



Sommersemester 2016

Hauptseminar internationale und europäische Politik V

Theories of International Organizations

Abstract: International organizations have become essential components of governance beyond the nation state. They help states coordinate their policies, solve cooperation problems and advance national interests. In fact, international organizations have gained authority and have to a greater extent become autonomous actors in global governance. Yet, there is controversy over the effectiveness of international organizations in the academic literature. Likewise, the rise in authority of international organizations comes along with legitimacy problems: International organizations regulate ever more issue areas and encroach ever more deeply upon the formerly domestic realm of states; at the same time, however, they frequently fail to do justice to commonly accepted standards of good governance, especially democracy and the rule of law. The seminar examines the purposes and challenges of international organizations from the perspectives of different theoretical and conceptual approaches. It abstains from discussing theories and concepts in the abstract, however, but applies them to empirical cases from different issue areas including security (e.g. United Nations), trade (e.g. World Trade Organization), development (e.g. World Bank) and human rights (e.g. Council of Europe).

Credits: 8 ECTS
Date: Thursday, 08:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Room: F21/02.41
Language: English

Language of instruction: English; discussions and presentations will be held in English unless all participants agree to change to German. Essays may be submitted in either English or German language.

Admission conditions: This is a Master-level course open to students of the MA program in Political Science as well as other Political Science programs (Hauptstudium Diplom, Wahlpflichtfach, Magister-Nebenfach). Other students are welcome if their knowledge of international politics so warrants.

Participants are expected to

- attend the seminar regularly and participate in seminar discussions
- read the compulsory literature
- act as a discussant and provide feedback to other students' presentations

To obtain a certificate participants have also to

- give a **presentation** of about 15 minutes
 - topic, research question and outline are to be discussed with me at least one week prior to the presentation
 - the presentation may include a short handout
 - the presentation includes a powerpoint presentation
- write an **essay** ('Hausarbeit') of about twenty pages (12 point font size, 1.5 space, 2cm margin) excluding title page, abstract, literature, and possible annexes
 - The long essay examines an aspect of the seminar in a theory-/concept-based way, preferably the subject of the presentation
 - topic, research question and outline are to be discussed with me at least three weeks before submission of the long essay is due
 - due 30 September 2016

The final mark is calculated as follows:

- 30% presentation
- 70% essay