Module Description
29-Neo-1 NEOLAiA – Focus Academy: European Citizenship

Faculty of Law

Version dated Feb 1, 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/576592302

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.

29-Neo-1 NEOLAiA – Focus Academy: European Citizenship

Faculty

Faculty of Law

Person responsible for module

Prof. Dr. Franz Mayer

Bastian Simon

Prof. Dr. Frank Weiler

Regular cycle (beginning)

The dates vary and are announced in the course catalogue (EKVV).

Credit points

3 Credit points

Competencies

A Focus Academy

- is a specially designed Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) within the framework of the European University Alliance 'NEOLAiA'

- is a structured, short-term, financially supported mobility abroad that is integrated into the curriculum, at least via the Individual Complementary Area (free elective area).

- is developed and implemented by at least three higher education institutions from at least three EU member states and third countries associated with the programme.

- is an excellent way of gaining (initial) international study experience and developing your own language skills.

- consists of a virtual and a physical component: Students from the different universities work together the whole time. The highlight is the joint physical phase on site, which lasts at least 5 days.

- deals in particular with transversal and interdisciplinary topics in order to be of interest to many students of different disciplines.

This programme was developed with university partners of the European University Alliance 'NEOLAiA' (https://neolaiacampus.eu/).

To this Focus Academy 'European Citizenship':

Knowledge acquisition:
1. Understand the legal and historical foundations of European citizenship
2. Identify the rights and duties associated with European citizenship (freedom of movement, right to vote in European and municipal elections, right to petition, etc.).
3. Be familiar with the European institutions involved in the democratic life of the EU (European Parliament, European Commission, etc.).
4. Explain contemporary issues related to European citizenship (mobility, European identity, inclusion, common values).

Skills acquisition:

1. Analyse and argue orally and in writing on a question related to European citizenship
2. Ability to work in a Team, participating in group exercises (creating a podcast and simulation in front of European institutions)
3. Use reliable sources to find out about European policies and current affairs.
4. Develop a sense of belonging to the European Union while respecting cultural and national diversity.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking in response to Eurosceptic or populist discourse.
6. Promote solidarity and cooperation between European citizens.

Content of teaching

This course on European citizenship covers the three pillars of the alliance.
By studying its historical and philosophical origins and evolution and its links with the development of democracy students will gain an understanding of its close link with respect for diversity and inclusion. An analysis of its current design, in its various legal forms at European level, will highlight its indispensable role in mobility. Finally, the course will open up a discussion on the positive and negative impacts of digitalisation on European citizenship and more broadly on democracy.
Initiated by lecturers at the University of Tours specialising in public law, literature and German studies, it will also involve other colleagues from the alliance in law, political science, history, philosophy and sociology.

Recommended previous knowledge

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Necessary requirements

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Explanation regarding the elements of the module

The course of the module is offered in English. It is offered in a combination of face-to-face and virtual phases with the participation of other international partner universities and can also take place in the form of block dates.
Full participation is required to complete the module. Nominated students travelling to the venue can be funded via Erasmus+. Detailed information on the programme and how to proceed can be found in the course catalogue (EKVV).

Module structure: 1 SL, 1 bPr [1]

Courses

Title	Type	Regular cycle	Workload [5]	LP[2]
Course of the Focus Academy	seminar	The dates vary.	90 h (30 + 60)	3

Study requirements

Allocated examiner	Workload	LP[2]

Person responsible for module is examiner	-	-
Participation in the activities of the Focus Academy usually expressed by the (ERASMUS+) confirmation of participation of the offering university.		

Examinations

Allocated examiner	Type	Weighting	Workload	LP[2]
Person responsible for module is examiner *Students will be graded on the production of the podcasts, with 50% based on the written component (script writing) and 50% on the final podcast.*	Portfolio	1	-	-

Further notices

Further information: https://neolaiacampus.eu/for-students/focus-academy-courses/

Legend

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