In pursuance of Act No. 261 of 18 March 2015 (the University Act), the following framework curriculum and regulations have been stipulated for the first year of study in the social sciences bachelor programmes (Politics and Administration, Social Sciences, Economics, and Economics and Business Administration) at Aalborg University.

1 Introduction
The first year of study in the social sciences programmes at Aalborg University has been planned in accordance with Ministerial order No. 1520 of 16 December 2013 on Bachelor and Master Programmes at Universities (the Study Programme Order) with subsequent amendments, and Ministerial order No. 670 of 19 December 2014 on University Examinations (the Examination Order). Further reference is made to Ministerial Order No. 257 of 18 March 2015 on Admission etc. to bachelor programmes at the universities (the Bachelor Admissions Order). Finally, reference is made to Ministerial Order No. 114 of 3 February 2015 (the Grading Scale Order).

2 Study Board and Faculty
The Social Sciences Joint Semester belongs under the Faculty of Social Sciences at Aalborg University. The study boards of the relevant study programmes (cf. section 3) have established the Degree Programme Committee for the Social Sciences Joint Semester, delegating elements of study board powers concerning the joint semester to this committee, which will act as study board for the first semester. The chair of the degree programme committee will appoint a semester coordinator from among the staff who will be teaching that semester. The semester coordinator will act on behalf of the study programmes, performing the tasks decided by the Board in cooperation with the chair of the degree programme committee and under their leadership. The second semester belongs under the study boards of the individual study programmes.

3 Admission
The first study year comprises the first two semesters of the bachelor programme in:

- Politics and Administration
- Social Sciences
- Economics
- Economics and Business Administration

(2) Admission Requirements
Separate admission requirements apply to the individual programmes within the social sciences. These admission requirements are stated in the Bachelor Admissions Order, annex 1:
Social Sciences Joint Semester (1st semester)

4 Joint Programme specifications in ECTS credits
The joint semester corresponds to 30 ECTS credits and is the first semester of the social science research-based full-time programmes: the bachelor programmes in Politics and Administration, Social Sciences, Economics and Economics and Business Administration (B.Sc.).

5 Disciplinary profile of the Joint Semester
The purpose of the Social Sciences Joint Semester is for the students to acquire the knowledge, skills and competences that will equip them to continue their studies in their chosen bachelor programme.

The students in the Joint Semester must acquire:
- basic knowledge of the institutions and operating principles of modern society
- basic knowledge of key concepts and theories that can be used to describe modern society
- basic skills in analysing problems within the social sciences in an interdisciplinary perspective
- basic competences in managing the organisation and implementation of problem-based project work in a group

6 Rules for modules, subject elements and elective courses
The Social Sciences Joint Semester consists of one module with the following project periods and courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Description</th>
<th>ECTS credits for teaching</th>
<th>Examination ECTS credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1: Understanding society from a problem-based perspective</td>
<td>4 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P1 Project Seminar</td>
<td>1 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Denmark</td>
<td>8 ECTS</td>
<td>8 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2: An interdisciplinary perspective on the development of Danish society</td>
<td>12 ECTS</td>
<td>22 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBL Tools</td>
<td>5 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>30 ECTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>30 ECTS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Study methods
The "Modern Denmark" module comprises two project periods:
- Project period 1 (P1) from 1 September to 1 October: “Understanding society from a problem-based perspective.
- Project period 2 (P2) from 1 October to 31 January: "An Interdisciplinary Perspective on the Development of Danish Society".
The module includes lectures and class exercises as well as project work and related seminars.

The course on Modern Denmark adds width and offers an overview of disciplinary themes; it also introduces concepts, theories and explanations that may be included in the project work.

The PBL Tools course supports the project work and is followed up by seminars or class exercises.

A number of status seminars related to project themes will be held in P2. The seminars facilitate immersion in the more explicitly defined project theme and support the students’ acquisition of the skills required to conduct an analysis and engage in group work.

The project work trains the students’ ability to formulate, document and define an issue. It also facilitates their critical use of theories and methods for the analysis of an issue while enhancing their ability to study independently and in cooperation with others.

Organisation
The Joint Semester students are organised in large groups. Each large group has its own secretary and team of supervisors. The students in a large group are divided into a number of clusters, each cluster consisting of a number of project groups. A supervisor is allocated to each project group. Each supervisor will supervise several groups. Typically, a cluster will consist of three to five groups with the same supervisor. Seminar activities and class exercises will often take place within the cluster.

At the beginning of the semester, the programme administration will divide the large groups into a number of project groups, each comprising five to seven students. On entering P2, the students themselves will form their own new groups. A group may consist of no more than seven members, which means that a maximum of seven students may take part in a group examination. The recommended maximum number of group members is six in P2.

In exceptional circumstances, students who have submitted a project report prepared in a group may opt for individual examination. In such exceptional cases, the semester coordination must have received an application no later than 14 days prior to project submission. To the extent possible, students must be members of a project group during both modules of the project period.

P1: Understanding society from a problem-based perspective

Objective:

- To provide the students with basic knowledge about producing a problem formulation
- To give the students experience with problem-based project work in a group
- To introduce students to project work within the theme of the semester

Course content
The group must prepare a project report including a problem formulation and an account of their experiences of cooperation in the group. The courses and supervision during this period provide support for these tasks.
Credits
The P1 project corresponds to 4 ECTS points.

Teaching and learning methods
Group work with supervision.

Learning objectives
On completing the project work during this period, students should be able to:

- form a problem formulation, i.e. substantiate, document and define an issue within the area defined by the theme of the project period
- provide arguments for the type of problem formulation selected
- assess and use the literature on which their project report is based
- produce notes and a bibliography
- describe how they experienced the way in which the group cooperated

Assessment criteria and examination type
Included in the P2 examination.

P1 Project Seminar

Objective
To take stock of the students' work with problem-based project work in groups, while providing feedback in a formal setting for individual students and for their group as to whether they are complying with the P1 learning objectives. The seminar serves to round off and evaluate P1.

Course content
The seminar takes the form of a presentation seminar involving two or more groups, their supervisors and any supplementary supervisors. Prior to the seminar, each group will prepare a critical presentation of their own P1 project as well as their critique of the report of another group. Taking the learning objectives for the period as their point of departure, the group will discuss the P1 project report that they have submitted with their project supervisor, the supplementary group(s) and the supplementary supervisor.

Credits
The P1 project seminar corresponds to 1 ECTS point.

Teaching and learning methods
Oral group seminar conducted on the basis of the submitted P1 project report. Before the seminar, each student must participate actively in the group's preparation work and, during the seminar, in the discussion of the project work of their own group as well as that of another group. Duration: 45 minutes per group. Participation requires timely submission of the P1 project report. P1 and P2 will be evaluated jointly which means that no separate grade will be given for P1. The project supervisor assesses P1 project seminar participation as approved or as not approved on the basis of the active participation of the individual student.
**Learning objectives**
The aim of the project seminar is to provide a forum in which the group and the individual students can draw on their project work of the period and the learning targets to acquire experience in:

- critically considering their own project work and that of their peers
- giving critique to students who are not members of their own project group and receiving critique from the members of other groups
- distinguishing between essential shortcomings and those that are less important
- discussing the strengths and weaknesses of their own and another group’s project report

**Assessment criteria and examination**
Included in the P2 examination.

**P2: An interdisciplinary perspective on the development of Danish society**

**Objective**
Through the project work, the student should acquire:

- basic knowledge of problem formulation, project methodology and the conclusion of a coherent project
- basic skills in analysing problems within the social sciences in an interdisciplinary perspective
- basic competences in managing the organisation and implementation of problem-based project work in a group

**Course content**
The P2-project must be within the field determined by the theme of this period: “The development of Danish society seen in an interdisciplinary perspective”, with the course “Modern Denmark” as the point of departure. The project report should include concepts and/or theories from at least two of the following: economics, political science and sociology. Typically, syllabus elements from the "Modern Denmark" course will be included. Supplementary literature must also be included to add depth to the analysis of the problem stated in the problem formulation of the project report.

**Credits**
The P2-project corresponds to 12 ECTS points.

**Teaching and learning methods:**
The module takes the form of group work, including supervision, cluster meetings and seminars. Meetings with the supervisor will typically take place once a week in the individual group and/or cluster; the latter enables students to discuss the results of their ongoing work with other groups in the cluster. Seminars provide an opportunity for individual groups to discuss the results of their ongoing work with both their supplementary supervisor and other groups.

**Learning objectives**
On completion of P2, the students should be able to:

- explain selected features of the development of Danish society that are relevant to the chosen project theme
- create a problem formulation, i.e. document, substantiate and delimit an issue
- conduct an analysis of the selected problem formulation, substantiating their choice of theory and method
- apply perspectives from several fields related to the selected problem formulation
- disseminate the results of their project work in clear and correct language while adhering to the academic conventions governing documentation in writing (including graphs and tables), bibliography and notes
- analyse their own learning as well as that of the group, and assess the outcome of the group’s use of different communication and management techniques
- point out the strengths and weaknesses of the submitted project report, including well-supported suggestions to address any weaknesses in the project and thus improve it

**Assessment criteria**

As the highest grade, 12 will be awarded to students who give an excellent performance and demonstrate that they have fulfilled the objectives of the module exhaustively or with few insignificant omissions. Additional information is available in Ministerial Order 250 of 15 March 2007 (the Grading Scale Order).

Grade 02 will be awarded to students who are able to

- explain selected features of the development of Danish society that are relevant for their selected project theme
- prepare a problem formulation
- conduct an analysis of the selected problem formulation
- identify several disciplinary perspectives in their analysis of the selected problem formulation
- disseminate the results of their project work in clear language that can be understood and which satisfactorily lives up to the academic conventions governing documentation, graphs, tables, bibliography and notes
- analyse their own learning as well as that of the group, and assess the outcome of the group’s use of different communication and management techniques
- point out the strengths and weaknesses of the project report they have submitted

**Examination**

The P2 examination is an oral group examination whose point of departure is the P2 project report and an oral presentation by the project group. In group examinations, each student is assessed individually. It is the responsibility of the examiner and the external examiner to conduct the oral examination in a way that ensures individual assessment of each individual student’s performance.

20 minutes are allocated for each group member, excluding deliberations and break time. This means that the examination of a 6-member group will take 2.5 hours, including time for deliberation and a break. Grading according to the 7-point grading scale. Internal examination.
Participation is conditional on approval of the P1 project seminar and on punctual submission of the P2 project report.

Course: “Modern Denmark”

Objective:
- To introduce the student to the core concepts, assumptions and debates involved in economic, political and sociological theories which can be used to describe modern and late modern society
- To provide the students with basic knowledge of modern Danish welfare state institutions and their functions in historical and contemporary contexts
- To provide the students with the skills needed to consider social problems in an interdisciplinary perspective

Course content
The core contents of the course are empirical knowledge and theoretical understanding of modern Denmark in a development perspective and in a globalised world.

The first part of the course introduces the theme of equality/inequality, which constitutes the point of departure of the students’ work with their P1 project.

The theoretical parts of the course explain selected theories and theoretical debates in the social sciences (i.e. economics, political science and sociology).

The other parts address the development of modern Denmark and the Danish welfare society. Central themes are the institutions of the welfare state, solidarity, business competitiveness, modernity, economic policy, the European Union, the behaviour of the electorate and the lines of political division. The development of modern Denmark is described empirically and is examined in the light of the theories explained in the theoretical part of the course. Individual lectures introduce recent theoretical positions.

Credits
The course corresponds to 8 ECTS.

Teaching and learning methods
The course consists of lectures and related class exercises. The student will work with extensive course materials and meet the learning objectives of the course through reading, note preparation and the use of notes from lecturers.

Learning objectives
The aim is that on the basis of the course material and participation in the course, students will be able to:
- account for (describe, summarise and compare) selected social science theories and concepts
- account for (describe, summarise and compare) the functions and functioning of selected
institutions in a historical perspective

- identify social science theories and concepts which can be used to illustrate selected issues, and provide arguments justifying their adoption
- apply theories and concepts from economics, political science and sociology in a discussion of selected issues

Assessment criteria
As the highest grade, 12 will be awarded to students who give an excellent performance and demonstrate that they have fulfilled the objectives of the module exhaustively or with few insignificant omissions. Additional information is available in Ministerial Order 250 of 15 March 2007 (the Grading Scale Order).

Grade 02 will be awarded to students who are able to:

- reproduce theories and concepts
- apply concepts and theories, but not necessarily systematically or in a manner that is always correct
- describe selected institutions in the Danish welfare society and some of the fundamental features of the way these institutions operate

Examination
Written examination (5 hours), with aids. Students must use their own PCs for the examination. Grading according to the 7-point grading scale. Internal examination

“PBL Tools”

Objectives

- To support problem-based project work, in particular with a view to developing skills in documenting, substantiating and defining a problem formulation, as well as conducting an analysis, including choice of theory and methodology.
- To provide the students with tools for improving their learning individually and in cooperation with their peers.
- To provide the students with tools for managing and leading project work, and for taking on the responsibility of working in a team (group).
- To teach the students how to collect and organise data, and how to interpret and understand statistics at a basic level.
- To provide the students with tools for reading, interpreting and responding critically to different types of text and source material used to analyse issues in social studies.

Course content
The course consists of a number of types of skill: “Problem-based Project Work”, “Practical Statistics” and “Text Analysis and Source Management” are all intended to support the project work.

“Problem-based Project Work” introduces students to PBL and includes problem formulation, methodology and project management. The emphasis is on the documentation, substantiation and delimitation of a problem formulation (P1), as well on conducting an analysis (P2). The group’s experience of team learning and individual learning must also form part of the P2 project report. “Practical Statistics”
introduces students to basic statistical concepts, the collection of data and the critical application of data in project reports. “Text Analysis and Source Management” introduces students to text analysis, source management and the function of the text/source in the project report.

Credits
The course corresponds to 5 ECTS.

Teaching and learning methods
The course consists of lectures and related class exercises. The course must support the problem-based project work. The supervisor will therefore follow up on the P1 and P2 courses when the reviewed material is used in the project work.

Learning objectives
The aim is that on the basis of the course material and participation in the lectures, the course will enable students to:

- explain what it means to document, substantiate and define a problem formulation
- identify a good problem formulation
- explain different types of problem formulation
- explain the concepts of theory, empirical data and analysis
- explain how to develop argumentation in project work and move from problem formulation to conclusion
- explain the difference between scientific arguments and attitudinal statements
- choose an appropriate study strategy
- give an account of own learning and that of the team
- apply practical tools for conflict management
- reflect on the contribution of various communication skills to cooperation in the group
- manage and lead project work at a basic level
- apply practical statistics correctly in problem-based project work
- produce notes and bibliography correctly
- critically consider different types of texts, using text analysis tools
- assess the relevance and academic quality of texts and statements as regards their functions in the project report

Assessment criteria and examination type
The course forms part of the basis for the P2 examination

On completion of module 1, the students should, at a basic level, be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- give an account of the social institutions</td>
<td>- outline selected social science theories and concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of modern Danish society and their functions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Skills
- complete major project work in a group
- prepare a problem formulation and conduct an analysis
- apply communicative and managerial tools in problem-based project work
- apply social science theories and concepts in the analysis of a problem
- critically apply statistics, texts and other sources that can throw light on relevant issues
- adhere to scientific conventions in the preparation of project reports
- reflect on own learning as well as that of the group

Competences
- manage and organise project work
- cooperate in a group
- assess a problem from a multidisciplinary perspective and view their own discipline as offering just one of several possible approaches to a problem

7 Rules for writing assignments in the joint semester
Irrespective of the language in which major student assignments are written, their assessment will emphasise students’ writing and spelling skills, in addition to the academic content. The assessment of the language performance will be based on orthographic and grammatical correctness as well as stylistic proficiency. The linguistic performance is always to be assessed as an independent dimension in the overall assessment. However, no examination will be awarded an overall pass grade solely on the basis of good linguistic performance, nor will an examination usually be awarded a fail grade solely on the basis of very poor linguistic performance. In special cases (such as dyslexia or when Danish is not the student’s first language and the assignment was written in Danish), the Study Board may grant exemptions. Prior to the examination, the study board must present the reasoned justification for the exemption in writing.

(2)
The maximum length of an assignment or project is defined in standard pages. A standard page is equivalent to 2,400 characters (including spaces). The stipulated number of pages for written assignments and projects includes the notes, bibliography and list of sources, but does not include the title page, table of contents, and summary. Appendices may be included with a project. Typically, appendices are not the examinee’s own written work, but a presentation/reproduction of source material, and they are therefore not included in the total number of pages; however, appendices must be proportionate to the volume of the project. The maximum volume of a P1-project is 25 standard pages. The maximum volume of a P2-project is 60 standard pages.

8 Rules on credit transfer, including the possibility of selecting modules from another study programme at a university in Denmark or abroad (the joint semester)
The student’s original study board at AAU may approve the replacement of modules of this bachelor programme with successfully completed modules from other bachelor programmes (credit transfer).

The student’s original study board may also approve the replacement of modules stipulated in this curriculum with successfully completed programme modules from other Danish or foreign study programmes at the same level. All decisions on credit transfer are made by the student’s original study
board on the basis of academic assessment.

9 Rules applying to the course and completion of the first year of study
To be allowed to continue their studies, students must participate in all examinations before the end of the first year of the bachelor programme. The first year of study must be successfully completed by the end of the second year of study in order for students to continue their bachelor programme studies.

In special circumstances, however, exemption may be granted if the student has been on a leave of absence. During the first year of study, leave is granted only in the event of childbirth, adoption, military service, UN service or exceptional circumstances.

10 Requirements regarding the reading of texts in a foreign language and proficiency levels needed in the foreign language(s) to comply with such requirements
It is assumed that the student is able to read academic texts in modern Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and English and to use reference sources etc. in other European languages.

11 Examination rules
All examinations must be successfully completed with a grade of 02 or above or with the assessment “passed”. The bachelor programme is an integrated course, and an overall examination average is calculated for the entire programme as an ECTS-weighted average of all the grades received by the student.

(2)
All examinations are to be held in the same semester as the teaching.

(3)
Examination language
Examinations are usually conducted in English. Students who wish to be examined in another language (Danish, for instance), must submit a substantiated application to the Degree Programme Committee for the Social Sciences Joint Semester.

The rules in force regarding the use of personal computers during examinations are available at the website of the Faculty of Social Sciences:
http://www.fak.samf.aau.dk/uddannelse/studieadministration/

12 Exemptions
In exceptional circumstances, the Degree Programme Committee for the Social Sciences Joint Semester may make exemptions from the rules in the curriculum framework that are not stipulated by law or ministerial order. Exemptions regarding the examinations apply to the proximate examination only.

13 Additional information
Information about the Joint Semester is available on the website: http://basis.samf.aau.dk/. Detailed information on day-to-day issues and examinations is available in Moodle.
14 Commencement and transitional rules
The curriculum framework of the first year of study has been approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and will become effective on 1 September 2016.
The second semester of the bachelor programmes in Politics and Administration, Social Sciences, Economics and Business Administration (B.Sc.)

In the second semester, students will attend the courses under the bachelor programmes in which they have enrolled.

However, students may also choose to take one of the other second semester courses within this curriculum framework. Prior to submitting an application, students who wish to enrol in an alternative second semester course must attend an individual guidance interview with a member of staff appointed by the chair of the degree programme committee. Enrolment applications must be submitted by 14 January.

Transfer to a different programme between the second and third semesters is only possible for students who meet the admission requirements of the programme in question and only if study places are available. In addition, the student must have passed all examinations required during the first year of study (see Ministerial Order No. 257 of 18 March 2015 on Admission to and Enrolment in Bachelor Programmes at Universities).

The following is an overview of the second semester of the bachelor programmes included in the curriculum framework.
The second semester bachelor programme in Politics and Administration and the bachelor programme with Social Sciences as a major and as an elective subject (upper secondary school teacher training)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ECTS credits for teaching</th>
<th>Examination ECTS credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Course in Sociology</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Course in Political Sociology</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science Methodology and Philosophy of Science</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-Oriented Project Work in the Field of Political Sociology</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Sociology, Social Science Methodology and Philosophy of Science</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

View the curriculum and regulations for the bachelor programme in politics and administration, 2013:

http://www.fak.samf.aau.dk/uddannelse/studieordninger/politik-administration-samfundsfag/

View the curriculum and regulations for the bachelor programme in social sciences as a major and as an elective subject (upper secondary school teacher training) 2013:

http://www.fak.samf.aau.dk/uddannelse/studieordninger/politik-administration-samfundsfag/
### Second semester Economics

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course</th>
<th>ECTS credits for teaching</th>
<th>Examination ECTS credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic course in Economics and Business Administration</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Accounting</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Second semester Economics and Business Administration (B.Sc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ECTS credits for teaching</th>
<th>Examination ECTS credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic course in economics and business administration,</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including information systems, methodology and project work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Accounting</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

View the curriculum and regulations for Economics and Business Administration (B.Sc.), 2013: [http://www.fak.samf.aau.dk/uddannelses/studieordninger/erhvervsoekonomi/](http://www.fak.samf.aau.dk/uddannelses/studieordninger/erhvervsoekonomi/)