

**Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg**

Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics, and Business  
Administration

Chair of International Relations (Prof. Dr. Thomas Gehring)

Lecturer: **Dr. Manuel Becker**

Contact: manuel.becker@uni-bamberg.de

Office hours: Wednesdays 4:15 – 5:15 p.m., dates to be arranged



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Summer Term 2022

Hauptseminar (MA):

## Theories of International Institutions

This seminar introduces into key concepts and theoretical instruments for the analysis of international institutions, including their design, operation and effects. Against the backdrop of progressing globalization and a reduced capacity of the modern nation state to govern an increasing number of issues independently, international institutions coordinate action of states and private actors. Thereby, they produce collective goods and exercise international authority. The lively research on international institutions has addressed an increasing number of aspects and problems of governance beyond the nation state, its opportunities and limits, as well as its forms and effects. These rationalist and constructivist strands of institutional theory expand and complement the findings of cooperation theory. Based on key texts, we will examine questions such as: How must international institutions be designed in order to tackle international problems? Why and with which consequences do actors delegate decision-making competencies to agents? Which role do private actors play in global governance? What are the consequences of the proliferation and increasing overlap of separately established international institutions? These and other topics are elaborated by participants based on a limited number of texts that also provide the foundation for short essays.

Participants shall become acquainted with key texts and theoretical concepts of modern rationalist and constructivist institutional analysis. They shall acquire the ability to discuss and reflect the advantages, limits and problems of these approaches.

**Date:** Wednesdays, 2:00–4:00 p.m. (c.t.)

**Room:** F21/03.83

**Credits:** 8

**Language of instructions:** English; discussions will be held in English unless all (!) participants agree to switch to German. Essays may be submitted in English or in German language.

**Admission conditions:** This is a Master-level course open to students of the MA programme in Political Science. Other students are welcome if their knowledge of International Relations so warrants.

**Requirements for participation in the seminar:** Regular attendance and active participation in seminar discussions: All participants are required to prepare themselves for every class by reading the compulsory literature. As a result, everyone will be able to participate actively in plenary discussions.

**Requirements for Obtaining the Credit Points:**

- **Presentation:** Participants are required to give a presentation of about 20 min introducing a seminar topic (preferably on a topic chosen for an essay). The presentation must be discussed with the instructor at least one week prior to the presentation.
- **Preparation of three essays:** Participants are required to submit three short essay (5-6 pages) that summarize the core argument(s) of the texts related to the session, relate the different arguments or components of the texts to each other and discuss the questions provided in the VC. **Essay 1 is to be chosen from sessions 2-5, essay 2 from sessions 6-8, and essay 3 from sessions 9-13. Essays have to be uploaded to the VC and are due by the end of the day the topic is discussed in the seminar!!!**

## Structure of the Seminar

27.04.2022	Introduction to the Seminar
	<b><i>1. General Concepts and the Role of International Institutions</i></b>
04.05.2022	Problems of International Cooperation and the Function of International Regimes
11.05.2022	The rational Design of International Institutions
18.05.2022	The Evolution of International Norms
25.05.2022	International Authority
	<b><i>2. International Organizations and Delegation</i></b>
01.06.2022	The Role of International Organizations
08.06.2022	Delegation, Principal-Agent Relations, and Accountability
15.06.2022	Credible Commitment and the Reason for Independent Regulatory Agencies and Courts
	<b><i>3. Selected Issues of Global Governance</i></b>
22.06.2022	Emerging Powers and the (imperfect) adaptations of international institutions
29.06.2022	The Role of Private Authority in Global Governance
06.07.2022	Regimecomplexes and Interactions among International Institutions
13.07.2022	Withdrawing from International Institutions
20.07.2022	Path-dependence and International Institutions
27.07.2022	Conclusion and Evaluation