



PWB-IE-PS: Introduction to International and European Politics

Term:	Summer 2023	CPs:	5 ECTS
Schedule:	Wednesdays 08:00 – 10:00	Room:	F21/02.41
Lecturer:	Christopher Kearney, M.Sc.		
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Office Hours:	By appointment	Office:	F21/03.31

Course Description

This unit is designed to complement or accompany the introductory lecture on global politics. As such, it is intended for students at the beginning of their politics degree, or for students of other subjects combining their main subject with politics. The seminar aims to introduce the main assumptions and theoretical approaches to three areas of the discipline of International Relations: foreign policy, international institutions, and European integration. Students will learn to apply these theories in several group assignments, presentations, and a written portfolio. The seminar will introduce students to the application of international political theory, academic writing, and the study of primary source material.

Assessment

To pass, students need to:

- Give a presentation of about 10-15 mins (*formative – not marked*).
- Submit a portfolio consisting of two papers (max 1,800 words apiece), each on a different topic covered in class.

Please note: The instruction and working language of this course is English. Classes will be held in English. All coursework and assignments *must* be completed in English. Corresponding proficiency in English is therefore required.

Brief Unit Overview

1	19/04/2023	Introduction and Course Overview
2	26/04/2023	Writing Skills

Part I: Foreign Policy

3	03/05/2023	Structural Realism
4	10/05/2023	New Liberalism
5	17/05/2023	Political Culture
	24/05/2023	<i>No class</i>
	31/05/2023	<i>No class</i>
6	07/06/2023	Group Work: The Russo-Ukrainian War

Part II: International Institutions

7	14/06/2023	Liberal Institutionalism & Regime Theory
8	21/06/2023	Game Theory and Institutional Design
9	28/06/2023	Group Assignment: Institutions and Game Theory

Part III: European Integration

10	05/07/2023	Group Work: Structure and Procedures of the EU
11	12/07/2023	Neofunctionalism
12	19/07/2023	Liberal Intergovernmentalism

Essay Due Dates

14/06/2023	Essay I (on a topic from part I)
15/09/2023	Essay II (on a topic from part II <i>or</i> III)

Course Details and Assessment

Teaching Arrangements and Registration

The unit is delivered via weekly seminars. In contrast to lectures, seminars take place in smaller groups and aim to be much more interactive. Your active participation is therefore expected. Each seminar will proceed with the expectation of you having completed that week's reading. Without proper participation and preparation, learning outcomes will be hampered severely.

The number of participants is limited. Student registration via FlexNow! is mandatory. Late registration requires compelling reason and is only possible in consultation with the lecturer. If you have any questions regarding enrolment, and unenrolment, please contact the secretary of the chair, Ms Claudia Genslein (claudia.genslein@uni-bamberg.de).

Literature & Assigned Readings

The required reading for each session is provided for download on the virtual campus platform. Additional readings are listed in this syllabus as a starting point for your essays, many of which are also provided on the platform.

Evaluation and Essay Grading

Throughout this unit, you will need to submit a portfolio of two short essays on two different topics. **The first paper must be submitted by 14/06/2023, the second one by 15/09/2023.**

The first paper is to be written on any topic from part I of class. If this is the first time you submit a paper throughout your studies, it is recommended (but not necessary) to utilize structural realism for your first paper. The choice of topic for the second essay is up to the participants, provided they refer to a topic from part II or III.

Your essay must meet the following criteria:

General Structure

- Comply with the formal requirements. Structure your essay by starting with an introduction where you formulate your puzzle, research question and how you proceed. After the introduction a main part follows, comprising a theoretical argument as well as a short empirical case study. The research question must be answered in the conclusion and the content of the essay should be summarized. Throughout the essay, the reader should make out a common thread.

Introduction and research question

- Outline which question or puzzle you are dealing with and why it is interesting, important, or controversial. Give a brief overview of the structure of your analysis.

Main Body/Analysis

- It is crucial to critically engage with the given academic literature and not simply reproduce its content. When reading the texts, thoughts like 'here is a contradiction!', 'This argument is only valid if one assumes that...,' or 'By applying this argument in that case, one can expect that...,' indicate that you are on the right track. Other good starting points are these basic questions: Who are the central actors? According to which logic do these actors act? Which assumptions are made about the actors? What is the effect of institutions?

Conclusion

- Your conclusion must follow directly from your analysis. You should not introduce new arguments in the final section.

Bibliography & Referencing

- You are free to utilize whichever referencing style you wish, provided you do it consistently. Improper or lack of referencing may be counted as plagiarism. Your essays must use at least five academic sources. Begin your research by carefully reading the bibliography provided. The bibliography should only include sources that have been actually used (i.e. cited).

Formatting

- 1,800 words (without bibliography) (or ca. 5 A4 pages with a 12-point typeface with 1.5 line spacing and approx. 2 cm margins.)
- Use a serif typeface for the body text (e.g., Garamond, Times (New Roman), Baskerville, Georgia, Libertinus) – like this text. Do *not* use a sans-serif font (e.g., Helvetica/Arial, Calibri).
- Referencing may be done either via in-text citations or with footnotes. Do *not* use endnotes. The chosen citation method must be consistent throughout (cf. session on academic writing). A bibliography at the end of the paper is required for either citation style.

If you need further assistance, please feel free to contact your instructor for advice.