

# Module Description

## 30-M-Soz-M15a Sociology of Law and Regulation a

Faculty of Sociology

*Version dated Apr 22, 2026*

This module guide reflects the current state and is subject to change. Up-to-date information and the latest version of this document can be found online via the page

<https://ekvv.uni-bielefeld.de/sinfo/publ/modul/40829246>

The current and valid provisions in the module guide are binding and further specify the subject-related regulations (German "FsB") published in the Official Announcements of Bielefeld University.

## **30-M-Soz-M15a Sociology of Law and Regulation a**

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### **Faculty**

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Faculty of Sociology

### **Person responsible for module**

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Prof. Dr. Michael Huber

### **Regular cycle (beginning)**

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To be discontinued

### **Credit points**

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14 Credit points

### **Competencies**

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**Non-official translation of the module descriptions. Only the German version is legally binding.**

As part of the general competence concept for the MA in Sociology (see [https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/soziologie/studium/master/pdf/Kompetenzkonzept\\_Masterstudiengaenge.pdf](https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/soziologie/studium/master/pdf/Kompetenzkonzept_Masterstudiengaenge.pdf)), students acquire basic theoretical and empirical knowledge based on the latest findings in the sociology of law and regulation. The seminars of the module impart the ability to methodically grasp and theoretically reflect on the normative basic structures of society and the forms of regulation based on them.

Students acquire the elementary ability to develop and independently work on questions relating to the sociology of law and regulation. The module enables theoretical reflection and methodically controlled empirical analysis of problems in the sociology of law and regulation.

### **Content of teaching**

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As part of the module, students will acquire theoretical, empirical and application-related knowledge of the sociology of law and regulation: In theoretical terms, the role of norms, law and regulation in modern society is dealt with. In addition to theoretical comparisons, corresponding theories are related to current empirical research and application-related questions, for example in the field of constitutional sociology, the sociology of legal systems, risk regulation or the regulation of science and technology. Students learn to understand how security of expectations is normatively guaranteed in modern society and which options result from this for shaping social conditions. Theoretical questions and diagnoses of legally organised society are discussed, particularly with regard to the relationships between law and other areas of society such as politics, science, business and the media. In empirical terms, the relationships between law and politics under the conditions of world society, including their critical evaluation, represent an important point of reference. Students learn to gain an empirically sound view of law and regulation in various areas of society by drawing on theoretical concepts and developing empirical questions. From an application-oriented perspective, students acquire knowledge about the organisational forms of law and regulation, about the organisational mechanisms of social promotion and control of various areas of life and about their problems. Students are enabled to understand the conditions and instruments of social regulation.

## Recommended previous knowledge

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Basic knowledge of the sociology of law and regulation at the level of introductory literature

## Necessary requirements

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## Explanation regarding the elements of the module

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As an alternative to studying Seminar 1 and Seminar 2, a large seminar with double the scope can be taken.

Module structure: 1-2 SL, 1 bPr<sup>1</sup>

## Courses

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Title	Type	Regular cycle	Workload <sup>5</sup>	LP <sup>2</sup>
<b>Alternativ zu Seminar 1 und Seminar 2: großes Seminar</b>	seminar	unregelmäßig	240 h (60 + 180)	8 [SL]
<b>Seminar 1</b>	seminar	WiSe&SoSe	120 h (30 + 90)	4 [SL]
<b>Seminar 2</b>	seminar	WiSe&SoSe	120 h (30 + 90)	4 [SL]

## Study requirements

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Allocated examiner	Workload	LP <sup>2</sup>
Teaching staff of the course <b>Alternativ zu Seminar 1 und Seminar 2: großes Seminar (seminar)</b>  <i>Participation in group work (including working on exercises, development of research designs, data collection and evaluation), moderation or protocol activities and presentations as specified by the lecturer. The coursework is used for communicative (written and/or oral) practice and learning of the competences to be acquired with a focus on the interaction situation of the seminar. The coursework is part of the self-study and attendance time and corresponds to approximately 60 hours.</i>	see above	see above

<p>Teaching staff of the course <b>Seminar 1 (seminar)</b></p> <p><i>Participation in group work (including working on exercises, developing research designs, collecting and analyzing data), moderation or taking minutes and presentations as specified by the lecturer. The coursework is used for communicative (written and/or oral) practice and learning of the competences to be acquired with a focus on the interaction situation of the seminar. The coursework is part of the self-study and attendance time and corresponds to approximately 30 hours.</i></p>	<p>see above</p>	<p>see above</p>
<p>Teaching staff of the course <b>Seminar 2 (seminar)</b></p> <p><i>Participation in group work (including working on exercises, developing research designs, collecting and analyzing data), moderation or taking minutes and presentations as specified by the lecturer. The coursework is used for communicative (written and/or oral) practice and learning of the competences to be acquired with a focus on the interaction situation of the seminar. The coursework is part of the self-study and attendance time and corresponds to approximately 30 hours.</i></p>	<p>see above</p>	<p>see above</p>

## Examinations

Allocated examiner	Type	Weighting	Workload	LP <sup>2</sup>
<p>Person responsible for module examines or determines examiner</p> <p><i>term papers are approx. 6000-8000 words in length.</i></p> <p><i>The examination is taken by a teaching staff, instructors, lecturers of one of the courses of the modules.</i></p>	<p>Hausarbeit</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>180h</p>	<p>6</p>

## Further notices

This module is a phased-out offering. This module is now only available to students studying according to one of the FsB versions listed below. A corresponding offering to complete this module will be available until the winter semester 2025 /2026 at the latest. For detailed regulations on the scope of application, please refer to the latest version of the FsB. Previously, this module was offered every semester.

## Legend

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- 1 The module structure displays the required number of study requirements and examinations.
  - 2 LP is the short form for credit points.
  - 3 The figures in this column are the specialist semesters in which it is recommended to start the module. Depending on the individual study schedule, entirely different courses of study are possible and advisable.
  - 4 Explanations on mandatory option: "Obligation" means: This module is mandatory for the course of the studies; "Optional obligation" means: This module belongs to a number of modules available for selection under certain circumstances. This is more precisely regulated by the "Subject-related regulations" (see navigation).
  - 5 Workload (contact time + self-study)
- SoSe** Summer semester
- WiSe** Winter semester
- SL** study requirement
- Pr** Examination
- bPr** Number of examinations with grades
- uPr** Number of examinations without grades