

Alexander Simon | Student Counselling Service

Study Organisation

Master Comparative Democracy



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1. Study Regulations

The study regulations of 2022 apply to you!

The document regulates the study and can be found under the following [link](#).

You can read all important information about the study program here:

- Aims of the study program
- Organization of studies
- Examination organization
- Formation of grades and overall grade
- Master thesis

2. Courses

Seminar: Elaboration of scientific findings or processing of current problems with scientific methods through contributions, which are usually prepared by students. Learning and practicing or deepening presentation and discussion techniques.

Lecture: Coherent presentation and communication of basic and specialized knowledge as well as methodological knowledge through lecture. The lecturers develop and convey teaching content with the involvement of the students.

2. Courses

Tutorials: In tutorials, the number of students is smaller and the content-related work is more intensive due to the smaller group. Tutorials are usually attached to lectures and seminars and are held by advanced students. They also provide assistance with scientific work.

Autonomous tutorials: are tutorials organized by students themselves on topics of their choice. These are mostly social science topics that are not or hardly represented at the faculty.

Colloquium: serves the preparation and discussion of the Master's thesis as well as the detailed discussion of special issues and research results of the subject and the discussion of controversial scientific positions.

3. Shortcuts

CP (Credit Points) are a quantitative measure of student workload. 1 CP represents 30 hours of work:

- Active participation in courses
- Preparation and wrap-up of sessions and preparation for examinations

SWS means semester hour(s) per week. These are the hours spent in lectures each week during the lecture period. 1 SWS forms a time unit of 45 minutes.

3. Shortcuts

c.t.: written out "cum tempore" means that the event starts a quarter of an hour later than indicated.

s.t.: written out "sine tempore" means that the course starts exactly at the time stated.

QIS/LSF: Online platform of Goethe University for performance and examination administration and for course registration; [link to QIS/LSF](#).

OLAT: (Online Learning and Training) is a learning platform and an open source learning management system (LMS) for interactive learning and working at Goethe University. Lecturers set up virtual seminar rooms here, where students can access scripts and interactive learning modules to accompany their seminars; [link to OLAT](#).

4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

- The Master's program in Comparative Democracy consists of 120 credit points and 9 modules that must be studied.

Standard period of study for the Master: 4 semesters



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

A module...

- is a teaching and learning unit that is self-contained in terms of content and time.
- is usually a combination of courses that are related to each other in terms of content.
- usually consists of several courses.
- is concluded with a final module examination.
- can also be stretched over several semesters!

4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module examinations are always graded. A prerequisite for the module examination is proof of participation in the same course. Module examinations can take the form of

- Term paper or
- Written exam or
- Oral exam

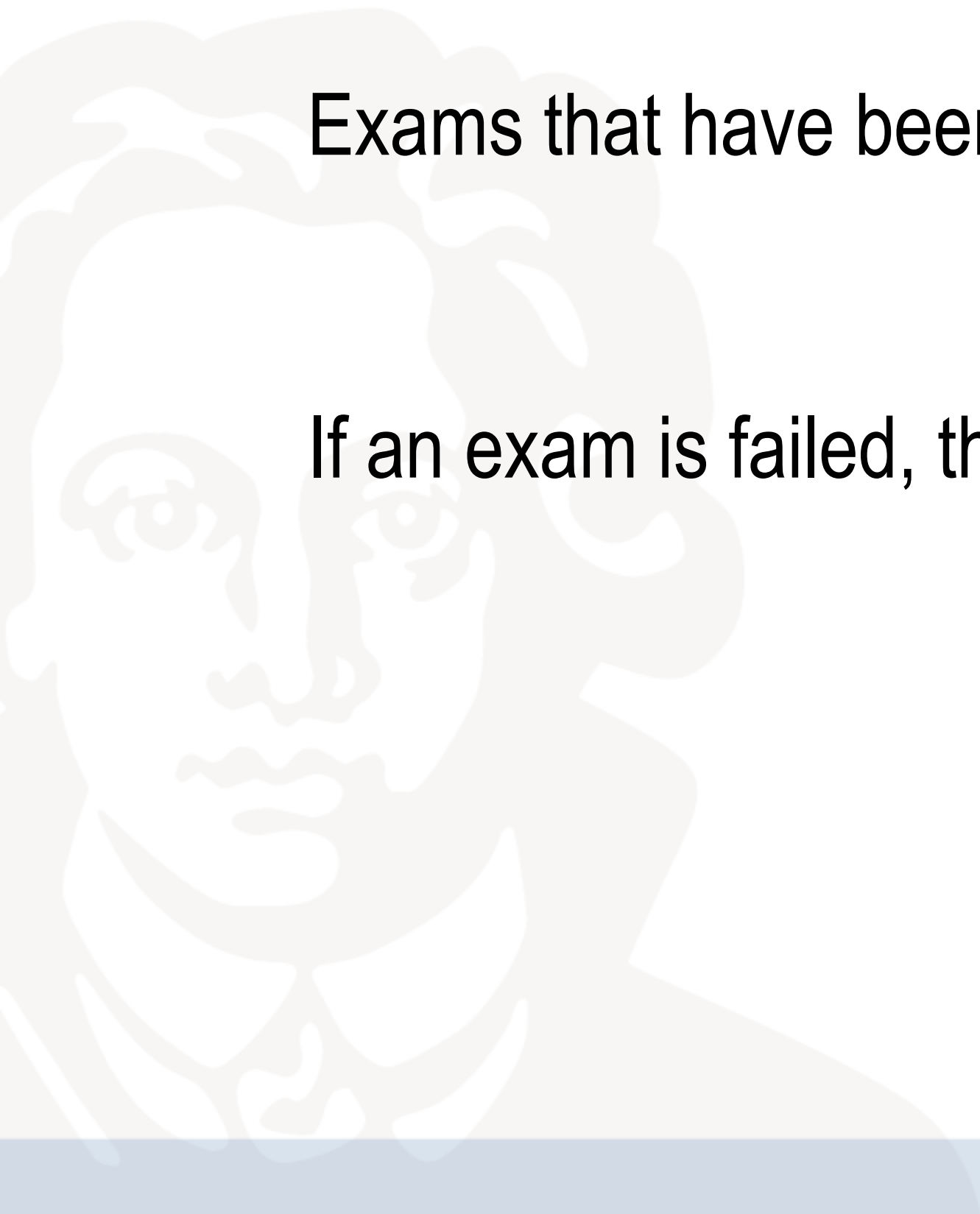
Participation certificates can take the form of presentations or essays, for example. The exact form of the participation certificate is always determined by the lecturers. Proof of participation is not graded.

4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

The M.A. program is cumulative, i.e. all examination achievements in the form of module exams are included in the grade of the final certificate.

Exams that have been passed once cannot be repeated.

If an exam is failed, there are two retake options. Three failed attempts will result in exmatriculation!



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Modules:

- A. Introduction to Comparative Democracy
- B. Concepts of Democracy – past, present, future
- C. Designing Democracy Research
- D1. Citizens: perceptions, preferences & behavior
- D2. Interest Aggregation and Representation
- D3. Public Policy-Making
- E1. Practicing Research on Democracy: Internship
- E2. Practicing Research on Democracy: Research Seminar
- F. Colloquium, thesis and defense

4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

The module overview for Comparative Democracy can be used as an orientation what students have to do during their studies.

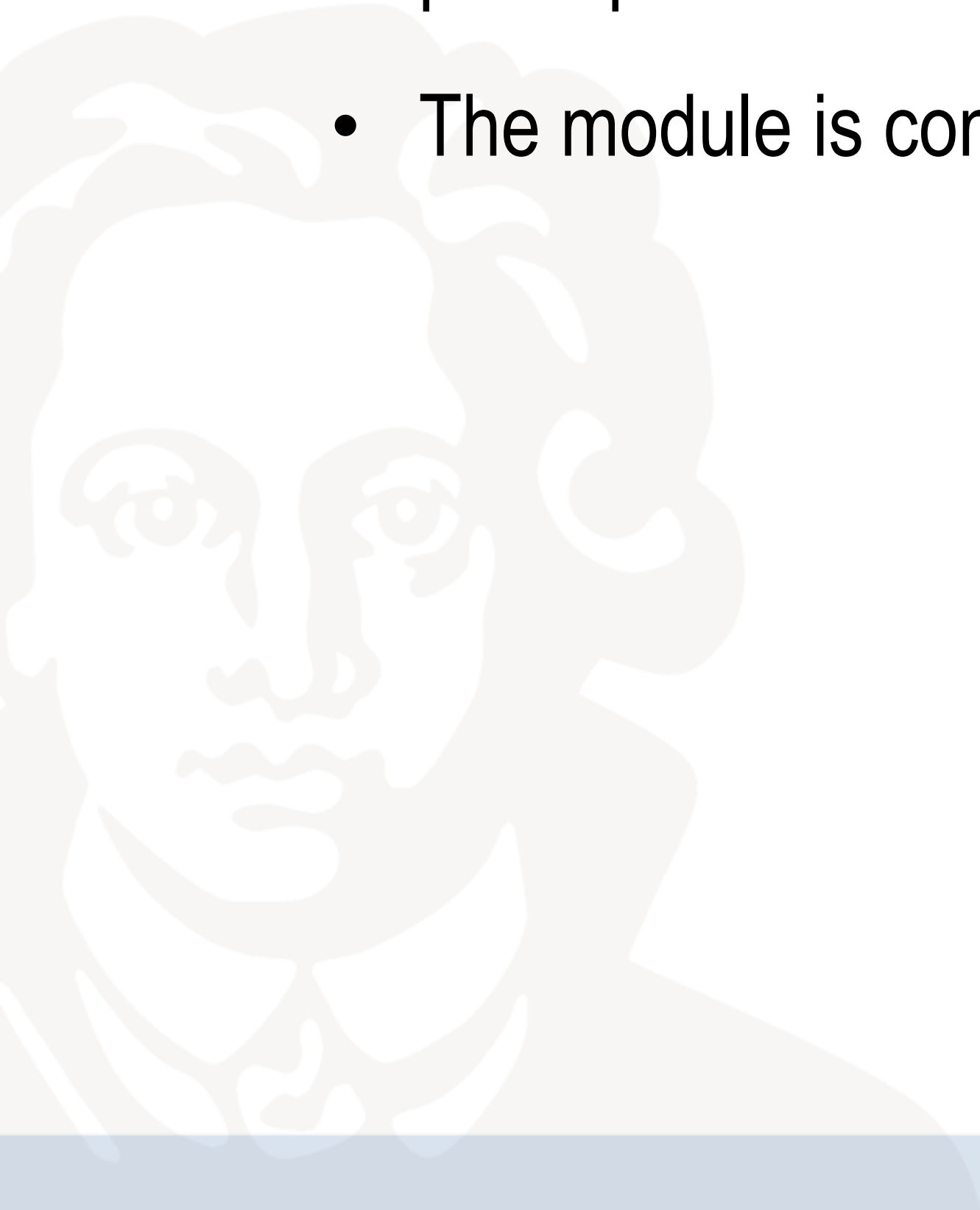
You can find the module overview in the [Download-Center](#).



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module A: Introduction to Comparative Democracy

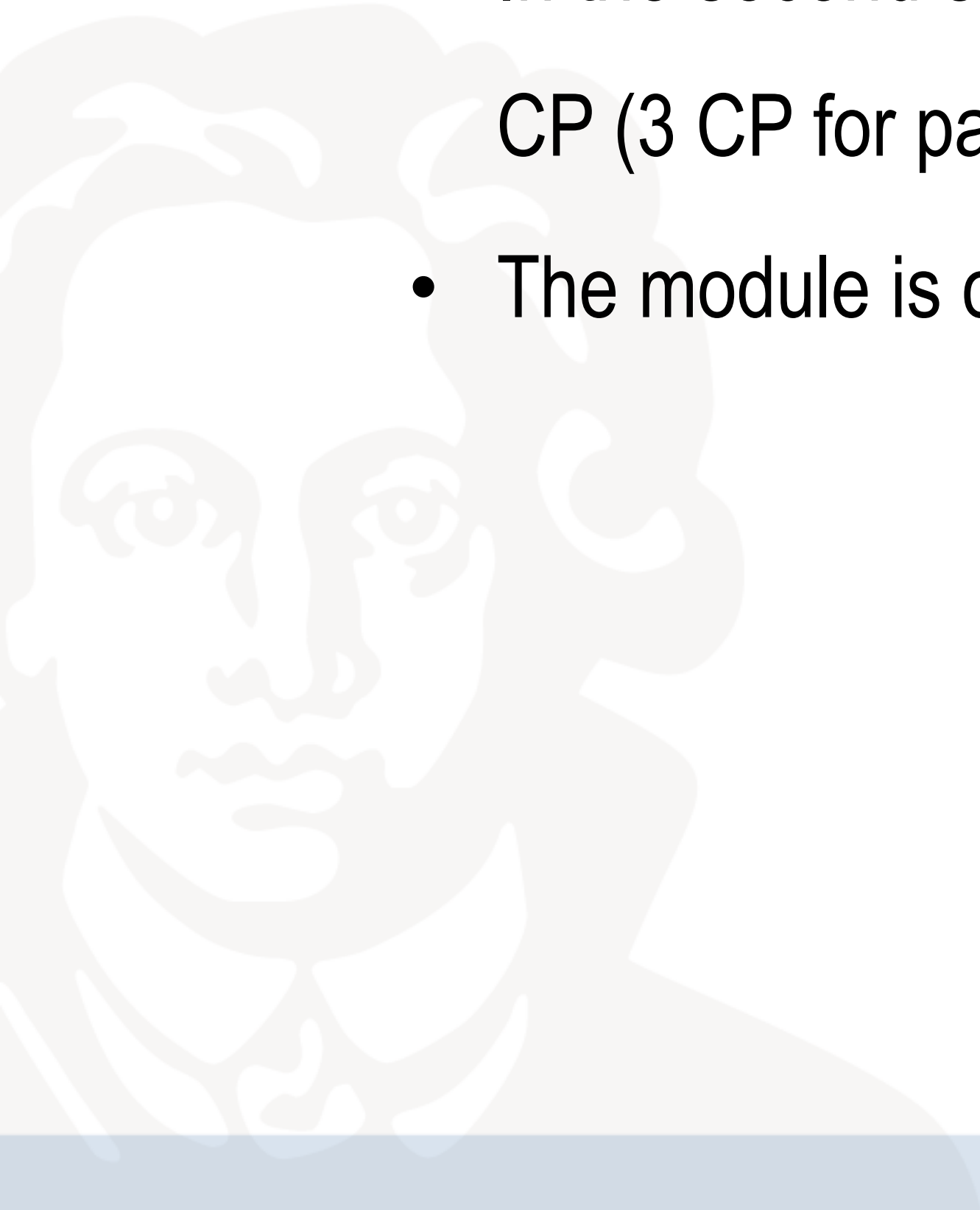
- The module consists of the seminar “Introduction to Comparative Democracy”
- In the seminar you will take part and do a module exam and receive 8 CP (3 CP for the participation certificate + 5 CP for the module exam).
- The module is completed with 8 CP.



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module B: Concepts of Democracy – past, present, future

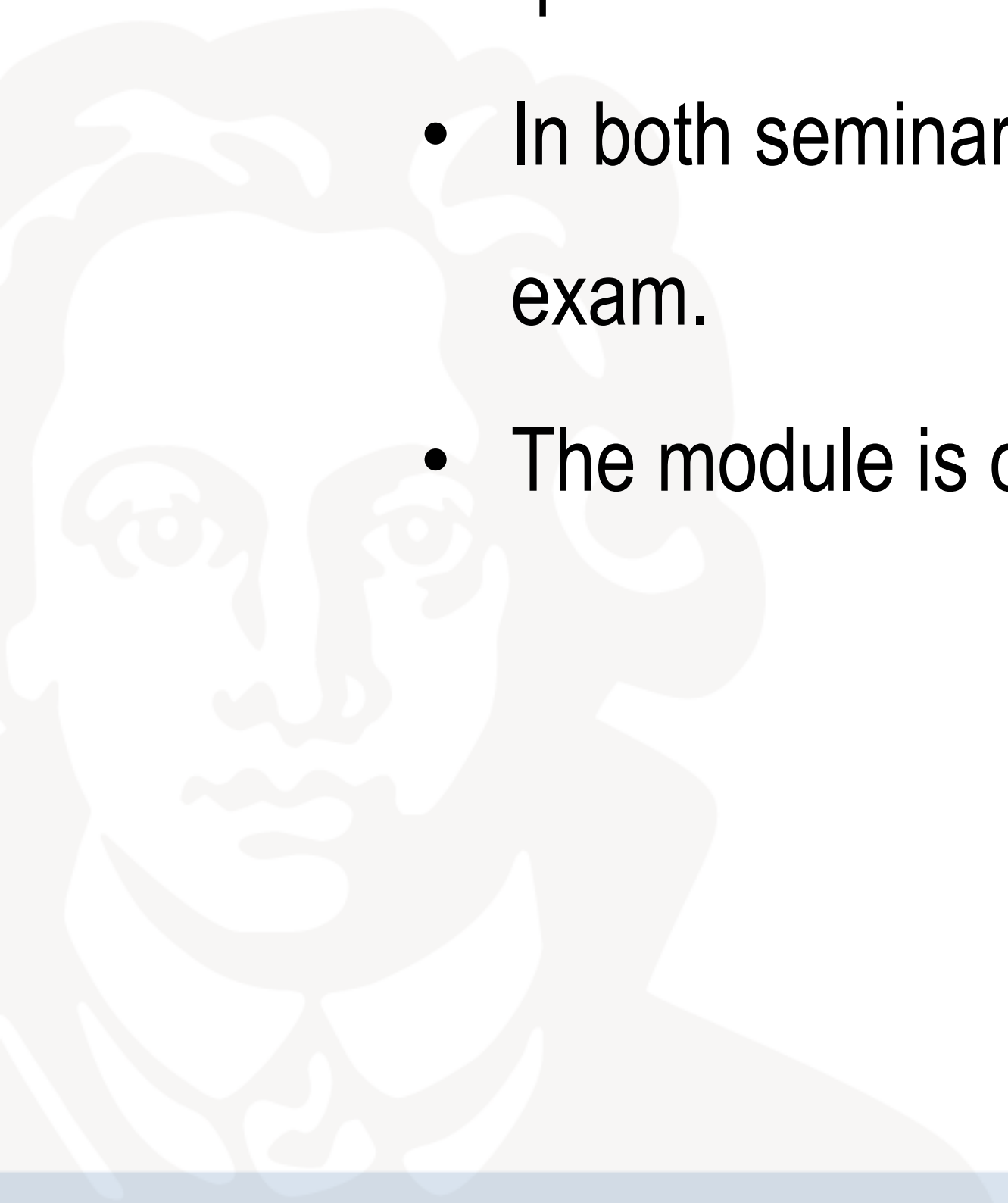
- The module consists of two seminars.
- In one seminar you do only one participation certificate and receive 3 CP for it.
- In the second seminar you do a participation certificate and the module exam and receive 8 CP (3 CP for participation + 5 CP for the module exam).
- The module is completed with a total of 11 CP.



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Module C: Designing Democracy Research

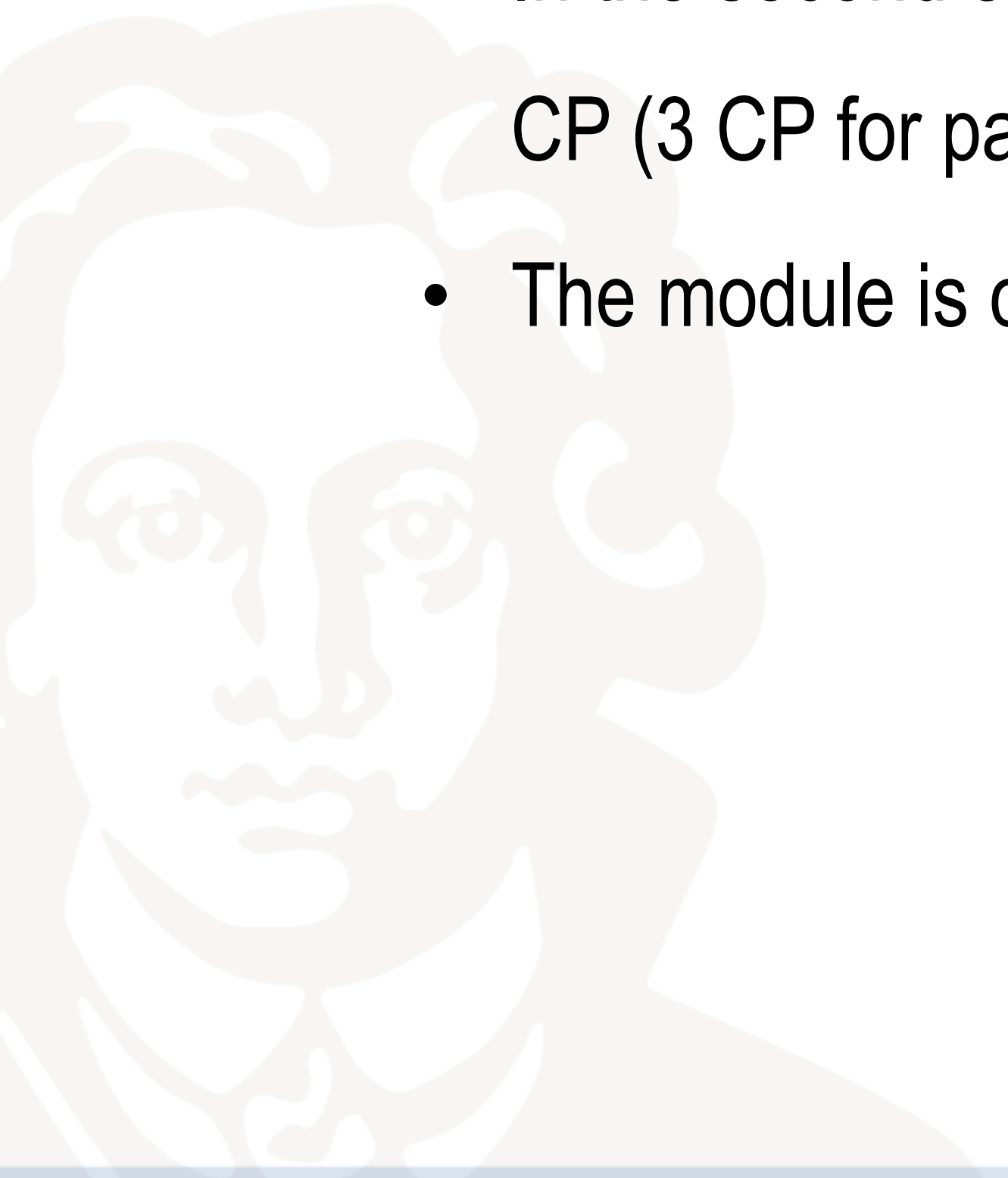
- The module consists of two seminars.
- One seminar has to be on qualitative research designs. The other seminar has to be on quantitative research designs.
- In both seminars you get 3 CP for the participation certificate and 2,5 CP for a partial module exam.
- The module is completed with a total of 11 CP.



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module D1: Citizens – perceptions, preferences & behavior

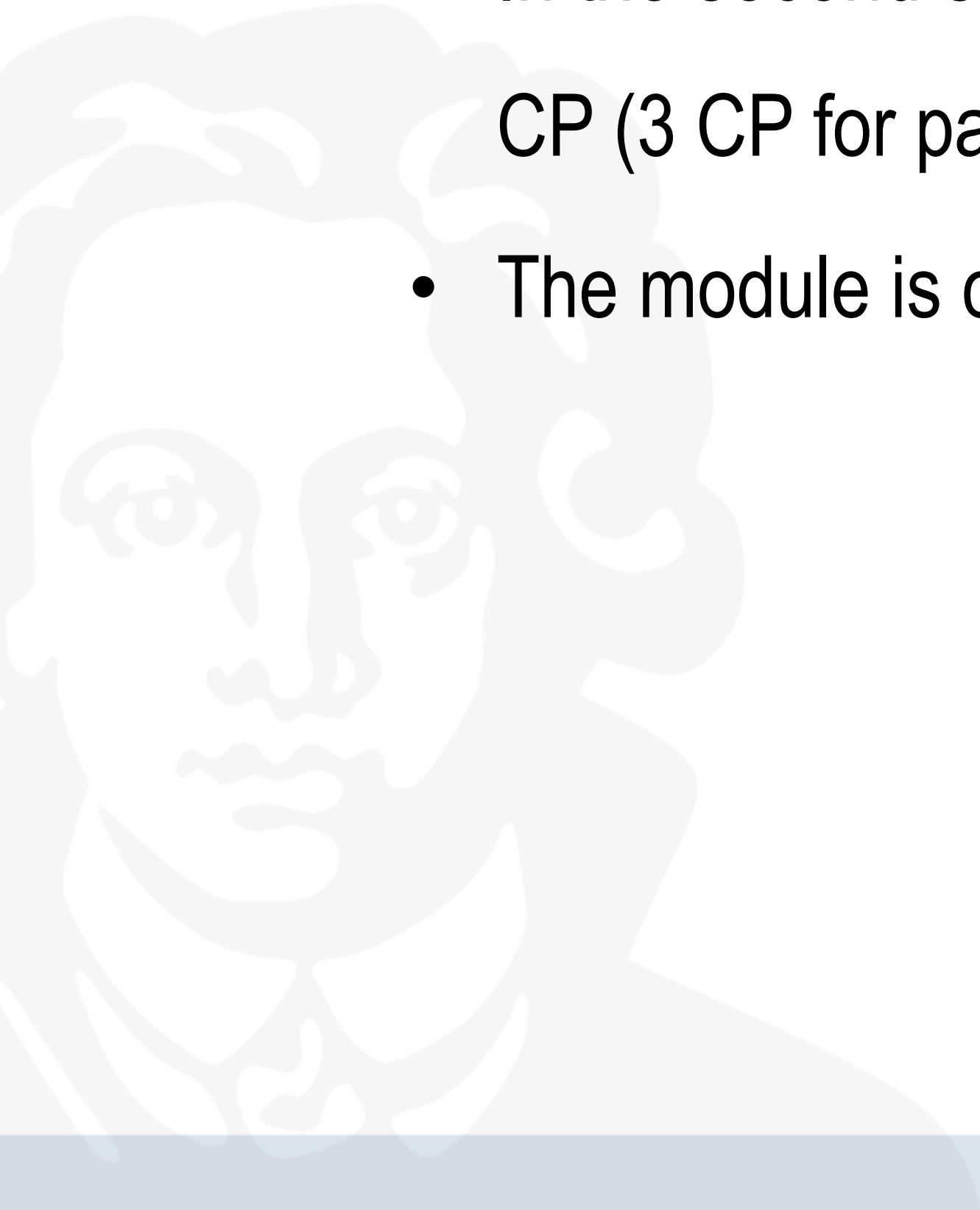
- The module consists of two seminars.
- In one seminar you do only one participation certificate and receive 3 CP for it.
- In the second seminar you do a participation certificate and the module exam and receive 8 CP (3 CP for participation + 5 CP for the module exam).
- The module is completed with a total of 11 CP.



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module D2: Interest aggregation and representation

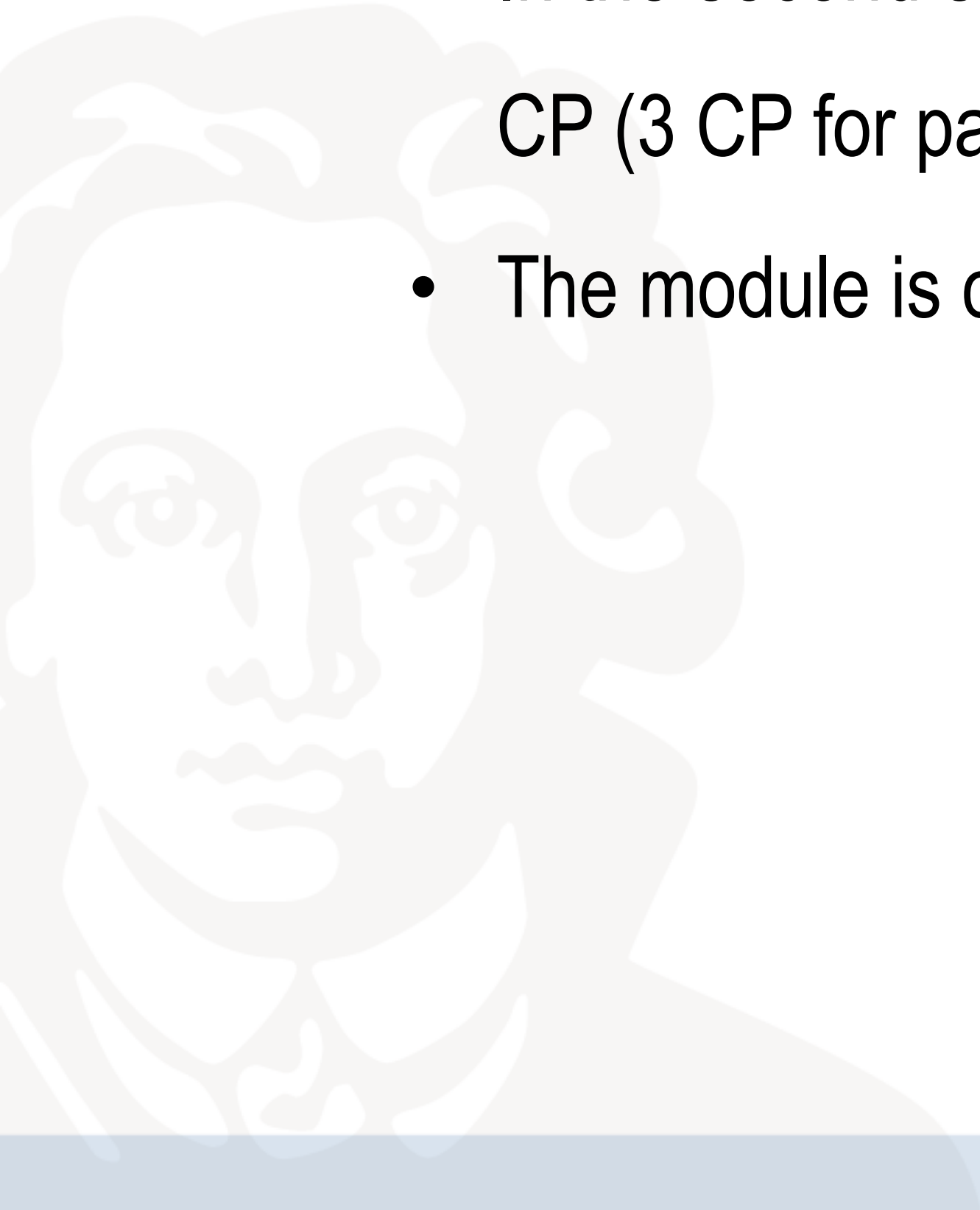
- The module consists of two seminars.
- In one seminar you do only one participation certificate and receive 3 CP for it.
- In the second seminar you do a participation certificate and the module exam and receive 8 CP (3 CP for participation + 5 CP for the module exam).
- The module is completed with a total of 11 CP.



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module D3: Public Policy-Making

- The module consists of two seminars.
- In one seminar you do only one participation certificate and receive 3 CP for it.
- In the second seminar you do a participation certificate and the module exam and receive 8 CP (3 CP for participation + 5 CP for the module exam).
- The module is completed with a total of 11 CP.



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module E1: Practicing Research on Democracy: Internship

- You must complete an internship of at least 300 hours (10 CP). You receive 1 CP for the successful participation in the Study Day. Longer internships are always possible.
- Study Days will be offered in the course catalogue at least three times per semester. At least one of them will be held in English language.
- The module is completed with 11 CP.
- The internship serves the practical deepening of the skills you have learned in your studies and your career orientation.
- You can do the internship during the lecture period or during the lecture-free period.
- You look for an internship on your own.
- You do not have to register the internship with the Faculty beforehand.

4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

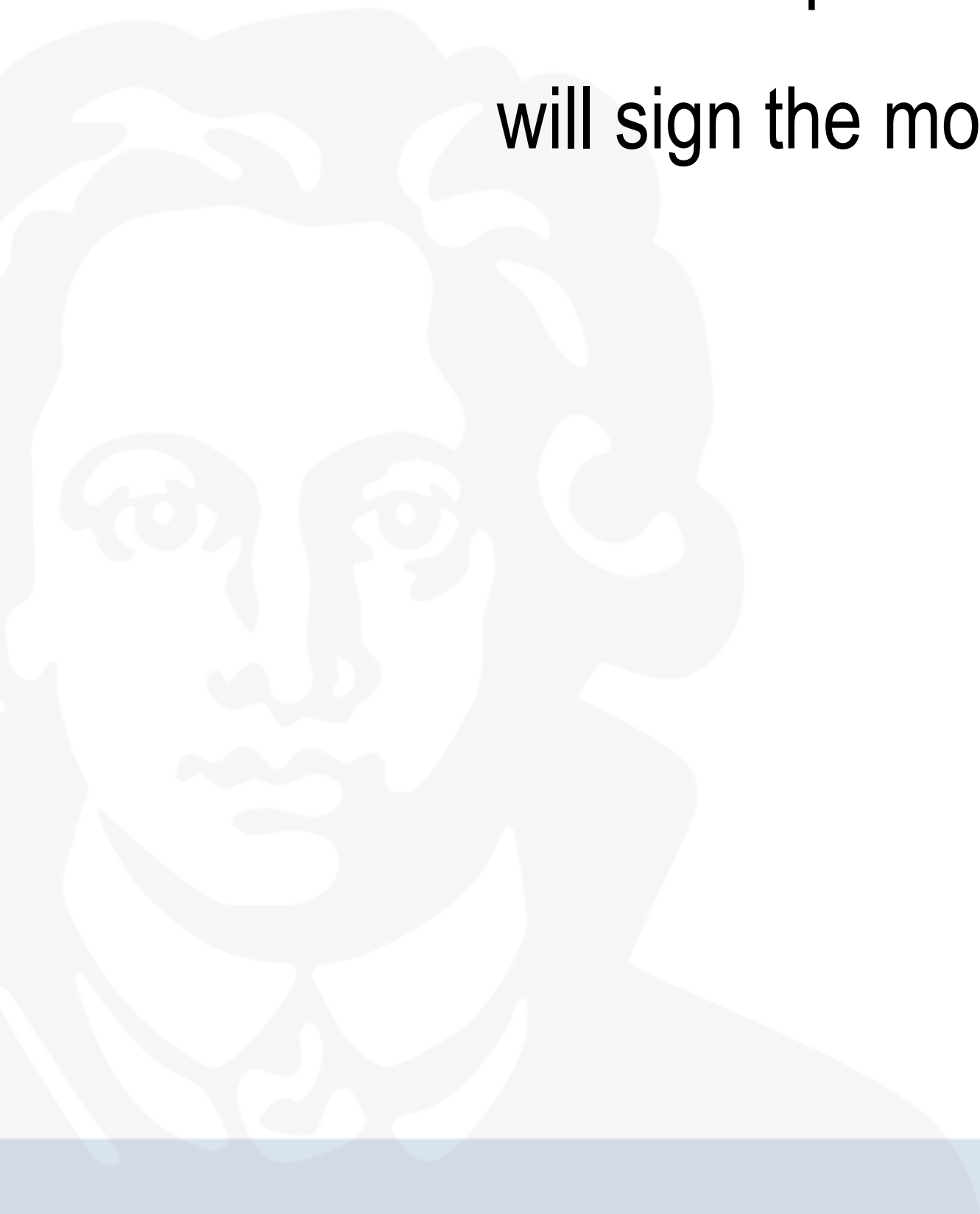
Module E1: Practicing Research on Democracy: Internship

- Internships abroad and online internships are generally recognized.
- You can find all information about the internship online [here](#), including potential employers, etc.
- You can also do several shorter internships. As long as you total at least 300 hours, this will be accepted.
- Professional activities that are not internships or internships that were completed prior to graduation are subject to application and will only be recognized in exceptional cases. If you wish to apply for recognition, please contact the examination office.
- You will receive a certificate of a compulsory internship by e-mail from the examination office.

4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module E1: Practicing Research on Democracy: Internship

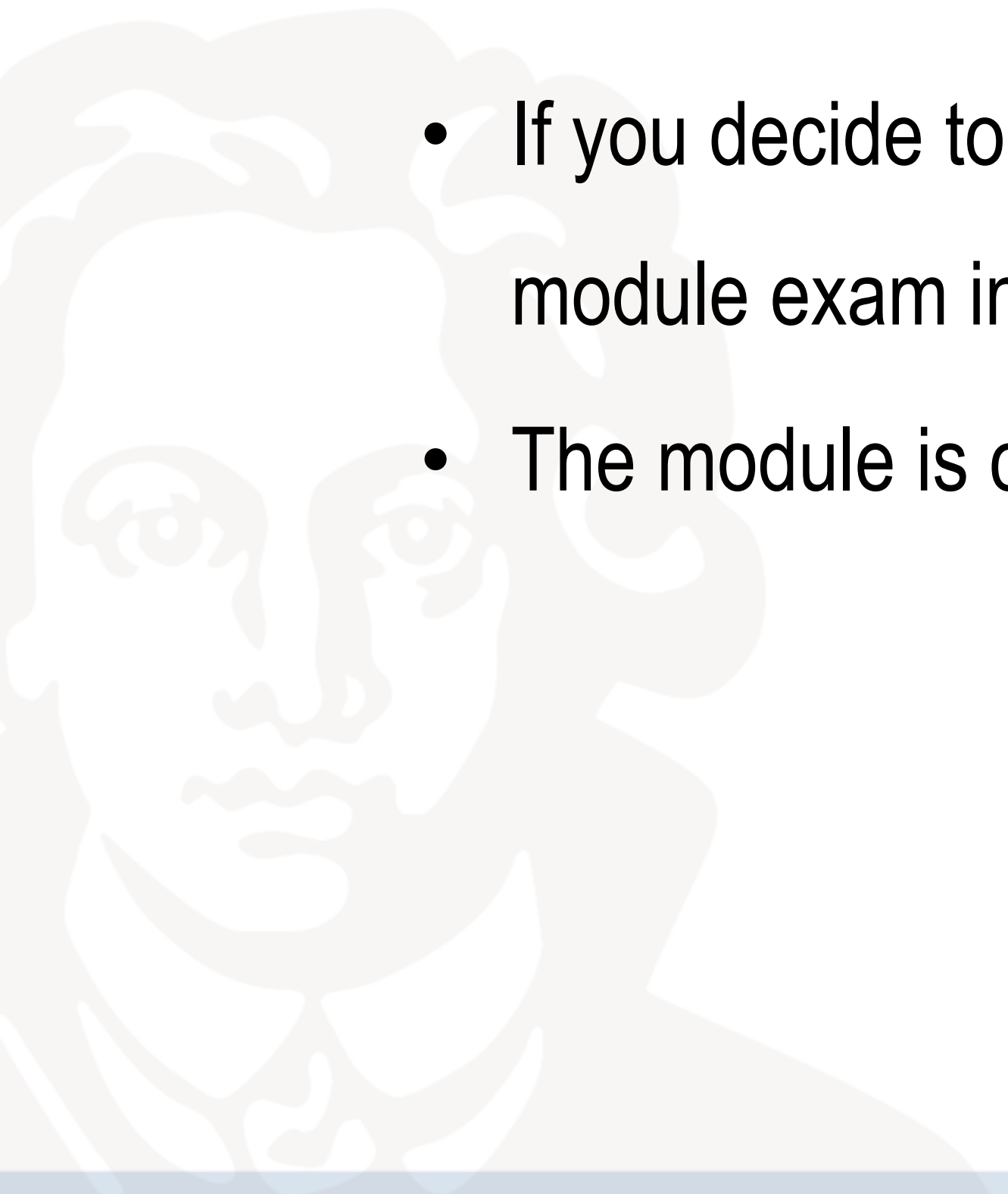
- You bring the module sheet to the study day. Please note that there is a small part that must be signed by the employer. You are only allowed to participate in the study day when you have completed your internship and the module sheet is signed by the employer. The lecturer will sign the module sheet and hand it in to the examination office.



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module E2: Practicing Research on Democracy: Research Seminar

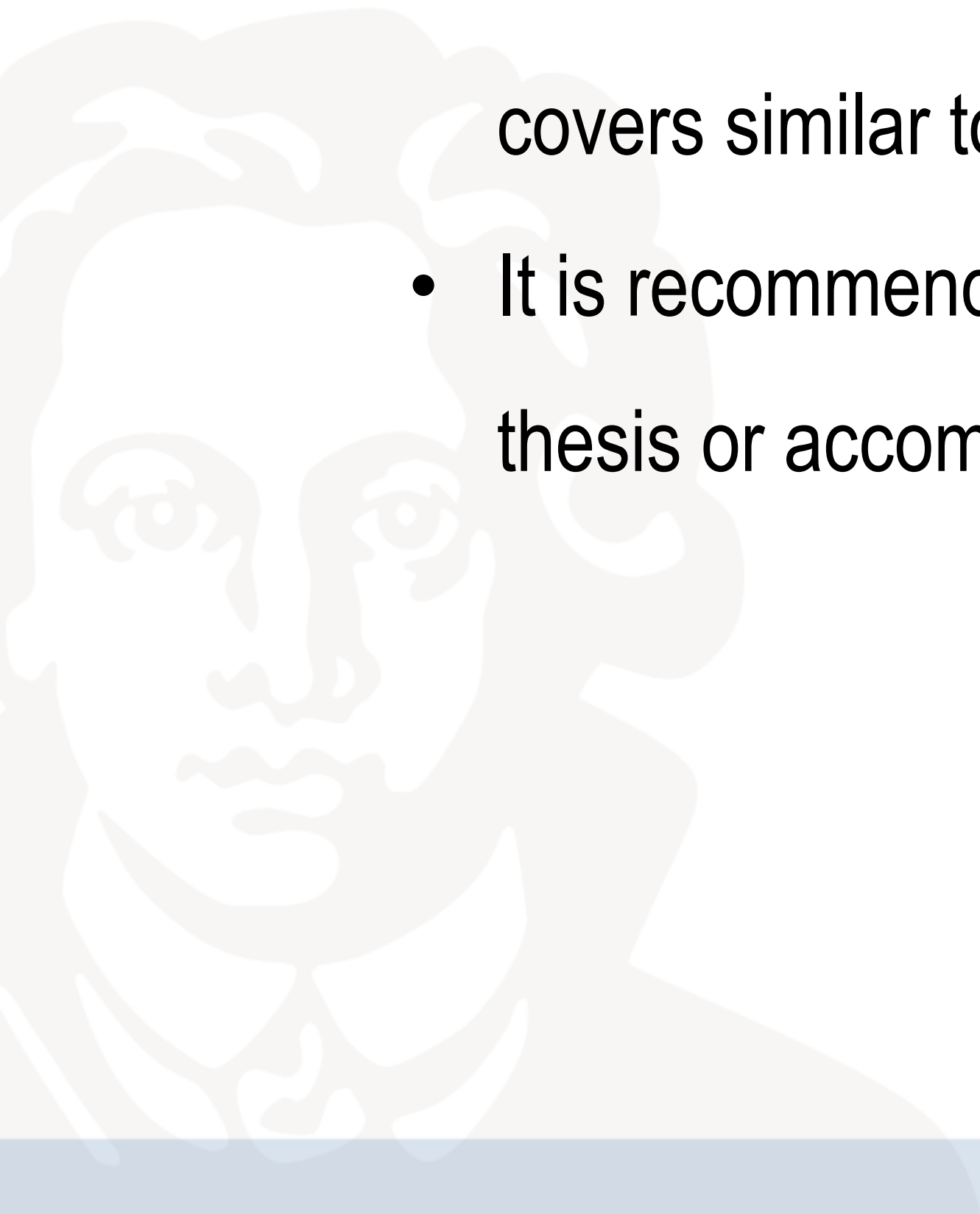
- In the module E2 you have to take a course with 4 SWS.
- If you choose a course with 4 SWS in one semester, you will take the module exam in this course.
- If you decide to take a course over two semesters (with part 1 and part 2) you will do the module exam in part 2 of the course.
- The module is completed with 14 CP.



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module F: Colloquium, thesis and defense

- In the colloquium, you only take part in the course and receive 3 CP for this.
- It is advisable to take the colloquium with the person with whom you are also writing your master's thesis. If this person does not offer a colloquium, it is best to go to a person who covers similar topics.
- It is recommended to take the colloquium either in the semester before writing the Master's thesis or accompanying the writing of the Master's thesis.



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module F: Colloquium, thesis and defense

- You will receive 3 CP for the "oral examination". This is the oral defense of your master thesis.
- You will arrange the date for the defense of your master thesis with your supervisor after the correction of your master thesis.
- You will receive a total of 26 CP for your Master's thesis.
- You can officially register your Master's thesis when 56 CP have been successfully completed and accounted for.
- You will independently find a supervisor for the Master's thesis.

4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

Module F: Colloquium, thesis and defense

- You can look for the secondary supervision yourself. You can also ask the examination office to assign you a second supervisor.
- You can find information about the groups of people who are authorized to supervise [here](#).
- You can find the form for registering your Master's thesis [here](#). The form must be submitted to the Examinations Office.
- You have 5 months from the date of registration at the Examinations Office to submit the thesis to the Examinations Office. You may hand it in after two and a half months at the earliest.

4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

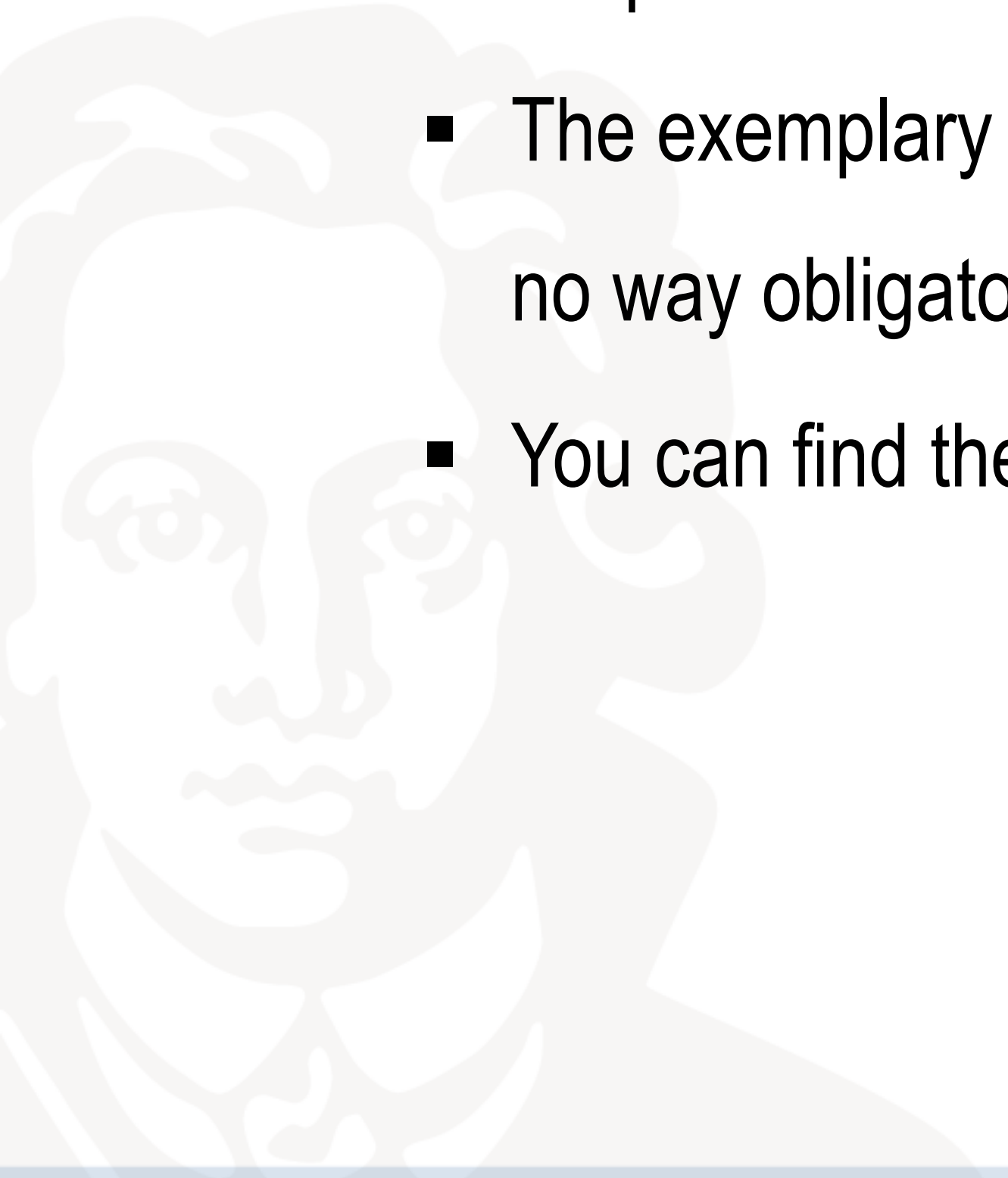
Module F: Colloquium, thesis and defense

- The length of the master thesis is about 20.000 words.
- Under the following [link](#) you will find again collected all information on the topic of theses.



4. Structure of the degree programme in Comparative Democracy

- The exemplary study plan
 - Proposal for the organization of the studies in standard period of study
 - The exemplary study plan is only one of many possibilities to organize the studies and is in no way obligatory.
 - You can find the exemplary study plan [here](#).



5. The course catalogue

The course catalogue is divided into the modules of the program. Under the modules you will then find all the assigned courses from which you can choose. In the course descriptions you will then find the exact dates, contents and all essential information.



6. Course registration

All information will be made available at the following [link](#).



7. Electronic Exam Registration

- The electronic exam registration always takes place at the end of the lecture time. Dates will be announced on the website and via E-Mail.
- You can register via QIS/LSF under the following links:
 - My functions -> Exam administration -> Exam registration and deregistration.
- Examinations that must be registered for are: Module exams and participation certificates. Detailed instructions can be found under the following [link](#).
- Furthermore, you decide the module assignment during the electronic exam registration, if a course is assigned to several modules.
- The electronic registration is obligatory for all students!

For all questions regarding the organization of your studies, you can contact the Student Counseling Service:

**BA programs in Political Science and Sociology (HF and NF),
MA programs, internship counseling, master's admission, maternity leave counseling**

Alexander Simon

Studienfachberatung.fb03@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

PEG 2.G 133

069/798-36596

Please note the current office hours and telephone consultation times on the [homepage!!!](#)

We wish you a good start to your studies!

