
Section 8 Admission to courses with limited number of participants .....	6
Section 9 Examinations .....	8
Section 10 Disadvantage compensation.....	10
Section 11 Maternity protection .....	10
Section 12 Deadlines and dates .....	10
Section 13 Repetition of examinations, passing the Master's examination, final failing of an examination .....	11
Section 14 Examination Board .....	12
Section 15 Examiners and observers.....	13
Section 16 Recognition of examinations, Placement in higher semesters.....	13
Section 17 Default, withdrawal, deception and breach of order.....	14
II. The Master's examination .....	15
Section 18 Admission to Master's examination.....	15
Section 19 Scope of the Master's examination.....	15

Section 20 Evaluation of course-related examination performances, acquisition of credit points, calculation of grades .....	15
Section 21 Master's thesis .....	18
Section 22 Submission and evaluation of the Master's thesis.....	19
Section 23 Additional qualifications .....	20
Section 24 Master's Certificate, documents for a change of university .....	20
Section 25 Master's Diploma .....	21
III. Final provisions.....	21
Section 26 Invalidity of examination results and withdrawal of the Master's degree .....	21
Section 27 Viewing of examination records.....	22
Section 28 Scope of application, entry into force and publication .....	22
Note .....	<b>Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.</b>
Appendix: Module overview .....	23

## **I. General**

### **§ 1**

#### **Scope of validity of the Master's examination regulations**

- (1) These Master's examination regulations apply to the English-language Master's degree program "Religion, Ethics, and Politics" at the Faculty of Humanities and Theology of TU Dortmund University. They regulate the structures of the Master's degree program in accordance with Section 64 (1) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz NRW, HG).
- (2) The module descriptions in the module handbook describe the individual study elements, the course content and the competences to be acquired. They are not part of these examination regulations. They are decided by the responsible Faculty Council and have to be reported to the Rectorate.

### **§ 2**

#### **Study objectives and Purpose of the examinations**

- (1) The successful completion of the Master's program constitutes a further professional qualification. Upon successful completion of the Master's program, students will have acquired a thorough, and in-depth expert knowledge that is necessary for the transition to professional practice, and for the interdisciplinary analysis of socially relevant issues. They will be able to survey the relevant interrelationships of their subject and develop nuanced

approaches to solutions of a philosophical, political science, and theological nature. They will have the ability to carry out independent scientific work, to critically classify and responsibly apply scientific findings and methods. As an English-language degree program, it prepares students particularly well for a professional orientation in an international environment and global social issues.

- (2) Considering the requirements and changes in the professional world as well as the current scientific discourses, the teaching and studies in this degree program provide students with the necessary specialized knowledge, skills, and methods in such a way that they are enabled to carry out independent scientific work, to critically classify and responsibly apply scientific findings. Students should also apply this ability to critically think and discuss in their everyday life as active participants in society. Social commitment and responsible action are cross-sectoral topics throughout the entire degree program. The students will deal with topics within the complex interplay between religion, society, and politics. Thus, the imparted acquired skills contribute to the students' personal development.
- (3) Based on the knowledge acquired through a Bachelor's program, especially in the fields of social studies and the humanities, this program offers this Master's program provides a scientific, in-depth, and focused specialization.

### **§ 3**

#### **Admission requirements**

- (1) The admission requirement for the Master's degree program "Religion, Ethics, and Politics" is
  - a) a Bachelor's degree in a study program in the humanities, cultural and social science, economics, natural sciences, technology, and engineering from TU Dortmund University that has provided significant basic knowledge in a philosophical, theological, or political science subject;
  - b) another comparable degree in a comparable degree program of at least three years (six semesters) at a state or state-recognized institution of higher education within the scope of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany or at an institution of higher education outside the scope of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany, provided that the Examination Board has determined that there are no significant differences from the degree and degree program referred to in subsection 1 lit. a).
- (2) The Examination Board is responsible for examining the admission requirements. The criterion for determining whether or not there are substantial differences is a comparison between the content, scope, and requirements of the achieved degree and degree program and the degree and degree program pursuant to subsection 1 lit. a). Depending on this

assessment, the Examination Board may grant admission without or with stipulations for the successful completion of missing examination achievements or refuse admission. Stipulations can be imposed for a maximum of 30 credit points and must be successfully completed at the latest by the start of the Master's thesis. Section 13 (1) applies accordingly to the examinations to be taken as part of the stipulations.

- (3) If the academic degree was acquired abroad, the equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Federal States (Länder) in the Federal Republic of Germany (Kultusministerkonferenz) and the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz), agreements within the framework of university partnerships and the recommendations of the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen, ZAB) must be taken into account when examining the materiality of differences.
- (4) In addition to the above-mentioned requirements according to subsection 1, applicants must meet the following criteria:
  - a) As an overall grade, at least the grade 2.5 (good) or, in the case of a foreign degree, a grade at least equivalent to the grade 2.5 (good) in the respective national grading system was achieved in the prerequisite degree according to subsection 1.
  - b) As this is an exclusively English-language degree program, the applicant must have proven knowledge of the English language of at least level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference. This is considered to be proven
    - by the certificate of the general or subject-restricted university entrance qualification from the area of application of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany,
    - by an internationally recognized language certificate (for example TOEFL; IELTS) or a comparable certificate or
    - by attending an English-speaking school for at least one year, or
    - in the case of applicants whose native language is English or who have obtained a degree in accordance with subsection 1 in an English-language degree program.
  - c) It is recommended to have gathered some practical experience through professional activity or internships.
  - d) The applicant must enclose a self-disclosure document, provided by the Faculty of Humanities and Theology, with the other application documents. In the self-disclosure the applicant must independently reflect whether the completed Bachelor's is in accordance with the admission requirements defined in subsection 1.
  - e) Applicant must provide evidence regarding their professional aptitude for a Master's program in Religion, Ethics, and Politics at TU Dortmund University. If the applicant has completed a Bachelor's degree program pursuant to subsection 1 lit. a) or b) with at least a grade of 2.5 (good),

additional evidence for the professional aptitude of the applicant must be proven by the successful completion of a university entrance examination. For this purpose, the applicant must independently complete exercises provided on the homepage of the Faculty of Humanities and Theology and enclose them with the application documents. An affidavit must be submitted together with the completed exercise. In the affidavit the applicant must confirm the independent and unaided (other than the aids indicated by the exercises) completion of the exercise and that all direct and indirect quotations have been indicated accordingly. All regulations of Section 17 (3) are to be applied accordingly. Sharing of exercise data with third parties is prohibited and will be considered as cheating and treated pursuant to Section 17 (3). Further information regarding the exercise will be published on the homepage of the Faculty of Humanities and Theology.

- (5) If an applicant does not yet hold the certificate of the Bachelor's degree, the Examination Board may admit this applicant to the chosen Master's degree program if the applicant provides evidence that he or she has successfully passed all examinations of a Bachelor's degree program in accordance with subsection 1.

#### **§ 4**

#### **Master's degree**

Based on the successful completion of the Master's examination in this degree program, TU Dortmund University, through the Faculty of Humanities and Theology, awards the academic degree "Master of Arts" ("M.A.").

#### **§ 5**

#### **Credit Point System**

- (1) The degree program's structure is based on a credit point system that is compatible with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
- (2) Each module is assigned a number of credit points according to its study effort. One credit point within the meaning of these examination regulations corresponds to one ECTS point and is awarded for a performance that requires a workload of approximately 30 hours. As a rule, 30 credit points are to be awarded per semester.
- (3) Credit points are awarded based on successfully and fully completed modules.

## **§ 6**

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

- (1) The standard program duration, including the completion of the Master's thesis, is four semesters (two years).
- (2) The Master's degree program comprises a total of 120 credit points, which correspond to approx. 3,600 student working hours and are divided into compulsory and compulsory elective modules. Compulsory modules must be completed by all students. Modules marked as compulsory and elective can be chosen from a catalogue. Only those modules can be selected from the compulsory elective catalogue that have not yet been successfully completed as part of another compulsory elective catalogue. The modules are specified in the appendix of these examination regulations as well as the module handbook following pursuant to Section 1 (2).
- (3) The courses and respective exams are held in English.
- (4) The degree program is divided into 10 modules, each of which extends over a maximum of three consecutive semesters. Modules are self-contained units of study that are rounded off in terms of content and time and usually comprise at least 5 credit points.
- (5) The structure of the Master's degree program as well as the modules, including the credit points to be acquired and the type of examination (module examination or partial coursework), are shown in the appendix to these examination regulations.
- (6) The degree program can be started in the summer or winter semester.

## **§ 7**

### **Practical Phases**

- (1) The practical phases during the Master's program comprise at least six weeks, and a minimum of 300 student working hours with a scope of at least 10 credit points. The chosen internship must significantly enable a practical application of acquired study contents and must be approved in advance by the module or internship advisor of the study program.
- (2) The practical phases are completed with an ungraded activity and experience report of at least 8 and a maximum of 10 pages.

## **§ 8**

### **Admission to courses with limited number of participants**

- (1) The courses of the Master's degree program Religion, Ethics, and Politics may be limited in the number of participants for the reasons stated in Section 59 (2) sentence 1 HG.
- (2) The determination of the limitation of the number of participants and a maximum number of participants for the respective courses is made by the

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Humanities and Theology and is announced in an appropriate manner.

- (3) If the number of applicants exceeds the admission capacity, the Dean or a lecturer appointed by him or her, with the participation of the Faculty's Commission for Teaching and Studies, shall regulate admission at the request of the respective lecturer. Applicants are to be considered in the following order:
  1. Students who are dependent on attending the course at that time within the study plan of their chosen degree program.  
On the one hand, these are students for whom the course is intended according to the module descriptions of the module handbook and the study plan in the subject semester in which the course is offered; on the other hand, students who are in the last semester of their studies according to the standard program duration or in a later semester and need the course in order to complete their studies within the standard program duration or in a timely manner.
  2. Students who, according to their degree program, are not dependent on attending the course at this point in time within the framework of their chosen degree program, or students who, according to Section 52 (2) HG, are admitted as cross-registered students and who, according to their study plan, are dependent on attending the course at this point of time within the framework of their chosen degree program
  3. Students who are admitted to the respective course as cross-registered students according to Section 52 (1) HG.
  4. Other students of TU Dortmund University if they meet the requirements for participation in the course.
- (4) Where a selection is required within a group, candidates shall be considered in the following order:
  1. Students with a long-term or permanent disability, chronic illness or with care requirements (care of children living in the household who are mainly to be looked after pursuant to Section 25 (5) Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz, care of the spouse, the registered partner or a relative in the direct line or a first-degree relative by birth or marriage, insofar as the latter is 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) The existence of the conditions related to the criteria set out subsection 4 no. 1 and no. 2 shall be asserted to the Dean by the applicants themselves during the application procedure and within the specified and published deadlines.
- (6) The Faculty 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 a loss of time of one semester, as a result of the limitation of the number of participants.

## § 9

### Examinations

- (1) Modules are usually completed with only one examination. The module is completed by a graded module examination. As an exception a module can also be successfully completed by cumulatively completed partial assessments. Partial assessments are rendered within the framework of individual courses. The respective types of examination (module examination or partial assessments) can be found in the appendix to these examination regulations.
- (2) Examinations are carried out during the course of study, in particular in the form of written examinations, oral examinations, electronic examinations or examinations in electronic communication (especially written examinations, oral presentations based on written elaborations, term papers, internship reports etc.). The respective responsible examiners may determine other suitable forms of examination with the approval of the Examination Board. The respective examinations required for the completion of the module and the acquisition of credit points should be taken immediately following the completion of the module.
- (3) The type, form and scope of the module examinations and partial assessments are specified in the module descriptions of the module handbook or are otherwise announced by the examiner at the beginning of the course. Upon application via the Examination Board, it is possible in justified cases to deviate for a limited period of time from the form of examination originally stipulated in the module descriptions of the module handbook.
- (4) For module examinations, a minimum of 60 minutes and a maximum of 90 minutes must be allotted for written exams, and a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes per candidate must be allotted for oral exams. For partial assessments, a maximum of 30 minutes must be allotted for written exams, and duration of 15 to 20 minutes per candidate must be allotted for oral exams.
- (5) The written examinations are conducted under supervision and are not open to the public. The respective permitted aids will be announced by the examiner at the latest 4 weeks before the exam. If possible, the result of the written exam should be announced 4 weeks after the exam at the latest, whereby the requirements of data protection are to be observed.
- (6) Examinations can be conducted in whole or in part using the answer-choice method. Particularly when using this method, care must be taken to ensure that the examination tasks are based on the content and required knowledge taught in the modules or the corresponding courses and enable reliable examination results. If an exam has to be graded by two examiners, it must also be prepared jointly by two examiners. When setting up examination questions, it must be determined which answers are recognized as correct.



- (7) Oral examinations must be taken as group or individual examinations by either multiple examiners or by one examiner in the presence of at least one professional/expert observer (Section 15 (1)). Oral group examinations take place with a maximum of 4 students. The main subjects and results of the oral examination are to be recorded in a protocol. The result of the examination shall be announced to the student following the oral examination. Students who wish to take the same oral examination in a later examination period shall be admitted as listeners if spatial conditions allow it, unless the student who is to be examined objects. Admission as listener does not extend to the discussion and the announcement of the examination results. In the event of interference or disruption of the examination, these listeners may be excluded by the examiner.
- (8) If an oral examination is taken in front of one examiner, the examiner must hear the observer before determining the grade in accordance with Section 20 (1). If an oral examination is taken in front of two examiners, each examiner shall determine an individual grade for the oral examination performance in accordance with Section 20 (1). The grades for the oral examination performance shall be determined from the arithmetic mean of the two individual grades in accordance with Section 20 (7).
- (9) Written or oral examinations with which a degree program is completed and repeat examinations for which no compensation option is provided in a case in which failure would result in a definite and final failure must always be evaluated by two examiners.
- (10) In modules that conclude with a module examination, additional coursework may be required in the individual courses. These can be in particular: (group) presentations, and written work, e.g. in the form of essays, protocols or short papers. Coursework can either be graded or assessed as "passed" or "failed". Section 20 (4) lit. b) does not apply. The prerequisite for participation in the module examination is the successful completion of all coursework required in this module.
- (11) The demands of coursework are clearly below the requirements of a module examination or partial assessments in terms of form and content. If the form in which an item of coursework is to be completed for a module is not defined in the module descriptions of the module handbook, it will be announced by the lecturer at the start of the course.
- (12) All examinations are conducted in English.
- (13) Regular attendance may be obligatory in courses provided that the learning objective cannot be achieved without the active participation of the students. When regulating compulsory attendance, the constitutional principle of proportionality has to be observed. A decision on compulsory attendance is made either on the basis of a vote on the matter by the Study Advisory Council or on the basis of a two-thirds majority of the Faculty Council. The compulsory attendance is to be indicated in the module description in the module handbook. The exact form of compulsory attendance is announced to the students in an appropriate form at the beginning of the course.

- (14) Examination procedures take into account periods of absence that are due to the care of children living in the household who are mainly to be cared for, the care of a spouse, a registered partner or a relative in the direct line or first-degree relative by marriage, insofar as the latter is in need of care.

## **§ 10**

### **Disadvantage compensation**

- (1) If a student provides a medical certificate stating, that he or she is 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 in which other form, duration or time limit the examination shall be taken.. This also applies to the acquisition of participation requirements. Furthermore, exceptions can be made regarding 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 uncertain cases, the person or office responsible for questions concerning the interests of disabled students will be involved (e.g. the Department of Disability and Studies within the Center for Higher Education of TU Dortmund University, DoBuS/zhb).
- (2) Disadvantage compensation is granted on a case-by-case basis upon application to the Examination Board and must be submitted to the Central Examinations Office.

## **§ 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).

## **§ 12**

### **Deadlines and dates**

- (1) Registration for each exam is required no later than two weeks before the start of the respective exam. The registration period must be at least two weeks. Deregistration without provision of reasons is possible up to one week before the start of the respective examination in the case of oral examinations and up to one day before the start of the respective examination in the case of written examinations. The student is then deemed as not registered for the examination. Different registration and deregistration deadlines may apply, for

examinations conducted by another faculty within the framework of a degree program.

- (2) The dates for written examinations are set by the Chairperson of the Examination Board and are to be announced as early as possible, usually four weeks before the end of the lecture period. Time periods for oral exams will be announced at least four weeks prior to the earliest exam date. Individual time slots and dates will be announced one week before the examination.
- (3) Examination that are part of a course or module can be taken at the end of the semester in which the respective course or module has taken place or has ended (main spring date or main fall date). The examination can also be taken at the beginning of the following semester (makeup date spring or makeup date fall). If not specified in the respective module description, the examiners shall announce the type and scope of the makeup date examination no later than four weeks after the start of the lecture period in which the corresponding main date examination falls.
- (4) In order to promote internationality, the Examination Board may, upon prior application and given the consent of the examiner, grant exceptions to the examination procedure with regard to the type, place, and time of the examination, if a justified study-related stay abroad is intended at the scheduled time of the examination and participation in the regular examination procedure is unreasonable and provided that an orderly examination procedure is ensured. The application must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Examination Board in due time, at least six weeks before the examination date, and must be justified.

### **§ 13**

#### **Repetition of examinations, passing the Master's examination, final failing of an examination**

- (1) The module examinations and individual partial assessments can be repeated twice if they have not been passed or are deemed as failed. If a partial assessment is not passed, only the respective failed partial assessment must be repeated. For reasons of comparability and fairness, repeated examinations must be conducted in the same form as the first attempt at the examination. Examinations that have been passed cannot be repeated.
- (2) In deviation from subsection 1, the Master's thesis can only be repeated as a whole and then only once with a new topic and different examiners. In the case of a repetition, returning the topic in accordance with Section 21 (7) is only permitted if the candidate did not make use of this option when preparing the first unsuccessful Master's thesis.
- (3) In case of final failure of compulsory elective modules, a one-time change of the compulsory elective module is permitted.
- (4) The Master's examination is passed if all 120 credit points from the course-related examinations and for the Master's thesis have been acquired.

- (5) The Master's examination is definitively failed if
  - a. the Master's thesis is again failed after repetition or is considered as failed, or
  - b. a candidate can no longer acquire the required minimum number of credit points, or
  - c. one of the compulsory modules listed in the appendix has been definitively failed.
- (6) If the Master's examination has been definitively failed or if an examination is deemed as definitively failed, the Chairperson of the Examination Board shall issue a written notification to the candidate. The notification shall be accompanied by instructions on how to appeal the decision. Upon application, the candidate will be issued a certificate of the successfully passed examinations; it shall be added that this certificate is not valid for presentation at another university.

#### **§ 14**

#### **Examination Board**

- (1) For the organization of the examinations and the tasks assigned by these examination regulations, the Faculty of Humanities and Theology forms an Examination Board. The Examination Board consists of seven members, namely four lecturers, one academic staff or research assistant and one student of the Master's program Religion, Ethics, and Politics. The members of the Examination Board are elected separately according to groups by the Faculty Council for three years, the student members for one year. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson both as members of the Examination Board are elected by the Examination Board. The Faculty Council elects deputies for all members of the Examination Board, except the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. Reelection is permitted. The composition of the Examination Board is announced by the Dean. If the election of the Examination Board or individual members is declared invalid after taking office, this does not affect the legal validity of the resolutions and official acts previously adopted.
- (2) The Examination Board ensures that the examinations are conducted properly and that the provisions of the examination regulations are observed. It is particularly responsible for deciding on appeals against decisions made in the examination procedure. In addition, the Examination Board reports regularly, at least once a year, to the Faculty Council on the development of examinations and degree program durations. It makes suggestions for the reform of the examination regulations and the curricula. The Examination Board may delegate the following tasks to the Chairperson: Decisions on admission and admission with requirements questions of recognition, urgent decisions, complaints, appointment of examiners, decisions on application for viewing pursuant to Section 27 (2) and (3). Decisions on appeals and the duty

to report to the Faculty Council 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 substitute Chairperson 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 simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson's vote breaks the tie. The student members of the Examination Board do not participate in pedagogical-scientific decisions. These are especially the assessment, recognition of achievements, the setting of examination tasks and the appointment of examiners and assessors.
- (4) Examination Board members are entitled to attend examinations.
- (5) The meetings of the Examination Board are not public. The members of the Examination Board, their deputies, the examiners and the observers are subject to official secrecy and under obligation of confidentiality. If they are not in public service, they must be sworn to secrecy by the Chairperson of the Examination Board.
- (6) The Examination Board uses the administrative assistance of the Central Examinations Office of TU Dortmund University in the performance of its duties.

## **§ 15**

### **Examiners and observers**

- (1) The Examination Board appoints the examiners and the observers in accordance with the legal requirements. It may delegate the appointment to the Chairperson of the Examination Board. Examiners may be university teachers teaching at TU Dortmund University or other persons authorized to examine pursuant to Section 65 (1) HG. Assessors may be appointed if they themselves have at least passed the examination or if they have a comparable qualification.
- (2) The examiners are independent in their auditing activities.
- (3) The candidate may propose examiners for the master's thesis. The proposals of the candidate should be taken into account as far as possible. However, proposals do not create a legal claim.

## **§ 16**

### **Recognition of examinations, Placement in higher semesters**

For the recognition of examinations and the placement in higher semesters, the applicable regulations on the recognition of examinations for all Bachelor's and Master's degree programs at the Technical University of Dortmund apply.

## § 17

### **Default, withdrawal, deception and breach of order**

- (1) An examination is assessed as "insufficient" (5.0) or "failed" if the candidate either fails to appear at an examination date without good reason, or he or she withdraws from the examination after it has begun without good reason or if a written examination performance is not completed within the specified processing time.
- (2) The reasons asserted for the withdrawal or failure to attend must be notified in writing without delay to the Examination Board and must be made credible. In the case of illness of the candidate or of a child who is predominantly to be cared for by the candidate, the submission of a medical certificate in German is required. In the case of illness of the candidate, the medical certificate must prove the inability to take the examination. In the case of a subsequent withdrawal from an examination that has been taken, the medical certificate must show that the impairment of performance at 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 recognize the reasons for the withdrawal or failure, the candidate will be informed of this decision in writing.
- (3) If an examination performance is influenced by deception or cheating (e.g. use of unauthorized aids, adoption of text passages without reproduction as a quotation, copying, etc.), this examination is deemed as "insufficient" (5.0) or "failed". This also applies to attempts at deception. If during an examination an attempt at deception or deception within the meaning of sentence 1 is detected by the examination supervisor, the supervisor shall record the attempt at deception or the deception in writing. The decision as to whether there has been an attempt at deception or an act of deception and whether the examination is therefore deemed as "insufficient" (5.0) or "failed" is made by the respective examiner. A candidate who disrupts the orderly conduct of the examination may, as a rule after a warning, be excluded from continuing the examination by the respective examiner or the supervisor. In this case, the examination in question shall be deemed as "insufficient" (5.0) or "failed". The respective reasons for the decision are to be recorded. In serious cases of deception or disruption, the Examination Board may exclude the candidate from taking further examinations.
- (4) In the case of module examinations or partial performances, the Examination Board may demand a written declaration from the candidate that he or she has written the work independently - in the case of group work, an appropriately marked part of the work - and has not used any sources or aids other than those stated and has marked verbatim and analogous quotations. Section 21 subsection 10 remains unaffected.
- (5) The candidate can demand within a period of 14 days that decisions according to subsection 3 are reviewed by the Examination Board. Incriminating decisions are to be communicated to the students in writing without delay, reasons are to

be given and instructions on the right to appeal are to be included. Prior to the decision, the students must be given the opportunity and right to a hearing.

## **II. The Master's examination**

### **§ 18**

#### **Admission to Master's examination**

- (1) Upon enrollment in the Master's program Religion, Ethics, and Politics at TU Dortmund University or admission as a cross-registered student pursuant to Section 52 subsection 2 HG, a student is considered admitted to the examinations of the Master's program Religion, Ethics, and Politics, unless enrollment or admission is to be denied pursuant to subsection 2.
- (2) Enrollment or admission shall be denied if
  - a) the candidate has definitively failed an examination required by these examination regulations in the Master's program Religion, Ethics, and Politics at TU Dortmund University or in another degree program that has a considerable proximity to this degree program in terms of content, or
  - b) if the candidate, after having passed the examination in one of the above-mentioned courses of study, has not yet received a final and legally binding decision on the definite final failure due to a subsequent challenge of the examination notice.

### **§ 19**

#### **Scope of the Master's examination**

- (1) The Master's examination consists of 32 credit points for examinations in the compulsory modules of this degree program, from 58 credit points for examinations in the compulsory elective modules and from 30 credit points for the successfully completed Master's thesis (5 LP Master Colloquium I, 25 LP Master Thesis).
- (2) The type of examination (module examination or partial assessments) and the number of credit points to be acquired in each case are specified in the appendix to these examination regulations.

### **§ 20**

#### **Evaluation of course-related examination performances, acquisition of credit points, calculation of grades**

- (1) Grades for the individual examination performances and the Master's thesis are determined by the respective examiners. The following grades are to be used for the assessment:

- 1 = very good = an excellent performance,
- 2 = good = a performance significantly above average requirements,
- 3 = satisfactory = a performance that meets average requirements,
- 4 = sufficient = a performance which, despite its deficits, still meets the requirements,
- 5 = insufficient = a performance that no longer meets the requirements due to substantial deficits.

By decreasing or increasing individual grades by 0.3, intermediate values can be formed for differentiated assessment; the grades 0.7 or 4.3 or 4.7 and 5.3 are excluded.

- (2) In consultation with the Examination Board, examination performances which are not included in the overall grade can be evaluated either according to the grading scale as described in subsection 1 or according to the following simplified scale:

Passed = a performance that at least meets the requirements  
 Failed = a performance that no longer meets the requirements due to substantial deficits.

- (3) The number of credit points assigned to the respective module is acquired if the module has been evaluated with at least "sufficient" (4.0) or "passed".
- (4) A written exam which was conducted exclusively by means of the answer-choice method is considered as passed if:
  - a) 60 % of the total number of points to be obtained has been achieved or
  - b) the achieved score does not fall below the average performance of the candidates who took part in the examination by more than 22 %.
- (5) If the candidate has achieved the minimum score according to subsection 4 and has thus passed the examination, the grade shall be as follows:

1 = very good, if he or she has at least 75 %,  
 2 = good, if she or he has at least 50% but less than 75%,  
 3 = satisfactory, if he or she has at least 25% but less than 50%,  
 4 = sufficient, if he or she has no or less than 25 %  
 of the points to be achieved above the minimum score.

- (6) If a written examination is only partly carried out in the answer-choice method, the tasks in the answer-choice method will be assessed in accordance with subsections 4 and 5. The remaining tasks will be assessed according to the usual procedure for them. The grade of the examination performance is determined from both assessments, taking into account the proportions of the total number of points to be achieved in each case. Subsection 7 applies accordingly.
- (7) If a module is completed by a module examination, this grade is also the module grade. In the case of partial performances, the module grade is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the non-rounded grades of the partial performances taken as part of the module, weighted with the corresponding credit points.



The module grades are then in words with an average value of  
up to 1.5 = very good,  
1.6 to 2.5 = good,  
2.6 to 3.5 = satisfactory,  
3.6 to 4.0 = sufficient,  
above 4.1 = insufficient.

When calculating the module grades, only the first decimal place after the decimal point is considered; all other decimal places are deleted without rounding.

- (8) The final cumulative grade for the Master's examination is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the non-rounded grades of all graded modules (including the Master's thesis and the disputation) formed in accordance with subsection 7, whereby the individual grades are weighted with the respective number of credit points belonging to this module. Paragraph 7 applies accordingly. Instead of the overall grade "very good" is awarded the predicate "passed with distinction" if the master's thesis rated 1.0 and the arithmetic mean of the weighted module grades, including the Master's thesis, is not worse than 1.25.
- (9) The overall grade is also shown in the form of a degree according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). In addition to this, ECTS grades can be indicated for all graded examinations. A corresponding resolution of the Examination Board is required for this. Grades according to ECTS are shown as follows:
- A = usually the top approximately 10% of successful students;
  - B = usually the next approximately 25% of successful students;
  - C = usually the next approximately 30% of successful students;
  - D = usually the next approximately 25% of successful students;
  - E = usually the next approximately 10% of successful students.
- (10) The formation of the ECTS grades is basically done by comparing the cohorts of the last six semesters. If this group is smaller than 50 persons, the reference group is to be determined from the last 10 semesters. In principle, the current semester is not to be taken into account in the formation of the ECTS grades. As long as no statistical data are available for the calculation of a relative evaluation, no ECTS grades are indicated. For reasons of legally secure awarding, a decision of the Examination Board may waive the reporting of ECTS grades. Appropriate notes appear in the final document. The composition of the comparison group shall be differentiated according to the degree and the degree program. In addition, in objectively justified cases, a different composition of the comparison group can take place. This requires a corresponding decision by the Examination Board.

**§ 21**  
**Master's thesis**

- (1) The Master's thesis must be completed in Protestant Theology, Catholic Theology, Philosophy or Political Science. The Master's thesis should demonstrate that the candidate is able to work on a problem from their subject area using scientific methods within a given time limit.
- (2) The Master's thesis can be supervised by any university lecturer or a habilitated member of the Faculty of Humanities and Theology. Other scientists who fulfill the requirements of Section 65 Subsection 1 HG can issue and supervise the Master's thesis with the consent of the Examination Board, whereby, in these cases, the candidate is a university lecturer of the degree program is to be assigned as a second supervisor.
- (3) The Master's thesis will be issued at the request of the candidate via the Chairperson of the Examination Board. Before the Master's thesis is issued, the candidate must have earned at least 60 credit points. The proof of the compliance with these conditions must be attached to the application. The time of issue shall be recorded.
- (4) The candidate can make suggestions in his/her application regarding the topic of the Master's thesis. Section 15 Subsection 3 must be noted. If the candidate waives the right to make proposals, the Chairperson of the Examination Board will arrange a topic and a supervisor for the Master's thesis.
- (5) The Master's thesis must always be written independently as an individual work. However, this does not preclude that the topic of the Master's thesis can be worked on within a group. In this case, it must be ensured that the contribution of the individual to be evaluated as an examination performance is clearly distinguishable and assessable according to objective criteria and that it fulfills the requirements according to subsection 1. The number of pages specified in subsection 8 must reasonably exceed the requirements of an individual thesis.
- (6) The processing time for the Master's thesis is 17 weeks, with an empirical topic maximum 26 weeks and starts with the issue of the theme. The topic and the assignment must be such that the Master's thesis can be completed within this period. Upon a justified application by the candidate, the Examination Board, in agreement with the supervisor, can exceptionally extend the processing time of up to four weeks. The request must be submitted to the Examination Board at least 2 weeks before the end of the processing period. In case of illness, the deadline for submission can be extended by a maximum of half of the processing time. A medical certificate must be submitted for this purpose. The extension corresponds to the period of illness. If the duration of the illness exceeds half of the processing time, the candidate will be given a new topic without recognition of an examination attempt.
- (7) The topic of the Master's thesis can only be returned once and only within the first two weeks of the processing period after the topic has been issued; the thesis is then considered as not to have been started.

- (8) As a rule, the length of the Master's thesis should be around 60 to 80 DIN A4 pages. The Master's thesis is written in English.
- (9) When submitting the Master's thesis, the candidate affirms in lieu of an oath that he or she has written the thesis independently, has not used any sources or aids other than those indicated, and has identified verbatim and analogous quotations, indicating their sources. Unpublished contributions are also to be included in the list of sources. For the affidavit, a standardized form from the Central Examinations Office is to be used and, when submitting the Master's thesis, it is to be signed and included as an integral part of the Master's thesis or uploaded as one file together with the thesis in accordance with the digital submission procedure pursuant to Section 22 Subsection 1.

## **§ 22**

### **Submission and evaluation of the Master's thesis**

- (1) For the submission of the Master's thesis, the provisions of the Regulations for the Submission of Theses (Bachelor's/Master's) of TU Dortmund University apply in the currently valid version. If the uploading of individual theses or parts of theses is not suitable for technical reasons and/or if there is a contractual agreement with third parties that excludes the publication of theses or parts thereof, the previous analog procedure for the submission of theses according to subsection 2 shall apply by decision of the Examination Board.
- (2) In the analog procedure, the Master's thesis must be submitted in due time to the Central Examinations Office of TU Dortmund University in two hardback copies and additionally in an electronic version that can be used for a software product for plagiarism detection. The date of submission is to be recorded in writing. In the case of postal delivery, the date of the postmark is valid. If the Master's thesis is not submitted on time, it is assessed as "insufficient" (5.0).
- (3) The Master's thesis is to be assessed and evaluated by two examiners. The first examiner is usually the supervisor of the thesis (first assessor). The second examiner (second assessor) is determined by the Chairperson of the Examination Board. At least one examiner must belong to the faculty. The assessment is to be made by each examiner individually and in accordance with Section 20 Subsection 1 and justified in writing.
- (4) The grade of the Master's thesis is formed from the arithmetic mean of the two individual evaluations, provided that their difference is not more than 2.0. If the difference is more than 2.0 or if only one examiner evaluates the Master's thesis with at least "sufficient" (4.0), the Examination Board shall appoint a third examiner for the evaluation of the Master's thesis. In this case, the grade of the Master's thesis is formed from the arithmetic mean of the two better grades. However, the Master's thesis can only be graded "sufficient" (4.0) or better if at least two grades are "sufficient" (4.0) or better. Section 20 Subsection 7 applies accordingly.

## **§ 23**

### **Additional qualifications**

- (1) The student can take exams in modules other than those required before passing or finally failing. No credit points can be acquired with these examinations.
- (2) Additional qualifications are not included in the determination of the final cumulative grade. The assessment of the examination results will be included in the Transcript of Records at the request of the student.

## **§ 24**

### **Master's Certificate, documents for a change of university**

- (1) If the candidate has passed the Master's examination, a certificate will be issued to him or her after notification of the passing of the Master's examination to the Central Examinations Office, usually within 4 weeks. The overall grade of the Master's examination, including the ECTS grade according to Section 20 Subsection 9, the modules, the topic and the grade of the Master's thesis, the module grades as well as the credit points acquired in the individual examination subjects are to be included in the certificate. At the request of the candidate, the length of study required to complete the Master's examination will also be included in the certificate. The certificate is signed by the Chairperson of the examination board and bears the seal of the Faculty of Humanities and Theology. The date on which the last examination was taken must be given as the date of the certificate. The certificate is issued to the candidate in German and English.
- (2) A Diploma Supplement is attached to the certificate. It describes in particular the essential contents of the degree program on which the degree is based, the study plan, the competences acquired with the degree and the awarding university. The Diploma Supplement is issued in German and English. Furthermore, an overview of the academic achievements (Transcript of Records) is attached to the certificate.
- (3) At the request of the candidate, additional achievements that are not included in the module and final cumulative grade are shown on the Transcript of Records. Beyond this, voluntary internships completed as part of the degree program, which have been approved on application via the Examination Board and which have a content-related and subject-related connection to the chosen degree program, can also be included. Upon request and in consultation with the Examination Board, the candidate will be issued with an English translation of the Transcript of Records.
- (4) At the candidate's request, a certificate of the examination assessments already made (Transcript of Records) can also be issued before completion of the Master's examination, which contains a list of the successfully completed modules with the acquired credit points and examination assessments and the

grades according to Section 20 Subsection 1. This certificate will also be issued to the candidate in English.

## **§ 25**

### **Master's Diploma**

- (1) The candidate is issued a Master's Diploma in German and English with the date of the certificate. The Master's Diploma certifies the awarding of the academic degree in accordance with Section 4. The degree program of the graduate shall be indicated in the Master's Diploma.
- (2) The Master's certificate is signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Theology and by the Chairperson of the Examination Board and bears the seal of the Faculty of Humanities and Theology.

## **III. Final provisions**

## **§ 26**

### **Invalidity of examination results and withdrawal of the Master's degree**

- (1) If the candidate has 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 cheated and declare the examination wholly or partially failed.
- (2) If the requirements for admission to an examination were not fulfilled without the candidate's intention to deceive and if this fact only becomes known after the certificate has been issued, this defect is remedied by the passing of the examination. If the candidate has intentionally obtained admission unlawfully, the Examination Board decides on the legal consequences in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act NRW.
- (3) Before a decision is taken pursuant to Subsections 1 and 2, the concerned person shall be given the opportunity to make their views known orally or in writing.
- (4) In the event of a decision in accordance with Subsection 1 or Subsection 2 sentence 2, the incorrect examination certificate shall be withdrawn and, if necessary, a new one issued. A decision in accordance with Subsection 1 or Subsection 2 sentence 2 is excluded after a period of five years after the certificate has been issued.
- (5) The Master's degree is revoked and the Master's Diploma is to be withdrawn if it is subsequently found that it was acquired by deception or if essential requirements for the awarding were erroneously considered to have been met. The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Humanities and Theology decides on the revocation.

## **§ 27**

### **Viewing of examination records**

- (1) After the announcement of an examination result, a viewing of the examination documents will be granted. Copies or other reproductions true to the original may be made during the viewing. The use of copies and other reproductions of the examination is only permitted for the personal use with the purpose of the examination viewing. In particular, the publication, duplication, distribution and any kind of exploitation as well as the transfer to third parties is not permitted. In case of violations, considerable legal consequences are to be expected. The time and place of the viewing are determined by the examiners and announced in a suitable form when the examination results are announced.
- (2) Students are granted access to the results of other written examinations upon request. The application must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Examination Board within one month.
- (3) The viewing of the examiners' assessments relating to the respective examinations and of the minutes of the oral examinations shall be granted to the candidate upon request. The request must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Examination Board within three months of the announcement of the examination result. The Chairperson of the Examination Board shall determine the place and time of viewing.

## **§ 28**

### **Scope of application, entry into force and publication**

- (1) These examination regulations will be published in the official notices of the Technical University of Dortmund and will come into effect on October 1, 2022.
- (2) These examination regulations apply to all students who have been enrolled in the Master's degree program Religion, Ethics, and Politics for the first time from the Winter semester 2022/2023 onwards.
- (3) Students who have already been enrolled in the Master's degree program Religion, Ethics, and Politics before the Winter semester 2022/2023 can apply to the Examination Board to be examined according to these examination regulations. The application is irrevocable. Failed attempts and achievements will be recognized.
- (4) From the Winter semester 2025/26 onwards, these examination regulations in their current version will apply to all students who have been enrolled in the Master's degree program "Religion und Politik" at TU Dortmund University, unless new examination regulations for the Master's degree program Religion, Ethics, and Politics at TU Dortmund University have already become valid.
- (5) The regulations of Sections 9 Subsection 2, 13 Subsection 1, 14 Subsection 1 sentence 8, Section 22 Subsection 1 and 2 as well as Section 27 apply to all students enrolled in the Master's degree programs Religion, Ethics, and Politics and the Master's degree program "Religion und Politik".

Issued on the basis of the resolutions of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Humanities and Theology of 14 June 2023 and the Rectorate of TU Dortmund University of 24 May 2023.

## Appendix: Module overview

Modules	Module type	Examinations	Examination requirements	Credits
Module 1: Foundation Course	Compulsory module	Partial Examinations	Graded Short examinations	6
Module 2: Perspectives on Judaism and Islam	Compulsory module	Module examination	Term paper	10
Module 3.1: Theoretical Foundations	Compulsory elective module package	Module examination	Oral examination or term paper	10
Module 3.2: Areas of Application/Areas of Conflict	Compulsory elective module package	Module examination	Interdisciplinary oral examination	10
Module 4.1: Conflicts between Religion and Politics in Comparison	Compulsory elective module package	Module examination	Oral examination or term paper	10
Module 4.2: Religion as a social factor	Compulsory elective module package	Module examination	Interdisciplinary oral examination	10
Module 5.1: Identity	Compulsory elective module package	Module examination	Oral examination or term paper	10
Module 5.2: Being Human	Compulsory elective module package	Module examination	Interdisciplinary oral examination	10
Module 6: Political Topics and Approaches				
Module 6.1: Political Topics and Approaches as supplementary module	Compulsory elective module	Module examination	Term paper	8
Module 6.2: Political Topics and Approaches as in-depth module	Compulsory elective module	Module examination	Term paper	10

Module 7: Philosophical Topics and Approaches				
Module 7.1: Philosophical Topics and Approaches as supplementary module	Compulsory elective module	Module examination	Term paper	8
Module 7.2: Philosophical Topics and Approaches as in- depth module	Compulsory elective module	Module examination	Term paper	10
Module 8: Theological Topics and Approaches				
Module 8.1: Theological Topics and Approaches as supplementary module	Compulsory elective module	Module examination	Term paper	8
Module 8.2: Theological Topics and Approaches as in- depth module	Compulsory elective module	Module examination	Term paper	10
Module 9: Professional Focus	Compulsory module	Module examination	Term paper	16
Module 10: Thesis	Compulsory module	Master Thesis	Master Thesis	30

From compulsory elective areas 3 to 5, two compulsory elective areas must be studied and completed in full.

From modules 6 to 8, a supplementary module and an in-depth module must be studied and completed. The supplementary module and the in-depth module must each be assigned to two different modules from modules 6 to 8.