



Summer Term 2020

Hauptseminar zu Themen der internationalen Politik:

US Foreign Policy

Language: English
Credits: 8 ECTS
Date: Wednesday, 12:00 – 14:00

United States (US) foreign policy has many continuities but it also oscillates between isolationism and interventionism and between unilateralism and multilateralism. In this seminar we will examine which factors influence US foreign policy. We will do so on the basis of established foreign policy theories and by studying empirical cases from different issue areas. We will first concern ourselves with the institutional foundations of US foreign policy. Next, we will concentrate on neorealist, liberal and constructivist foreign policy theories and apply the three theories to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. In the main part of the seminar we will discuss US foreign policy in selected issue areas (trade, environment, security, human rights), drawing on the insights derived from different foreign policy theories. Finally, we will assess and contextualize President Trump's foreign policy.

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.

To obtain a certificate participants have to write an essay ('Hausarbeit') of about 20 pages (12 point font size, 1.5 space, 2cm margin) excluding title page, literature, and possible annexes). The essay is due on 30 September 2020.

Online teaching: Information on how the course will be taught will be provided shortly.