

## **Masterseminar International and European Politics II**

### **Theories of International Institutions**

#### **Summer Term 2023**

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. 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 shall examine issues such as: How must international institutions be designed in order to tackle international problems? How do negotiations proceed? 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 and Room:** Tuesday, 12.00 – 14.00 p.m. in F 21/02.31

**ECTS:** 8

**Language of instruction:** English; discussions and presentations will be held in English. Essays may be submitted in either in English or in German language.

**Conditions:** This is a Master-level course open to students of the MA programme in Political Science. Other students are accepted, if their knowledge of international politics and their ability to discuss concepts of institutional theory so warrants.

**Requirements for participation in the seminar:** Regular attendance and active participation in seminar discussions: All participants are required to prepare for every class by reading one compulsory text. 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.
- **Submission 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 to the questions provided in the VC. All articles are available on the VC. You are not supposed to look for additional literature or test a theory empirically. **Essay 1 is to be chosen from sessions 2-5, essay 2 from sessions 6-9, and essay 3 from sessions 10-12. Essays have to be uploaded to the VC and are due by the end of the day the topic is discussed in the seminar!!!**