



Summer Term 2019

Hauptseminar zu Themen der internationalen Politik:

International Security – Concepts, Policies and Research Design

Language: English
Credits: 8 ECTS
Date: Wednesday, 4.00 -6.00 p.m.
Room: F21/03.81

In this seminar students will make themselves familiar with key concepts and theories of security studies and will learn how to make use of them when preparing their seminar essays. In the first part of the seminar, students will get to know various concepts and theories that have shaped the field of security studies in the past decades. We will explore what security means to different scholars and practitioners and we will get to know the key assumptions of securitization theory. We will apply the security dilemma concept to inter-state and intra-state conflicts. We will familiarize ourselves with democratic peace theory and the concept of security communities. We will debate the application of organized hypocrisy to UN peacekeeping and will discuss the limits of the liberal approach to peacebuilding. Finally, we will compare criteria to evaluate the legitimacy of humanitarian interventions and explore the reasons for the selective application of humanitarian interventions. In the second part of the seminar, students will present their ideas for their essays and give each other feedback on their ideas for the essays they are expected to write. To prepare students for the presentations we will recap fundamental questions relating to the ingredients of a good research question, the selection of suitable cases, and the choice of suitable theories and concepts.

Language of instruction: English; discussions and presentations will be 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 Political Science MA program and other Political Science programs (Hauptstudium Diplom, Wahlpflichtfach, Magister-Nebenfach). Other students are welcome if they have sufficient knowledge in international politics to meaningfully participate in the seminar.

Participants are expected to

- attend the seminar regularly
- read the texts mentioned as 'Required Reading'
- participate in seminar discussions

To obtain a certificate participants have to

- give a **presentation** of about 15 minutes
 - the topic is the essay they intend to write
 - the presentation should include a powerpoint presentation
- write an **essay** ('Hausarbeit') of about 25 pages (12 point font size, 1.5 space, 2cm margin) excluding title page, literature, and possible annexes
 - the essay examines an aspect of the seminar in a theory-/concept-based way
 - the essay is based on the presentation
 - due 30 September 2019

The final mark is calculated as follows:

- 30% presentation
- 70% essay