

**Prof. Dr. Monika Heupel**

Professur für internationale und europäische Politik

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monika.heupel@uni-bamberg.de



Hauptseminar zu Themen der internationalen Politik

## **Norms in International Relations**

Winter term 2021/22

**Language:** English  
**Credits:** 8 ECTS  
**Date:** Wednesday, 4 – 6 p.m.

Whether the course will be taught in-class or online has not yet been decided.

### **Outline:**

Norms can have important constitutive and regulative effects in international relations: They constitute states' and other actors' identities and preferences, and they constrain their leeway by making norm-violating behavior costly. This seminar investigates the many different ways in which norms can shape international politics. We get to know basic concepts such as the norm life cycle, norm emergence and norm socialization. We ask how norms change over time, how they diffuse across space, and how they adapt to different contexts. We also concern ourselves with processes of norm contestation and norm regress. Empirically, the seminar draws primarily on examples from the issues areas human rights, security and development.

Language of instruction: English; discussions and presentations will be held in English unless all participants agree to change to German. Essays may be submitted in either English or German language.

## **Requirements:**

Admission conditions: This is a Master-level course open to students of the MA program in Political Science as well as other Political Science programs. Other students are welcome if their knowledge of international politics so warrants.

Participants are expected to:

- Read the required reading
- Attend the meetings regularly and participate in seminar discussions

To obtain a certificate participants also have to:

- Give a presentation
  - Topic, research question and outline should be discussed with me at least one week prior to the presentation.
  - The presentation should include a powerpoint presentation.
  - The presentation should be 15 minutes, the subsequent discussion should be 30 minutes.
- Write an essay ('Hausarbeit') of about 20 pages (12 point font size, 1.5 space, 2cm margin) excluding title page, abstract, literature, and possible annexes
  - The essay examines an issue of the seminar in a theory-/concept-based way.
  - The essay will use a qualitative method.
  - The essay is due on 25 April 2022 and is to be submitted via the VC.