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Summer Term 2017

Seminar (BA) zur internationalen und europäischen Politik:

## **Foreign Policy in a Changing World and Times of Crisis**

Credits: **6 ECTS**  
Date: **Thursday 12:00h – 14:00h**  
Room: **F21/02.31**

According to many scholars and public view, the world today is in disarray and a more dangerous place than a couple of years ago. This is not only because of globalisation and the changing international environment after September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, but also a result of global climate change, transnational terrorism, asymmetric and civil wars as well as the growing antagonism between world powers such as the US, Russia and China. Any well-informed citizen, despite being increasingly subject to alternative facts and possibly fake news, may ask questions such as: Why does North Korea as a poor country need nuclear weapons? Why did Russia launch a surprise coup to take Crimea? Why does the civil war in Syria last so long and how could a terrorist organisation successfully establish a quasi-state. What role do conflict resources and external actor play in this regard?

These and other questions of contemporary foreign policy, security issues and international crises have been in the media for a few years by now. Many answers given are sometimes more and sometimes less convincing – sometimes even reminding of saloon debates. Answers often differ according to the political affiliation and hidden agendas of the respective journalists, editors, commentators and experts. To evaluate answers to questions with a foreign policy character, students need reliable tools to judge on the validity of the claims made and to reconstruct the line of argument that underpins a certain conclusion.

This seminar is designed as an introduction to academic foreign policy and security studies. In general, the study of foreign policy is a particular theme of political science, located at the intersection between Public Policy and International Relations. Studying Foreign Policy has a longstanding and prominent place in political thinking. Traditional historiography and political philosophy have always focused on events related to peace and war, therefore paying special attention to diplomatic history and military conflict. However, foreign policy studies do not necessarily focus on issues of so-called high politics only. Economic and environmental issues, for instance, can be subject of foreign policy as well.

The aim of this seminar is to help students acquire a sound understanding of key approaches to foreign policy studies. Students are urged to exercise their theoretical and methodological skills through a series of contemporary case studies and to disentangle the structure of arguments that have led to different conclusions of what has actually happened in international politics. Successful

students will have an ability to analyse, discuss and apply their new skills to foreign policy case studies in a telling and theoretically informed manner by the end of this course.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- The working language of this course is English. Presentations and coursework must be completed in English.
- Sufficient basic knowledge of foreign policy is necessary to successfully participate in this course. A previous participation in the introductory lecture (Einführungsvorlesung) or an equivalent is therefore required.
- Regular attendance as well as reading and knowledge of the required texts is expected.
- To obtain a certificate, participants will have to give a presentation and write a term paper (ca. 5.000 words).
- Please note: The number of participants is limited. Student registration via FlexNow! is required: Registration opens on 19/04/2017 (at 8:00 a.m.). If you have further questions on issues concerning exams, registration and deregistration, please contact our secretary Claudia Genslein (claudia.genslein@uni-bamberg.de or during office hours in F21/03.18).

## Course Outline

- |    | <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u>  |
|----|-------------|---|
| 1. | 27.04.2017  | Introduction to the Seminar; Distribution of coursework                   |
| 2. | 04.05.2017  | International Relations and Foreign Policy: Actors, Instruments and Norms |

### **Part I: Theories and conceptual Frameworks for Foreign Policy Studies**

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| 3. | 11.05.2017 | (Neo-)Realism: International Anarchy and Power Balancing                                    |
| 4. | 18.05.2017 | Liberalism: Sub-state Actors and Domestic Interest Groups                                   |
| 5. | 25.05.2017 | <i>Holiday - Christi Himmelfahrt</i>  |
| 6. | 01.06.2017 | Social Constructivism: Norms, Identities and Political Culture                              |
| 7. | 08.06.2017 | Foreign Policy Analysis – a decision-makers Approach: Governments and Human decision-making |
| 8. | 15.06.2017 | <i>Holiday - Fronleichnam</i>   |

### **Part II: Case Studies**

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| 9.  | 22.06.2017        | Psycho with a Bomb? North Korea's Nuclear Weapons Programme       |
| 10. | 29.06.2017        | The Crimea Crisis: A tug of war between Russia and Ukraine        |
| 11. | 06.07.2017        | Melting Ice and rising Opportunities: The Scramble for the Arctic |
| 12. | 13.07.2017        | Bloody Minerals: Conflict and war-economy in the DR Congo         |
| 13. | 20.07.2017        | Armageddon in Syria: Civil War and the Rise of a Terrorist State  |
| 14. | 27.07.2017        | Open session (choose a topic) – Resume and Evaluation             |
| →   | <b>30.09.2017</b> | <b>Deadline for submission of Term Papers</b>                     |