

**Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg**

Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics, and Business Administration  
Chair of International Relations (Prof. Dr. Thomas Gehring)

Lecturer: Janina Lang, M.A.

Contact: Janina.lang@uni-bamberg.de

Office hours: Dates to be arranged via email



---

Summer Term 2020

Seminar (BA):

## Foreign Policy & Security Studies

For many years, Realism and Liberalism have dominated the field of IR. However, given the constantly changing nature of the international system many other theoretical approaches and empirical problems have emerged, which challenge this traditional perspective on the global order. Therefore, this course will look at different theoretical approaches, while also focusing on actors and regions that oftentimes are being overlooked in class. How can religious actors influence politics, and what do individuals have to say in international decision-making processes? How do states in Eurasia use their geographic positioning to gain power, and what about regionalism in Africa?

This course aims at creating an enhanced understanding of the differing approaches to IR by providing students with a broad introduction to the study of international politics and security studies. The class will focus on significant themes and debates in the arena of contemporary international affairs while introducing students to a variety of theoretical approaches to understanding these contemporary issues. It will also emphasize case-study analysis, both as a tool for applying theory to the study of real-world events, and also as a tool for evaluating competing theoretical approaches. As so many of the topics studied in this course are the subject of debate (or even controversy) in both national and international arenas, the course relies on active classroom discussion as a means of understanding and evaluating all sides of each issue. Active engagement by the students will be necessary and is expected.

By the end of this course, students will:

- 1) Gain an in-depth knowledge of the theoretical basis of foreign policy and security studies
- 2) Develop an understanding of the main concepts and terminology of international policies
- 3) Understand and independently analyze modern security challenges
- 4) Be able to identify current trends in international relations
- 5) Be able to conduct independent research

**Date:** Thursdays, 14:00–16:00 c.t.

**Room:** F21 03.03

**Lecturer:** Janina Lang, M.A.

**ECTS:** 6

### Eligibility Requirements:

- The working language of this course is English. Presentations and coursework must also be completed in English.
- In order to have sufficient basic knowledge of foreign policy previous participation in the introductory lecture (Einführungsvorlesung) or an equivalent is required.
- Regular attendance and knowledge of the required texts shall be expected.
- To obtain a certificate, participants will have to give a presentation in class and write a term paper (ca. 5.000 words).

**Please note:** The number of participants is limited. Student registration via FlexNow! is required. In case of problem with FlexNow! please contact Ms. Claudia Genslein.

## Course Outline

---

(1) 23.04.2020 Introduction

### *Theoretical Approaches*

(2) 30.04.2020 Post-Colonialism  
(3) 07.05.2020 Feminism  
(4) 14.05.2020 Historical Institutionalism  
(5) 21.05.2020 No Class

### *Focus: Actors*

(6) 28.05.2020 Religious Groups as Political Actors – The Post-Conflict Management in Bosnia-Herzegovina  
(7) 04.06.2020 Individuals in IR– Lady Di, Rupert Murdoch & Bill Gates  
(8) 11.06.2020 No Class  
(9) 18.06.2020 Corporations in IR – From Blackrock to Blackwater

### *Focus: Regions*

#### I) Eurasia

(10) 25.06.2020 Multi-vectoral Foreign Policy – Kazakhstan  
(11) 02.07.2020 Frozen Conflicts – Nagorno Karabakh  
(12) 09.07.2020 Regional Hegemony – Turkey

#### II Africa

(13) 16.07.2020 Regionalism – The African Union  
(14) 23.07.2020 Resource Conflicts& War Economics – Blood Diamonds

**30.09.2020 Deadline Term Paper**