

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: Tuesdays 4:15 – 5:15 p.m., dates to be arranged



Winter Term 2021/22

Hauptseminar Internationale und europäische Politik V (MA):

Regime Complexes and Institutional Interactions in Global Governance

International institutions have long been analyzed as if they operate in isolation from each other. However, driven by the growing institutional density within the international system, they increasingly form complexes of overlapping and non-hierarchical institutions that govern particular issue-areas and influence each other. For instance, several institutions deal with intellectual property issues including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). While these institutions partially overlap in their mandates and memberships, they are not hierarchically ordered. These characteristics of regime complexes have important implications and consequences for international cooperation. Therefore, regime complexity constitutes an important part of contemporary research on international institutions. Some authors argue that overlaps among international institutions have negative consequences for cooperation, emphasizing that regime complexes tend to create inter-institutional pathologies, inefficient duplications and regulatory conflicts. Other authors argue that regime complexes have benefits towards a single well-designed international institution, emphasizing that regime complexes tend to develop an institutional division of labour over time.

This seminar introduces participants into key issues of the important research field of international regime complexity. It proceeds in two steps: The first part makes students familiar with the conceptual foundations and theoretical approaches to study regime complexes. The second part applies these approaches to several case studies of regime complexes. Hence, the focus will be on how institutional overlaps influence the strategic behavior of relevant actors (member states and private actors) and how this affects cooperation in the issue areas of security, climate change, trade and environment, intellectual property and global finance.

Date: Thursdays, 10:00–12:00 (c.t.)

Room: F21/02.18 (under reserve)

Credits: 8

Language of instructions: English; discussions will be held in English unless all (!) participants agree to switch to German. Term papers 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:

- **Presentations:** Participants are required to give a presentation that should not be longer than 30 minutes. The presentations must be discussed with the instructor two weeks in advance and are supposed to introduce a seminar topic.
- **Preparation of an Essay:** Participants are required to write a short essay (5-6 pages) within the first part (theorizing regime complexes). The essay should be guided by the questions provided in the Virtual Campus. The deadline for the essay is the day of the session. The essay makes up **33%** of the **final grade**.
- **Preparation of a Term Paper:** Participants are required to write a term paper (15-20 pages). The term paper must be based upon an academic research question and theoretically guided. Merely descriptive papers will not be accepted. The deadline for the term paper is 31 March 2022. The term paper makes up **66%** of the **final grade**.

Structure of the Seminar

21.10.2021	Introduction and Organization of the Seminar
	<i>I. Theorizing Regime Complexes</i>
28.10.2021	Regime Complex as a Concept
04.11.2021	New Options for Strategic Action
11.11.2021	Emerging Powers and the Logic of Institutional Creation in a Fragmented International System
18.11.2021	The Causal Mechanisms of Institutional Interaction
25.11.2021	The Role of Private Organisations in Regime Complexes
02.12.2021	Theorizing (the lack of) inter-institutional cooperation in regime complexes
	<i>II. Methods for researching regime complexes</i>
09.12.2021	Qualitative and Mixed Methods
	<i>III. Case Studies</i>
16.12.2021	The Regime Complex on International Security
13.01.2022	The Regime Complex on Climate Change
20.01.2022	The Regime Complex on Trade and Environment
27.01.2022	The Regime Complex on Intellectual Property
03.02.2022	The Regime Complex on Global Finance
10.02.2022	Evaluation
31.03.2022	Term Paper Deadline