

Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

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

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Office hours: by appointment



Winter Term 2022

Seminar (BA): International Institutions & their Role in Global Governance

ECTS: 6

Date: Monday, 16.00 – 18.00. (c.t.)

Room: F21/03.02

The globalised world is characterised by an increasing number of transnational challenges and problems like climate change, financial crises or security threats that cannot be solved by national states alone. Therefore, states create international institutions to make cooperation possible. Nowadays, almost all areas of international politics are regulated by international institutions. 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 6 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. Please note that your registration is binding. If you have any question regarding your registration, please contact our secretary Claudia Genslein (claudia.genslein@uni-bamberg.de or F21/3.18)

Theoretical Foundations

1. 17/10/2022 Introduction: Mapping the Theoretical Landscape
2. 24/10/2022 The Institutional Perspective: Solving Cooperation Problems
3. 31/10/2022 The Realist Perspectives: The False Promise of International Institutions
4. 07/11/2022 The Constructivist Perspective: The Role of Knowledge and Ideas

International Security

5. 14/11/2022 The UN and the UN Security Council
6. 21/11/2022 IO Pathologies and the UN's Failure to prevent Genocide in Rwanda
7. 28/11/2022 NATO then and now: From the Cold War to Ukraine

International Financial Relations

8. 05/12/2022 The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank
9. 12/12/2022 Challenging Bretton Woods: China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

International Health

10. 19/12/2022 Agency Slack, the World Health Organisation, and its response to COVID-19

International Environmental Protection

11. 09/01/2023 Governing Climate Change: From Kyoto to Paris

International Trade

12. 16/01/2023 The World Trade Organisation (WTO) and its Dispute Settlement Body
13. 23/01/2023 The WTO in Context: The Shrimp-Turtle Case & COVID-19 Vaccine Patents

14. 30/01/2023 Summary & Term Paper Preparation

15. 06/02/2023 *No session*