

Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

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

Lecturer: Janina Heaphy, M.A.

Contact: Janina.lang@uni-bamberg.de

Office hours: Dates to be arranged via Email



Winter Term 2021

Seminar (BA):

Foreign Policy & Security Studies **- The Roots of Conflict**

When talking about conflict, most people picture the classical image of two states challenging each other's armies; looking at modern politics, however, it often times seems that reality is more complex than that. Al-Qaeda posing an international terrorist threat, climate change triggering mass migration and ethnic tensions, the international community intervening in civil wars; the list of events, which do not fit into the classical picture, is long and shows ultimately the diverse roots of conflict.

This course aims at creating an enhanced understanding of the various causes of conflict 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 as a tool for evaluating competing theoretical approaches. As many of the topics studied in this course are subject to 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 the issues at hand.

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 national and international security
- 3) Understand and independently analyze modern security challenges
- 4) Be able to identify current trends in security studies
- 5) Be able to conduct independent research

Date: Thursdays, 12:00–16:00 c.t.

Room: F21/03.02

Lecturer: Janina Heaphy, M.A.

ECTS: 6

Eligibility Requirements:

- The working language of this course is English. Presentations and coursework must 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.

Course Outline

- | | | |
|-----|------------|---|
| (1) | 21.10.2021 | Introduction
Realism |
| (2) | 28.10.2021 | Liberalism
Constructivism |
| (3) | 04.11.2021 | Homework – Elaboration of Research Design |

Case Studies on Foreign Policy and Security Issues - Sources of conflict

- | | | |
|-----|------------|--|
| (4) | 11.11.2021 | Interstate War
Environment& Resources |
| (5) | 18.11.2021 | Insurgencies & Coups
Humanitarian Interventions |
| (6) | 25.11.2021 | Ethnical tensions
International Terrorism |
| (7) | 02.12.2021 | How to Write an Essay
Wrap Up and Discussion of Term Papers |
| | 31.03.2022 | Deadline Term Paper |