

**OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF**  
**Fachspezifische Bestimmungen für den**  
**Studiengang Sinologie (M.A.)**

(Amtliche Bekanntmachung Nr. 63 vom 29. November 2019)

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ONLY THE GERMAN VERSION SHALL BE LEGALLY VALID AND  
ENFORCEABLE!**

**Subject-Specific Provisions for the Master of Arts in Sinology**

**dated 11 July 2018**

On 24 June 2019 in accordance with Section 108 subsection 1 of the Hamburg higher education act (Hamburgisches Hochschulgesetz, HmbHG) dated 18 July 2001 (HmbGVBl. p. 171) last amended by Article 1 of the Act dated 29 May 2018 (HmbGVBl. p. 200), the Executive University Board of the University of Hamburg ratified the Subject-Specific Provisions for the Master of Arts Sinology adopted by the Faculty of Humanities on 11 July 2018 pursuant to Section 91 subsection 2 no. 1 HmbHG.

## Preamble

These Subject-Specific Provisions supplement the revisions to the Examination Regulations by the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Hamburg for Master of Arts Degree Programs dated from 6 May 2015, as amended, and furnish a description of the modules for the Master of Arts in Sinology.

### I. Supplemental provisions

#### Section 1:

##### Program and examination objectives, academic degree, and implementation of the degree program

###### Section 1 subsection 1:

- (1) The Master of Arts in Sinology is research focused and builds on a bachelor's degree in Sinology or a comparable subject on historical and contemporary Chinese culture and society, and expands students' academic research skills. Besides methodological reflection on Chinese sources, the program focuses on theoretical approaches to cultural studies and the history of concepts and ideas. Graduates are able to evaluate transdisciplinary theoretical concepts from a sinological perspective and to apply these to specific research questions. They can moreover confidently employ a broad range of subject-specific analytical methods and theoretical concepts. The program also prepares students for doctoral studies.
- (2) The program comprises a required area, specialization area, and subject-specific elective area. The specialization area consists of two specializations, one of which must be selected at the start of the program:
  - Culture and Society
  - Conceptual and Intellectual History

Culture and Society is taught in English and German and imparts methodological skills in the use of Chinese sources from different eras (classical period through to the twenty-first century) and social contexts (e.g., political, philosophical, religious). Students gain knowledge of transdisciplinary theories from cultural studies, social science, and history to apply to Sinology questions.

Conceptual and Intellectual History is taught in English and also imparts methodological skills for using Chinese sources from different eras and social contexts. It moreover provides an introduction to questions, theories, and methods of the history of concepts and ideas. Students learn to apply aspects of the history of concepts and ideas to Chinese sources through extensive reading of theoretical texts and focused studies.

Culture and Society and Conceptual and Intellectual History differ not only in terms of their content, but also with regard to the required semester abroad: while students studying Culture and Society may study anywhere, students specializing in Conceptual and Intellectual History must spend their semester abroad at an institution focusing on the history of concepts and/or ideas.

###### Section 1 subsection 4:

The Faculty of Humanities is responsible for administering the degree program for Sinology.

**Section 4:**  
**Program and examination structure**  
**Modules and ECTS credits**

**Section 4 subsection 2:**

- (1) The master's degree program for Sinology encompasses modules that have a total of 120 ECTS credits.
- (2) In addition, the following required modules must be taken:
  - Culture and Society [SIN-M1] (18 ECTS credits)
  - History of Concepts and Ideas [SIN-M2] (18 ECTS credits)
- (3) If the Culture and Society profile is chosen, the following module must also be taken:
  - Research Approaches in International East Asian Studies [SIN-M3-FIO] (12 ECTS credits)
- (4) If the Conceptual and Intellectual History profile is chosen, the following module must also be taken:
  - Conceptual and Intellectual History: Theory and Practice [SIN-M3-CIH] (12 ECTS credits)
- (5) Semester abroad / semester at a partner university (30 ECTS credits)  
Students are responsible for organizing and financing their semester abroad.
- (6) Subject-specific elective area  
In the subject-specific elective area, students consolidate, expand, and supplement their subject-specific knowledge in an interest-driven and needs-oriented manner. A total of 12 ECTS credits must be completed for semester abroad.

Possible options:

- For the Conceptual and Intellectual History profile: Students expand and broaden their skills by participating in a summer school on the history of concepts and ideas, organized by the Department of Chinese Language and Culture of the Asia-Africa Institute or a partner. Participation must be agreed with a university teacher from the degree program in advance. Depending on the duration and workload, up to 6 ECTS credits can be credited. The workload is calculated in ECTS credit points pursuant to Section 4 subsection 4. A certificate of attendance from the relevant organization must be submitted, stating the number of ECTS credits earned.
- Additional courses from the department identified in the course catalog as additional offerings in the subject-specific elective area are marked accordingly.
- Participation in a discipline-related summer school or summer university in Germany or abroad in coordination and consultation with a teacher from the degree program (learning agreement). The workload is calculated in ECTS credit points pursuant to Section 4 subsection 4. A certificate of attendance from the relevant organization must be submitted, stating the number of ECTS credits earned.

- (7) The final module [SIN-M4] comprising 30 ECTS credits must be taken, comprising the completion of a master's thesis (25 ECTS credits) and an oral examination (5 ECTS credits including preparation time).

Structure of the Master's degree program in Sinology						
Recommended semester	Required Modules				Subject-specific elective area 12 ECTS credits	
	Required area		Specialization area			
			Profile A: Culture and Society	Profile B: Conceptual and Intellectual History		
First and second	<b>MODUL SIN-M1</b> Culture and Society  SEM A (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits) SEM B (2 credit hours per week/ 6 ECTS credits) Term paper (6 ECTS credits)	<b>MODUL SIN-M2</b> History of concepts and ideas  SEM A (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits) SEM B (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits) Term paper (6 ECTS credits)	<b>MODUL SIN-M3-FIO</b> Research approaches in international East Asian studies  SEM A (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits) SEM B (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)	<b>MODUL SIN-M3-CIH</b> Conceptual and Intellectual History: Theory and Practice  SEM A (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits) SEM B (2 credit hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)		
3.	<b>Profile A: Semester abroad; Profile B: Semester at a partner university</b> (30 ECTS credits)					
4.	<b>Final module SIN-M4:</b> Master's thesis( 25 ECTS credits) + oral examination (5 ECTS credits)					

## **Section 5: Course types**

### **Section 5 subsection 3:**

Attendance is compulsory for the courses in the required modules. As intensive text reading in demanding source language takes place on a weekly basis, continuous participation in the courses is essential.

## **Section 14: Master's thesis**

### **Section 14 subsection 1:**

While the thesis in Profile A can in principle cover the entire spectrum of Sinology, the thesis in Profile B should be methodologically based on the history of concepts and ideas.

### **Section 14 subsection 2:**

An application for permission to begin work on the final module may only be made once the required elective modules have been successfully completed:

- Required module Culture and Society
- Required module History of concepts and ideas
- Module Research Approaches in International East Asian Studies, where the profile Culture and Society has been selected
- Module Conceptual and Intellectual History: Theory and Practice, where the profile Conceptual and Intellectual History has been selected
- Semester abroad / semester at a partner university
- Subject-specific elective area

### **Section 14 subsection 7:**

The master's thesis must be completed within five months.

## **Section 15: Evaluation of examinations**

### **Section 15 subsection 3 sentence 1:**

- (1) If overall examination performance of a module consists of several component examinations, then the overall grade for the module is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the grades from the individual component examinations.
- (2) The calculation of the overall final grade for the master's degree includes all completed module examinations, excluding those from the subject-specific elective area, the semester abroad / semester at a partner university and the area of specialization. All module exam grades except the final module are weighted equally. The modules and courses of the subject-specific elective area, the semester abroad / semester at a partner university, as well as the modules of the area of specialization are assessed as "passed/failed". The master's thesis and the oral examination grades are used to calculate the grade for the final module using a ratio of 5:1. The grades for the module examinations are weighted 50 percent, and the grade for the final module is weighted 50 percent for the calculation of the overall final grade for the master's degree.

## II. Module descriptions

A) The Master of Arts in Sinology is comprised of the following modules:

<b>Module number:</b>	SIN-M1
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Culture and Society</b>
<b>Module type:</b>	<b>Required module</b>
<b>Module content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>instruction in the independent analysis and interpretation of aspects of the historical and contemporary Chinese culture and society using examples (e. g., sources on Confucianism, historiography, or Buddhism);</li> <li>teaching methodological skills in the contextualization of cultural and intellectual phenomena (e. g., politics, society);</li> <li>skills for dealing with historic and contemporary Chinese research traditions.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	Ability to independently analyze and interpret aspects of material culture, philosophy, science, and religion in the history of and contemporary China and neighboring regions using Chinese sources.
<b>Teaching format(s)</b>	Seminar A (2 credit hours per week) Seminar B (2 credit hours per week)
<b>Language of instruction</b>	German and English
<b>Prerequisites</b>	none
<b>Module applicability</b>	It is a required component within the Master of Arts in Sinology.
<b>Type, requirements, and language of module examination</b>	<p>Term paper (approx. 10–20 pages) in one of the two seminars. The exact scope of the term paper will be announced at the beginning of the course.</p> <p>Examination language: German and English</p>
<b>Prerequisites for admission to the module examination</b>	<p>regular and active attendance of classes listed above is required Presentation in Seminar A Presentation in Seminar B</p> <p>The exact scope of the term paper will be announced at the beginning of the course.</p>
<b>Workload (components)</b>	<p>Seminar A: 6 ECTS credits Seminar B: 6 ECTS credits Term paper: 6 ECTS credits</p>
<b>Total workload</b>	18 ECTS credits
<b>Module frequency</b>	every semester
<b>Module duration</b>	2 semesters
<b>Recommended semester</b>	Semesters 1 and 2

<b>Module number:</b>	SIN-M2
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Conceptual and Intellectual History</b>
<b>Module type:</b>	<b>Required module</b>
<b>Module content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>instruction in the analysis and interpretation of the history of concepts and ideas based on selected topics (e. g. political and social change, religious and philosophical traditions);</li> <li>methodological skills in the history of concepts and ideas;</li> <li>skills in dealing with Chinese and Western scientific traditions.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	Ability to work independently on the history of concepts and ideas on the basis of Chinese sources.
<b>Teaching format(s)</b>	Seminar A (2 credit hours per week) Seminar B (2 credit hours per week)
<b>Language of instruction</b>	German and English
<b>Prerequisites</b>	none
<b>Module applicability</b>	It is a required component within the Master of Arts in Sinology.
<b>Type, requirements, and language of module examination</b>	<p>Term paper (approx. 10–20 pages) in one of the seminars. The exact scope of the term paper will be announced at the beginning of the course. Examination language: German and English</p>
<b>Prerequisites for admission to the module examination</b>	<p>regular and active attendance of classes listed above are required Presentation in Seminar A Presentation in Seminar B The exact scope of the term paper will be announced at the beginning of the course.</p>
<b>Workload (components)</b>	<p>Seminar A: 6 ECTS credits Seminar B: 6 ECTS credits Term paper: 6 ECTS credits</p>
<b>Total workload</b>	18 ECTS credits
<b>Module frequency</b>	every semester
<b>Module duration</b>	2 semesters
<b>Recommended semester</b>	Semesters 1 and 2

**In the Culture and Society profile:**

<b>Module number:</b>	SIN-M3-FIO
<b>Title:</b>	Research approaches in international East Asian studies
<b>Module type:</b>	Required module
<b>Module content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>presentation of current approaches and topics from cultural-studies research (questions, theories, and methods) on the basis of introductory overview presentations and joint discussion of paradigmatic essays;</li> <li>presentation and joint discussion of exemplary theoretical texts with regard to context and applicability;</li> <li>presentation and joint discussion of own attempts to apply an exemplary research approach to a text (question and implementation of the analysis).</li> </ul>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>knowledge of current approaches to cultural-studies research in Southeast Asian Studies on an international level;</li> <li>knowledge of special features of regional subject cultures;</li> <li>ability to interpret and critically evaluate theoretical texts from the field of Southeast Asian studies;</li> <li>ability to develop precise questions, taking into account overarching research topics and relevant research approaches;</li> <li>ability to apply theoretical approaches to the source material.</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching format(s)</b>	Seminar A (2 credit hours per week) Seminar B (2 credit hours per week)
<b>Language of instruction</b>	German and English
<b>Prerequisites</b>	none
<b>Module applicability</b>	This is a required module in the Culture and Society profile in the Master of Art in Sinology.
<b>Type, requirements, and language of module examination</b>	<p>Successfully completed coursework for Seminar A and Seminar B; no examination.</p> <p>Students are expected to participate regularly and actively in the above-mentioned courses (e.g., through presentations, accompanying readings, contributions to discussions). The requisite type and amount of coursework to be completed will be announced at the start of the course registration period.</p>
<b>Prerequisites for admission to the module examination</b>	<p>regular and active attendance of classes listed above are required</p> <p>Presentation in Seminar A Presentation in Seminar B</p> <p>The exact scope of the term paper will be announced at the beginning of the course.</p>
<b>Workload (components)</b>	<p>Seminar A: 6 ECTS credits</p> <p>Seminar B: 6 ECTS credits</p>
<b>Total workload</b>	12 ECTS credits
<b>Module frequency</b>	every semester
<b>Module duration</b>	2 semesters
<b>Recommended semester</b>	Semesters 1 and 2

**In the Conceptual and Intellectual History profile:**

<b>Module number:</b>	SIN-M3-CIH
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Conceptual and Intellectual History: Theory and Practice</b>
<b>Module type:</b>	<b>Required module</b>
<b>Module content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>presentation of current approaches and topics from cultural-studies research (questions, theories, and methods) on the basis of introductory overview presentations and joint discussion of paradigmatic essays;</li> <li>presentation and joint discussion of exemplary theoretical texts with regard to context and applicability;</li> <li>presentation and joint discussion of own attempts to apply a research approach as an example.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>knowledge of current research approaches in conceptual and intellectual history on an international level;</li> <li>ability to penetrate and critically evaluate theoretical research;</li> <li>ability to develop precise questions, taking into account overarching research topics and relevant research approaches;</li> <li>ability to apply methods approaches to the source material.</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching format(s)</b>	Seminar A (2 credit hours per week) Seminar B (2 credit hours per week)
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English
<b>Prerequisites</b>	none
<b>Module applicability</b>	This a required module in the Conceptual and Intellectual History profile in the Master of Art in Sinology.
<b>Type, requirements, and language of module examination</b>	<p>Successfully completed coursework for Seminar A and Seminar B; no examination.</p> <p>Students are expected to participate regularly and actively in the above-mentioned courses (e. g., through presentations, accompanying readings, contributions to discussions). The requisite type and amount of coursework to be completed will be announced at the start of the course registration period.</p>
<b>Workload (components)</b>	Seminar A: 6 ECTS credits Seminar B: 6 ECTS credits
<b>Total workload</b>	12 ECTS credits
<b>Module frequency</b>	every semester
<b>Module duration</b>	2 semesters
<b>Recommended semester</b>	Semesters 1 and 2

**In the subject-specific elective area:**

<b>Module number:</b>	SIN-M-WB
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Subject-specific elective area</b>
<b>Contents and Learning outcomes</b>	In the elective area, students broaden and expand their studies individually and according to their professional needs, including outside the subject area. The options listed under Section 4 subsection 2 subsection 6 are available.
<b>Teaching format(s)</b>	Seminar, Summer School
<b>Language of instruction</b>	German or English
<b>Prerequisites</b>	none
<b>Module applicability</b>	The module is a component of the Master of Arts in Sinology
<b>Type, requirements, and language of module examination</b>	Portfolio of academic achievements. The type and scope are determined by the individual selection. Information on the type, duration, and scope of the requisite coursework/examinations will be announced at the beginning of the course.
<b>Workload (components)</b>	1–12 ECTS credits depending on the chosen coursework
<b>Total workload</b>	12 ECTS credits
<b>Module frequency</b>	Every semester or summer semester (Summer School)
<b>Module duration</b>	1–2 semesters

**Final module:**

<b>Module number:</b>	SIN-M4
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Final module</b>
<b>Module type:</b>	<b>Required module</b>
<b>Module content</b>	Preparation and composition of the master's thesis; preparation and completion of the final oral examination.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	Students are able to independently develop academic and scholarly work within the discipline and focus on problematic issues using academic and scholarly methods as well as present these issues systematically in oral discourse (oral examination) and in lengthy academic and scholarly essays (master's thesis) within the Sinology field.
<b>Teaching format(s)</b>	not required
<b>Language of instruction</b>	German and English
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Successful participation in all required and required-elective modules of the Master of Arts Sinology as well as the compulsory semester abroad/semester at a partner university.
<b>Module applicability</b>	The module is a component of the Master of Arts in Sinology
<b>Type, requirements, and language of module examination</b>	Type of examination: oral examination (45 minutes) and master's thesis (approx. 70–80 pages; requisite completion time 5 months). The master's thesis also requires submission of a written 3 page summary of usually in English.  Examination language: Generally, a master's thesis is written in either German or English.
<b>Prerequisites for admission to the module examination</b>	regular and active attendance of classes listed above are required Presentation in Seminar A Presentation in Seminar B  The exact scope of the term paper will be announced at the beginning of the course.
<b>Workload (components)</b>	Master's thesis: 25 ECTS credits Oral examination (including preparation time): 5 ECTS credits
<b>Total workload</b>	30 ECTS credits
<b>Module frequency</b>	every semester
<b>Module duration</b>	one semester
<b>Recommended semester</b>	Forth Semester

**Section 23:**  
**Effective date**

These subject-specific provisions become effective on the day following official publication by the University of Hamburg. They apply to students commencing their studies in or after Winter Semester 2018/2019.

Hamburg, 29 November 2019  
**University of Hamburg**