

Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics, and Business Administration
Chair of International & European Politics (Prof. Dr. Monika Heupel)

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Office hours: By appointment



Winter Term 2020/2021

Seminar (BA):

Foreign Policy: International Environmental Politics

The environment has transcended global politics as one of the most critical issues of our generation. With the growing threat of climate change, natural disasters, and environmental degradation, the international community has taken major steps to demand urgent action and facilitate cooperation for a sustainable future. Many states, however, have been criticized for their slow response and hostile resistance, hindering the potential for progress. As a result, a new field of non-state political actors have taken the initiative to champion reforms and innovation around the world. In order to understand International Environmental Politics, it is necessary to discuss how it as a subfield of International Relations differs from traditional Foreign Policy. Therefore, students will be expected to engage regularly with academic and interdisciplinary research to develop a broad overview of the field as well as various key issue areas. The aim of this seminar is two-fold: To introduce various theoretical approaches and concepts relating to International Environmental Politics, while preparing students with the analytical skills to conduct their own research on the topic.

By the end of this course, students will:

- 1) Gain an in-depth knowledge of the theoretical basis of International Environmental Politics (IEP) from the perspective of International Relations
- 2) Develop an understanding of the main concepts and terminology of international environmental security
- 3) Understand and independently analyse modern environmental challenges
- 4) Be able to identify current trends in IEP
- 5) Be able to prepare independent research

Dates: Thursdays 12:00 - 14:00

Classroom: via Zoom

Lecturer: Caiden Heaphy 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 submit a portfolio consisting of two short essays and a research design (Total = 5.000 words +/- 10%).

Please note: The number of participants is limited. Student registration via FlexNow! is required. Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, and the desire to insure the health and safety of students as well as the lecturer, this class will be taught entirely online via Zoom. Students are nonetheless expected to participate regularly in class discussions and to submit the mandatory assignments in fulfilment of the class requirements.

Short Course Outline

[1]	Nov. 5 th , 2020	Introduction to Course & Overview
[2]	Nov. 12 th , 2020	<i>In-Person Meeting</i>
[3]	Nov. 19 th , 2020	Conventional Theoretical Approaches
[4]	Nov. 26 th , 2020	Mainstream Theoretical Approaches
[5]	Dec. 3 rd , 2020	Radical Theoretical Approaches
<i>Short Essay #1 – “Position Paper” due by 23:59</i>		
[6]	Dec. 10 th , 2020	Defining Environmental Problems
[7]	Dec. 17 th , 2020	Cooperation & International Institutions
----[Christmas Break:]----		
[8]	Jan. 7 th , 2021	Regional Environmental Security: The Middle East
[9]	Jan. 14 th , 2021	Regional Environmental Security: Latin America
<i>Short Essay #2 – “Literature Review” due by 23:59</i>		
[10]	Jan. 21 st , 2021	Non-State Actors: NGOs, TANs, & Popular Movements
[11]	Jan. 28 th , 2021	Non-State Actors: Private Firms, Banks, & City Initiatives
[12]	Feb. 4 th , 2021	Challenges: Disincentives & Scientific Scepticism
[13]	Feb. 11 th , 2021	Conclusion & Discussion of Final Portfolio Requirements
<i>Short Essay #3 – “Theoretical Discussion” due by 23:59</i>		
	March 31st, 2021	Final Portfolio Due

Additional Details

Participation Requirements:

Participants are expected to attend the course regularly. Knowledge of the required readings is essential to participate in the class discussions. In addition, every student is required to give a PowerPoint presentation according to the QT-Format¹ of approx. 15 minutes, and will be expected to participate as a discussant for a fellow student. Due to the virtual nature of the course, students will be heavily encouraged to engage in regular discussion with one another, and to provide feedback to promote interaction. Although it is not always possible to keep the camera on due to unreliable internet connections, it is a valuable tool for engagement in a virtual classroom; therefore, it is very much encouraged. Students must nonetheless provide their name as their ID, so that they might be consistently identifiable throughout the course.

Certification Requirements:

Students are required to hold a PowerPoint presentation on a scientific article relevant to the course description according to the QT-Format described below. In addition, students must submit 3 short essays over the course of the semester, 2 of which will be submitted along with a Research Design as part of the Final Portfolio. To obtain a certificate of completion (6 ECTS) for this course, students must submit a final portfolio of 5.000 words (+/- 10%) consisting of 2 short essays (1500

¹ Please see the Presentation Section for further details.

words each) and a Research Design until **23:59** on **31/03/2021** More details regarding the Final Portfolio will be provided in week 13. The eligibility requirements are mandatory. The final grade is based on the two selected short essays (30% each; 60%) and the Research Design (40%).

Literature:

In the In-Depth Course Outline, students will find a list of mandatory and additional readings assigned for each class. Students are expected to understand and discuss the contents of the mandatory readings as a required component of their presentations and term papers. In addition, all students are expected to engage the materials in class discussions. The literature is available via the *Virtual Campus* and in the University library.

Presentation:

Each student is expected to present an article analysis of approx. 15 minutes in English with PowerPoint slides according to the QT-Format (described below). The article must be academic (published in a peer-reviewed journal) and analyse an issue relating to climate change, sustainability, or energy security from an International Relations, Foreign Policy, or Security Studies perspective. Students should be prepared to justify their article selection if the connection to the class is not clear. It would be ideal if students selected an article that is also linked to the week’s discussion. You are asked to speak about your presentation with your lecturer at least one week in advance. Please be prepared for this meeting. Likewise, each student will be assigned to be a discussant for another student’s presentation and will be expected to provide constructive and fair feedback. **Please note:** Presentation must be sent to the Lecturer at latest 1 hour before the course on presentation day so that the slides can be integrated into the main PowerPoint! Students who, due to unstable internet connection or technological difficulties, are unable to give their presentation during class, are required to film their presentation so that it can be shared on *Virtueller Campus*. In such cases, students must submit the filmed presentation to the Lecturer by the end of the day (23:59) on the date of the assigned presentation

QT-Format: Please structure your analysis accordingly.

Title Page	Title of article; name of Author(s) & where they work; Title of Journal & respective Citation
Research Question	What is the primary research question of the article you have selected?
Thesis	What is the author’s primary finding/answer to their research question?
Case Study	Which case stud(y/ies) does the author select?
Context	How does the author connect their case selection to the broader Research Question? Why is this case study particularly important? Are there any other contextual factors (political, historical, social, economic, etc.) that are relevant for understanding this case study?
Concepts	Define the primary theory used by the author; Define the primary methods used by the author; Identify the key concepts that the author “tests” in their research that are directly related to their Research Question; How does the author define & measure each concept? Where does the data come from?
2-3x (FAS) (Finding: Analysis: Synthesis)	F inding: Identify a key result the author observed in the data; A nalysis: Explain briefly what this data means in the context of the case study; S ynthesis: How does this Finding connect back to the Research Question?
Critique	Explain the limitations of the research design and/or conclusions;
Conclude	Identify questions that result from their research, and in which direction future research could go; What is your overall assessment of the article?
Connect	Identify a Current Event that is represented by a single photo/picture; provide a short summary (~3-5 sentences), and explain how your selected article might provide insights into how you would conduct a research analysis of case study: What research questions does it create? How might theoretical concepts or methods be appropriate for your case study? Etc.

Short Essays:

Over the course of the semester, students will be required to submit 3 short essays of **1500 words each** (+/-10%; 1350 – 1650 words). Students must submit the paper via *Virtueller Campus* until the specified deadline. Late papers will not be accepted. At the end of the semester, students may select 2 out of the 3 short essays to submit as part of their Final Portfolio. The initial grade received for each selected short essay will be included as 30% of the student's final grade for the Portfolio. Students will **not** have the opportunity to rewrite their short essays before their submission in the Final Portfolio, and are therefore encouraged to select the two highest grades. Each short essay has a different prompt, however, students are allowed but not required to use the same topic for each essay.

Short Essay #1: Position Paper [Due 03.12.2020 by 23:59]

Write a Position Paper using scientific evidence to answer the following question: *How is [BLANK] relevant to International Relations?* The topic you choose must be an issue relating to the environment, climate change, or natural resources. You are encouraged to select a topic you are less familiar with, so that you can use the opportunity to learn more about it. In the paper, it is important that you first define the issue, and explain any related terminology. Then you should put the issue into perspective for me, for example, by determining how common or widespread the issue is. Finally, you should provide 2 to 3 detailed arguments answering the prompt, using scientific data from one or more case study since 2010. You must also provide a Bibliography including at least 5 primary sources. Additional sources, including from newspapers or academic journals are also encouraged.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to the following: *Changing weather patterns, global warming, rising sea levels; Stratospheric ozone depletion; Air pollution and acid rain; Sustainable transport and infrastructure; Persistent organic pollutants; Hazardous wastes; Energy; Water, rivers and wetlands; Arctic ice; Pollution and management of oceans and seas; Fisheries and marine mammals; Biodiversity, migratory species and natural heritage; Deforestation; Desertification; Food, fresh water, and agriculture.*

Short Essay #2: Literature Review [Due 14.01.2021 by 23:59]

Write a Literature Review relating to a specific topic in International Environmental Politics. The aim of this short essay is two-fold; to provide an overview of how other researchers have addressed your specific topic, and to outline the parameters for a relevant research question of your choice. Therefore, your topic must be specific enough to detect relevant literature, so as to not merely provide an overview of the general subject. In addition, it is not sufficient in this paper to simply present 3-5 other articles on the subject, but to identify trends and gaps in the research. You should consider 3 different *approaches* as to specific *articles*.

For example, say you are interested in how countries solve conflicts over water scarcity. You may find that there is a lot of research on the topic of water scarcity and conflict, however, the research primarily focuses on case studies in relatively rich democracies. You might also find that those that do consider poorer, less democratic countries only focus on single, historical case studies. This would suggest that there is a gap in the literature on how similar, recent conflicts were solved in poorer, less democratic countries on an aggregate level (i.e., we need a comparison of more cases involving poorer, weak democracies!).

You might also find trends and gaps relating to sample sizes or data types, theoretical approaches, methods, etc. It is important to acknowledge the findings these approaches have, while recognizing their potential limitations. You should conclude your Literature Review by formulating a relevant research question that is justified by the existing research on the topic. You must include a Bibliography including 3 to 5 academic articles.

Short Essay #3: Theoretical Discussion [Due 11.02.2021 by 23:59]

Write an essay relating to a specific topic in International Environmental Politics, and provide a detailed discussion of the strength and limitations of at least two different theoretical approaches. Students are expected to look closely as to how the different theories would define the particular issue, which actors they would consider as relevant, and why. It is absolutely critical here that students engage directly with the theory from its key authors, and that they demonstrate an understanding of the depth each theory provides. Students are of course not limited to the theories discussed in class, but are welcomed to engage with new texts not included in the readings. You must include a Bibliography including 3 to 5 academic articles

Final Portfolio (Seminararbeit):

Over the course of the semester, students will be required to submit **3 short essays of 1500 words each** (+/-10%), including a Position Paper, a Literature Review, and a Theoretical Discussion. The subject matter of each paper will be left to the discretion of the student so long as they can sufficiently justify its relevance to the class and fulfil the requirements of the prompt. Of the 3 short essays, only 2 short essays need to be submitted alongside the Research Design (2000 words +/-10%). as part of the Final Portfolio. Only the grades of the 2 selected short essays will be combined with the grade for the Research Design resulting in the final grade for the seminar. Students will not be given a new score for their selected short essays. Further details for the Final Portfolio will be discussed in week 13 of the semester. The submission deadline is **March 31st, 2021**. Papers submitted after this date will automatically incur a penalty of -0.3 points for every day after the deadline. Please note that you have to submit your paper electronically using *Virtueller Campus*, the University of Bamberg online learning platform. Only Portfolios submitted as a *.pdf* file will be accepted. Under **no** circumstances will plagiarism be tolerated.

Grade Breakdown:

Short Essay (30%)	}	Please Note: The grade for the Final Portfolio will be determined in part by the grades of only 2 short essays. Students are nonetheless required to submit 3 short essays by their respective deadlines to obtain 6 ECTS for this Seminar.
Short Essay (30%)		
Short Essay (0%)		
+ Research Design (40%)		
Final Portfolio Grade		= 5000 words +/- 10%; not including Bibliography

Estimated Workload for this course (6 ECTS):

Course Attendance:	28 hours
Required Readings:	28 hours
Preparation of the Presentation:	10 hours
Final Portfolio	114 hours
Total:	180 hours

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the seminar, please feel free to contact the lecturer.