

Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics, and Business Administration
Chair of International Relations (Prof. Dr. Thomas Gehring)

Lecturer: Linda Spielmann, M.A.

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Office hours: Monday, 11.00 – 12.00 or by appointment



Winter Term 2021/22

Seminar (BA):

International Institutions and their Role in Global Governance

ECTS: 6

Date: Monday, 2 – 4 pm (c.t.)

Room: F21/02.55 (depending on the situation)

The globalised world is characterized by an increasing number of transnational challenges and problems like climate change, financial crises or security threats that cannot be solved by national states unilaterally. Therefore, states create international institutions that enable cooperation among them in the international system. Nowadays, almost all areas of international politics are regulated by international institutions and their number and scope continues to expand. However, international institutions are organised in very different ways and show mixed results in achieving their goals.

The aim of this undergraduate seminar is to develop a toolbox that allows students to analyse international institutions and their role in global governance systematically. The seminar is divided into two parts. First, we will focus on different theoretical approaches for the analysis of international institutions. Then, we will apply those approaches to central international institutions and to specific cases in which they are actively involved. Thus, the seminar enables students to deepen their theoretical knowledge of international institutions as well as their empirical knowledge of central issue areas like security, trade, finance, health and environmental politics.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The working language of this course is English. Presentations and coursework must also be completed in English.
- In order to have sufficient basic knowledge of International Institutions previous participation in the introductory lecture (Einführungsvorlesung) or an equivalent is recommended.
- Regular attendance and knowledge of the required texts is expected.
- To obtain credit points, participants will have to give a presentation and write a term paper (10 to 12 pages).
- **Please note:** The number of participants is limited. Student registration via FlexNow! is required. You can register from 30. September to 14. October 2021. Please note that your registration is binding. If you have any question regarding your registration please contact our secretary Ms. Claudia Genslein (claudia.genslein@uni-bamberg.de or F21/3.18)

Course Outline

1. 18/10/2021 Introductory Session

Theoretical Perspectives

2. 25/10/2021 Mapping the Theoretical Landscape – An Overview
3. 01/11/2021 *No Session*
4. 08/11/2021 Rational and Functional Perspectives:
International Institutions as Solutions to Cooperation Problems
5. 15/11/2021 Social Constructivism: The Role of Ideas and Knowledge

International Institutions and Case Studies

6. 22/11/2021 International Security:
The UN and the UN Security Council
7. 29/11/2021 The UN and the Genocide in Rwanda in 1994
8. 06/12/2021 International Environmental Governance:
Governing Climate Change: From Kyoto to Paris
9. 13/12/2021 International Health Governance:
The World Health Organisation (WHO) and its response to COVID-19
10. 20/12/2021 International Trade:
The World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- 24/12/2021 – 06/01/2022 – *Christmas Break*
11. 10/01/2022 *Trade and Environment: The Shrimp-Turtle Case*
Group Work on *Trade and Health: TRIPS and COVID-19 Vaccine Patents*
12. 17/01/2022 International Financial Relations:
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank
13. 24/01/2022 Challenging Bretton Woods: China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
14. 31/01/2022 The Role of Business Interest and NGOs in International Institutions
15. 07.02.2022 Summary and Term Paper Preparation
- 31/03/2022 **Term Paper Deadline**