



Prof. Dr. Monika Heupel

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Winter Term 2020/21

Hauptseminar zu Themen der internationalen Politik:

International Security – Concepts, Policies and Research Design

Language: English

Credits: 8 ECTS

Date: Wednesday, 12 – 14

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. 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. Students will also have the opportunity to 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 their essays, we will recap fundamental questions relating to the ingredients of a good research question, the selection of 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 15 minutes
 - topics will be allocated in the first session
 - the presentation should include a powerpoint presentation
- write an **essay** ('Hausarbeit') of 20 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
 - due 12 April 2021

Online teaching:

Classroom teaching is currently not possible. The seminar is therefore taught online.

The **Virtual Campus** is extremely important for you:

- You find the reading material of the course in the VC.
- If I want to contact you, I will use the email distribution list that comprises the email addresses with which you have registered in the VC.
- In the VC Forum you can communicate with fellow seminar participants.
- You will upload your essay in the VC.

Plenary meetings will be held as **Zoom** meetings. You can download the free version of Zoom, but you do not have to. Prior to the seminar, I will send you an email with the link to the Zoom meetings. When the plenary meeting starts (Wednesday, 12:15), you click on the link, or copy and paste the link into the indicated window, to join the meeting.

My online **office hours** during winter term are on Thursday between 10 and 11 am. I use **Skype business** for the office hours. You can download Skype business for free from here: <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/rz/dienstleistungen/tele/video/skype-for-business/>. You can contact me via Skype business by typing in my email (monika.heupel@uni-bamberg.de) or my name and then clicking on Videochat. You do not need to make an appointment for the office hours.

If you encounter any problems using Zoom or Skype business, please ask your fellow students for help. You can for instance use the VC forum to contact your fellow students. If you need further help, please contact Hannah O'Neill (hannah-rebecca.o-neill@stud.uni-bamberg.de) or Joke Reuvers (joke-linda-marion.reuvers@stud.uni-bamberg.de). If you do not have a computer or if you have no or only limited internet access, please contact me.