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## Courses in English at the Institute of Social Sciences

Bachelor & Master

Summer Term 2020 and Winter Term 2020/2021

Summer Term 2020  
**Bachelor Courses**

### Media and Communication Studies

#### The Consequences of Digitalization for the Individual and Society: Theories and Empirical Evidences

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Marco Lünich
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 7 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

There is no question that digitalization is influencing more and more areas of private and public life. The use of digital media such as computers, smartphones as well as drones and sensors such as smart-watches and trackers of bodily functions is supposed to help people to live, communicate and work better. But with the datafication and quantification of many areas of life, it also becomes clear time and again that digitalization has, in addition to all expectations of salvation, quite some downsides and negative consequences that affect the privacy of the individual and the social fabric of society. An intensive study of current research literature in the fields of online privacy, big data and self-tracking is intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of the theories and empirical findings of research on social change when it comes to digital technologies. Upon successful completion of the seminar, all participants will be enabled to independently analyze and evaluate the opportunities and risks of current media technologies and to develop their own research questions and empirical research designs.

Good command of the English language is a mandatory requirement for participation and all readings in this course.

### Public Opinion and Political Discourse

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Thomas Unterberg
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Mondays, 2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

With a focus on the upcoming 2018 midterm elections in the USA this course will show how political campaigns are conceptualized as competitions among political actors seeking to gain influence on the public sphere. Since in modern societies the mass media are the most important channel by which the public sphere is constituted, the competing political parties and candidates try to influence the content of the media in a way that is favorable to their communication goals. Media content can therefore be understood as the result of an interaction between political actors and the mass media.

# Bachelor Courses

## Summer Term 2020

### Challenges of Communication in the EU

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Christopher Starke
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Wednesdays, 4.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

The European Union (EU) currently faces some of its most existential crises such as the sovereign debt crises, the so-called refugee crisis, the rise of Eurosceptic populism and BREXIT. Thus, it seems, European integration is needed more than ever. However, while a strong and unified EU is better able to tackle its current challenges, those crises have also intensified conflicts between different EU member states. This is why many scholars point to a ‘crisis of communication’ within the EU. This course will carefully examine how a lack of communication relates to the alleged deficits in the EU, most notably the ‘democratic deficit’, the ‘legitimacy deficit’, the ‘identity deficit’ as well as the lack of a European public sphere. During the course, we will put the major EU crises under the microscope and engage in (hopefully heated) discussions based on interdisciplinary academic literature. At the end of the semester, we will split up in small groups to develop new research ideas based on the latest Eurobarometer data.

To obtain the ‘Attendance Certificate’ (“Beteiligungs-nachweis”), students are required to (1) submit a reading diary, (2) read and present a research paper (groupwork) and (3) present a research proposal (groupwork). Graded exams (“Abschlussprüfung”) can take the form of a term paper (“Hausarbeit”) or an oral exam (“mündl. Prüfung”).

### Political Science

#### Global Governance

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Ingo Take
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Thursdays, 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon

t.b.a.

# Bachelor Courses

## Summer Term 2020

### Experiments in Political Behaviour and Public Opinion

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Lucy Kinski; Bernhard Clemm von Hohenberg
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	full day meeting on June 5, 6, 12 and 13 2020 (9 a.m. – 7 p.m.)
t.b.a.	

### Women's representation in politics

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Lucy Kinski; Amanada Haraldsson
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	full day meeting on May 8, 9, 15 and 16 2020 (9 a.m. – 7 p.m.)
t.b.a.	

### Introduction to Comparative Political Economy

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Lucy Kinski; Timo Seidl
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	full day meeting on 17, 18, 24 and 25 April 2020 (9 a.m. – 7 p.m.)
t.b.a.	

# Bachelor Courses

## Summer Term 2020

### Models and Theories of Democracy

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Marian Sekerak
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Thursdays 2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
t.b.a.	

### Politics and Society in Central Europe

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Marian Sekerak
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	full day meeting on 17, 18, 24, 25 and 26 July 2020 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
t.b.a.	

### Russian Foreign Policy

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Waldemar Petker
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Thursdays 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon
t.b.a.	

# Bachelor Courses

## Summer Term 2020

### The Political System and the Political Culture of the US

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Deniz Alkan, Svenja Rüter
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	full day meeting on 8 May, 26 June, 14 and 15 July
t.b.a.	

### European Security Policy

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof Dr. Hartwig Hummel
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Wednesdays, 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon

The European Union has become a relevant security policy actor, for example in dealing with the crisis in the Ukraine, peacebuilding in the Balkans, nuclear non-proliferation and Iran, civil wars in Africa, counterterrorism activities and anti-piracy missions. Students unfamiliar with theories of international relations tend to discuss security policy issues in terms of common sense arguments. This seminar will help students to improve their analytical skills by introducing basic security policy theories (realism, liberalism, constructivism, marxism) and by demonstrating their application to the Common Security and Defense Policy of the European Union. The seminar will enable students to do case studies on EU security policy issues and will prepare them to write a related thesis.

Teaching method: Students will regularly read assigned texts (reading diary) and do one group presentation.

# Bachelor Courses

## Summer Term 2020

### Populist and Mainstream Parties in Europe

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Thomas Poguntke
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon

The elections to the European Parliament (EP) in May 2019 are likely to attract more attention than in the past for a number of reasons. First, the balance of power within the EP will shift because the UK will no longer be member of the EU. Second, several national party systems are in considerable flux and this is likely to have important consequences for the composition of the new EP. France is an important case, but so are Italy, Spain and Poland, to name but the most conspicuous examples. Third, populist and anti-European parties are likely to gain considerable strength. Fourth, the major party families have agreed to run leading candidates (Spitzenkandidaten) who will be considered candidates for the Presidency of the EU Commission. The seminar will cover all these aspects and will, of course, analyse the results of the European elections and the likely consequences for the functioning of the next EP.

### International Conflict Resolution

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Witold Mucha
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Wednesdays, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

t.b.a.

### Replication, Replication, Replication

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Lena Masch
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays, 4.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

t.b.a.

### Sociology

#### **Sociology of Sexuality: Social Continuities and Transformation of Sexualities**

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Tilo Beckers
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	t.b.a.
Times	Tuesdays, 8.30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
	t.b.a.

**Summer Term 2020**

**Master Courses**

# Master Courses

## Summer Term 2020

### Political Science

#### The Break-Up of Britain: UK-Politics and in the Age of Brexit ad Scottish Independence

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Thomas Poguntke
Level	master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Fridays, 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon.
t.b.a.	

#### Business and European Integration

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Hartwig Hummel
Level	master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon

The course addresses the specific role of business benefiting from, and thus advancing, European integration. Topics include issues and actors relating to agricultural, manufacturing, and services industries and financial markets. We will discuss, among other topics, the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people; industrial policy and state subsidies; competition policy; supervision of financial markets; and corporate social responsibility. Classes will be based on assigned readings and presentations. Students starting this course, including ERASMUS students, need to have a basic knowledge of political and economic institutions and decision-making processes of the European Union and of integration theories.

#### The Evolution of a European Public Sphere

Term	Summer Term 2019
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Jörg Waldmann
Level	master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)

# Master Courses

## Summer Term 2020

Times              Thursdays, 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon

There are many barriers to a real European public sphere. Should they be overcome, and if yes, how? In which sectors of society we are already living in a European public sphere? The course starts with elaborating on the theoretical implications of public spheres. Yet the main part of the seminar is devoted to case studies which touch upon very different aspects of society (culture, economy, sports, media, habits etc.).

The course is delivered through a combination of assigned readings, group research and presentations. With the help of groups, students will explore the Europeanization of the public sphere in a variety of fields.

Certificates of attendance require participation in group presentations or minor research projects. The module is assessed by oral examinations. A detailed course outline, further information and relevant literature will be provided via course website.

## Sociology

### Legitimacy - Definition and Measurement of a Crucial Concept in Sociology and Political Science

Term              Summer Term 2020

Department      Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU

Lecturer          Dr. Tobias Escher

Level             master course

ECTS             3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)

Times             Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon.

In this seminar we discuss the challenges of defining and measuring what constitutes political participation and which consequences derive from the voluntary engagement of citizens in order to influence the political process. We will discuss different definitions of what it means to be politically active, get to know different approaches of operationalising engagement and respective patterns of participation, discuss the literature that theorises about different functions that participation is supposed to fulfil and learn about existing approaches to measure the degree to which these functions (such as achieving legitimacy or educating the public) are realized in actual practice



# **Winter Term 2020/2021**

## **Bachelor Courses**

The overview of courses for the winter term 2020/2021 is preliminary.  
We expect more courses to be announced.

### Media and Communication Studies

#### Social Media, digitisation and the everyday: An introduction to digital ethics

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Oliver Zöllner
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	t.b.a.

**Digitisation** and especially the use of **social networking sites** have changed the lifestyles and daily routines of a great number of people. The most fundamental changes, however, may not even be quite so easily visible to most people, and that is the reworking of how we live together. Current debate touches upon questions of what kind of **society** we are creating, and for whose benefit. These discussions also reconsider the **economic backbone** of digitality, namely capitalism. In addition, humans start to conceptualise themselves in new forms and fashions: no longer first and foremost as autonomous individual beings, but increasingly as entities oriented towards **new forms of collectivity**. This is striking since, paradoxically, a classic promise of capitalism is to reach out to each and everyone on highly individualistic terms (think Amazon, think Facebook, think Instagram et al.).

How do we as members of digitising society, as inhabitants of **Digitality** (with a capital D), cope with these new quotidian patterns, concepts, and paradoxes? What are our new values, and emerging norms, for living in this new society? How do we tackle challenges like permanent **data exploitation** (a.k.a. "people-farming"), the increasing struggle for **privacy**, the utopian promises and dystopian threats of **artificial intelligence (AI)**, or a far-reaching **surveillance capitalism**? Quite simply put: **what does it mean to be human in the digital age?** What do we do with those digital devices, platforms, and applications - or they to us? In what ways does the digital infrastructure form our worldview? Are we happy about our new kind of existence? Or just too lazy to care?

We will explore the classic idea of ethics, will apply new approaches from the sub-discipline of **digital ethics** to our everyday life, and will try to develop concepts for **living a flourishing life** under the conditions set by digitisation (or by whom, really?). We'll need to start to think about these processes. If we are brave enough, we will condense our thoughts into a **manifesto of Human Autonomy at the Dawn of Artificial Intelligence**. (We may not get rich and famous, but we'll contribute to a crucial ongoing debate.)

**Note:** Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, this course will be held via video-conferencing tool Webex.

# Bachelor Courses

## Winter Term 2020/2021

### Crisis Communication

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Florian Meißner
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	8. – 12. 2. 2021; 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

The current Covid-19 pandemic illustrates the crucial importance of communication during crisis. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "The right message at the right time from the right person can save lives." Contrastingly, misleading messages, especially when conveyed by influential individuals, can pose a danger to public health.

This seminar will introduce the students to the interdisciplinary field of crisis communication. While originating from the area of public relations, crisis communication research nowadays involves a variety of disciplinary viewpoints (political science, sociology, psychology, different sub-disciplines of communication research...) and addresses a variety of crisis types (organizational crisis, political crisis, public health crisis, disasters...). The seminar will provide an overview, but will also focus on specific crises such as the current Covid-19 pandemic, including the respective challenges posed to crisis communication practitioners.

### Political Marketing American Style

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Thomas Unterberg
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Mondays, 2.30 pm – 4 pm

With a focus on the presidential elections 2016 in the USA this course will show how political marketing is used in the competition among political actors seeking to gain influence on the public sphere. Increasingly, voters choose parties and candidates like consumers choose products. The competing political parties and candidates therefore try to use political marketing to influence the public and the content of the media in a way that is favorable to their communication goals. Political marketing can therefore be understood as a tool designed to influence the public about political candidates and issues.

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## Political Science

### Conspiracy Theories in Public Opinion Research

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciencs, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Lena Masch
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	t.b.a.
Times	t.b.a.
	t.b.a.

### Empirical Democracy Studies

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciencs, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Consantin Wurthmann
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Mondays 2.30 pm – 4 pm

Is democracy backsliding? Are we just experiencing the end of democracy expanding in our world? Even a new authoritarianism? This seminar follows three aims. First of all, the students shall get a deeper insight in the history of democratic thought and how the idea of democracy developed. Secondly, they will learn how democracy can be measured on a macro-level, which indices can be used to do so and how to use that knowledge for their own projects within the seminar. Thirdly, the course will deal with the questions of what people understand under the term “democracy”, how they misinterpret its meaning and what consequences it has on democracies in general but western democracies in specific. In the end of the seminar, the students will know how to answer the questions asked in the beginning of this introduction.

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## Winter Term 2020/2021

### Emotions in Politics

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciencs, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Tobias Widmann
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Full day meeting on January 15, 16, 22 and 23 (9 am – 4 pm)

For centuries, experts assumed that political attitudes and political behavior are purely based on cognitive processes and conscious thought. Emotions, on the other hand, have been perceived as a hindrance or even as dangerous to a well-functioning democracy. However, recent research points out that cognition and emotion typically interact in processes of decision making.

In this seminar, we will therefore explore how different emotions impact important mechanisms in the political world. After an introduction into political psychology and emotions in politics, this course will introduce students into the impact of emotions on information processing and attitude formation. For example, we will learn how different emotions impact anti-immigration attitudes or how terrorist attacks shape political preferences. Furthermore, we will delve into the impact of emotions on political behavior and see how different emotions can influence the vote choice of citizens. Lastly, we will explore how the rise of populist movements around the world is linked to specific emotions.

### External Interventions in Civil Wars. Examining the Syrian Civil War and the Role of International Actors in Conflict

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciencs, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Natalia Tellidou
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Full day meeting on November 20, 21, 27 and 28 (9 am – 5 pm)

Syria's civil war in 2011 has raised a lot of debates regarding the role of international actors and non-state actors in the conflict. This points to the fact that, external interventions, either in military or non-military forms, is prevalent aspect of the conflict and worthy of scholarly attention. Moreover, the debate in the field about "New" and "Old" wars has continue to change the perspectives we analyze civil wars, and the Syrian civil war. Indeed, whether Syria is a proxy war for some states while a civil war for some others have led to many policy analyses that explain the particularities of the case. In addition, Syria provides an excellent opportunity to evaluate the empirical research on the field of civil wars and possibly raise issues regarding our theories and concepts that we use to explain civil wars.

A step towards disentangling the complexities of a civil war and also provide a more nuanced analysis is to engage with existing scholarly research on civil war and external intervention and gain more knowledge on the specific of the case. For that reason, the course focuses on bringing theory and practice together. The first two days are geared towards gaining familiarity with key concepts of civil wars,

# Bachelor Courses

## Winter Term 2020/2021

external interventions, and the debate on the "New" wars. In the meantime, through interactive activities the students will start putting together the pieces of the Syrian puzzle and acquiring a historical background to the case. For the remaining of the course, we will focus more on the Syria case, and applying the theories to the case. Equipped with theoretical background, conceptual tools and basic knowledge of the case this second part of the course will put into test theories and debates that exist in the field.

The objective of this course is for students to attain a basic understanding of Civil Wars and the dynamics of external interventions in civil wars. In doing so, they will become eloquent in scholarly and political debates about the role of international actors in conflicts and confident in analyzing the situation in the Syrian civil war. To begin with, students will gain a deeper understanding of key theories and concepts relating to contemporary conflicts. For that purpose, students will discuss extensively questions like, "Why did this state act the way it did?" or "Why did this leader act the way she did?". Next, students will have the chance to increase their understanding of the conflict in Syria and learn how to employ theory in a pragmatic and systematic way to current examples from world politics. This exercise will enable them to use their prior knowledge in understanding similar phenomena that may arise in the field of civil wars, international relations, and European foreign relations.

### States and Societies in the Arab World

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciences, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Youssef Mnaïli
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Full day meeting on December 4, 5, 11 and 12 (9 am – 5 pm)

States and societies in the Middle East are at in the midst of considerable changes since the Arab uprisings in 2011. This course locates these transformations within the broader political and historical context of the region. Reinforced in their dual Ottoman and colonial heritage, 'states' will be approached in attention to institutions and actors, their practices, speeches and representations. In a non-exhaustive approach, it will be necessary to familiarize oneself with the dominant paradigms of comparative approaches to apprehending: the relations between religion and politics; authoritarianism and democratization; protests and revolutions; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through critical readings, students are encouraged to develop both empirical and analytical knowledge of the major economic, social and political changes that have affected the region since the end of the 19th century.

# Bachelor Courses

## Winter Term 2020/2021

### The Political System and the Political Culture of the U.S.

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciences, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Deniz Alkan
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	October 20, 27 (4.30 pm . 8 pm) and 31 (10 am – 6 pm); November 4

Die Wahl von Donald Trump zu Präsidenten der USA im Jahr 2016 prägt momentan die Sicht vieler Bürger in Deutschland und Europa auf die USA. Die USA lassen sich jedoch nur verstehen, wenn der Beobachter das politische System und die Wurzeln der politischen Kultur der USA kennt. Schon seit den Präsidentschaften von George W. Bush und Barack Obama geht durch das Land ein tiefer Riss. Aus europäischer Sicht scheint sich ein Teil der amerikanischen Gesellschaft von gemeinsamen transatlantischen Werten zu entfernen. Die Frage ist jedoch, ob aktuell nicht eher schon immer existente Unterschiede lediglich schärfer zutage treten. Das Seminar möchte die Studierenden einen Überblick über das politische System der USA und die grundlegenden politischen Ordnungsprinzipien geben, als auch aktuelle „Issues“ beleuchten, wie Migration, Race, LGBT-Movement, Executive Powers.

Alle Texte (außer der Einführungsliteratur - siehe oben) werden in englischer Sprache in einem Reader bereitgestellt und der Kurs wird in Englisch abgehalten werden. Perfektes Englisch ist KEINE Voraussetzung, da das Seminar gerade eine Gelegenheiten bieten soll, die mündlichen Englischfähigkeiten zu schärfen. Eine Teilnahme an allen Blocksitzungsterminen (einschließlich der Orgasitzung im April) ist obligatorisch.

### The Transformation of the Left

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciences, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Lucy Kinski
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays 2.30 pm – 4 pm

What's left of the left (Cronin et al. 2011)? Social democracy is in crisis. Social democratic parties across Europe score historically low election results and voters do not even credit them anymore for competences in their former core issue areas. At the same time, Europe's Left, i.e. communist, socialist and Green parties, have been on a slow, but steady rise. Do we see a transformation rather than the demise of the Left? This course tackles these questions in three parts: First, we talk about what "the Left" is and discuss the structural transformations in modern societies that help us understand the problems especially social democratic parties are facing. In the second part, we take a look at the demand side: Who votes for "the Left"? How have voting patterns changed and why? The third part then turns to the supply side: How has "the Left" reacted to these challenges? What are strategies for the future?

### Sociology

#### German Social Structure in Comparative Perspective

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Peter Hartmann
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	t.b.a.
Times	Wednesdays 10.30 am – 12 noon

The purpose of this class is to discuss selected readings in German demographic and socioeconomic structures. Topics include fertility, life transitions, family structure, home ownership, the welfare state, social mobility, migration and acculturation, as well as cultural styles. Obviously, the majority of books and papers on German demography and social structure are written in German. This class, however, is intended to allow an English language discussion of matters peculiar to Germany. Most readings treat Germany as one case within wider comparative studies. Readings were selected with the intention of presenting a picture of recent high-end comparative research on social structure. In order to overcome initial difficulties in understanding complex analytical and statistical issues, the first meetings will be dedicated to a short introduction to the methodological background of modern social structure analysis.

#### Political Behaviour in Times of Crisis

Term	Summer Term 2020
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Anna Gaßner
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	t.b.a.
Times	Wednesdays 10.30 am – 12 noon
	t.b.a.

# **Master Courses**

## **Winter Term 2020/2021**

The overview of courses for the winter term 2020/2021 is preliminary.  
We expect more courses to be announced.

### Political Science

#### Extreme Right Parties in Western Europe

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciences, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dennis Spies
Level	master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays 10.30 am – 12 noon

The last three decades have witnessed the strengthening and mainstreaming of Extreme Right Parties (ERPs) in most Western European party systems. While the electoral fortunes of parties within this family vary greatly, many have managed to establish themselves as relevant actors in government coalitions in countries such as Austria, the Netherlands or Denmark. These developments have led to heated debates both among mainstream politicians as well as political scientists. This course aims at discussing these developments comparatively. In the first part of the seminar, students will be introduced to the ideology of Extreme Right Parties, relating it to established concepts of comparative politics such as party families, cleavages and party competition. Secondly, we will look at what explains the vote for ERPs and how this relates to changes in the economic and political contexts across Western European political systems. Thirdly, we will analyze the impact of ERPs on cultural as well as economic and social policies. Finally, we will look at specific cases in order to determine what similarities and differences exist between ERPs in Europe.

#### Leadership and Democracy. Theoretical and empirical perspectives

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciences, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Thomas Poguntke
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Thursdays 4.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Political leadership is an ambivalent and normatively controversial concept. Yet, it is at the heart of our thinking about democracy. On the one hand, strong leaders seem to be necessary to win elections and manage crises; on the other hand, the democratic ideal seems to stipulate that the people should rule – which seems at odds with the idea of strong leadership. However, if we invoke the famous dictum by Abraham Lincoln, namely that democracy should be ‘government of the people, by the people, for the people’ it is obvious that the aspect of leadership is an essential element of democracy. The seminar will cover the on-going debate about political leadership and covers a range of aspects including normative and empirical aspects.

# Master Courses

## Winter Term 2020/2021

### How Political Actors use the Media

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciencs, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Frank Marcinkowski
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Mondays 10.30 am – 12 noon

Beeinflussen Fernsehbilder, wie wir selbst die Realität sehen? Mit dieser Frage beschäftigt sich die Kultivierungsforschung seit den 1970er Jahren. Über den systematischen Vergleich von Viel- und Wenigsehern untersuchen Kultivierungsforscher, wie das Fernsehen Vorstellungen von sozialer Wirklichkeit langfristig prägt. Seit seiner Formulierung durch George Gerbner gehört der Ansatz zu den meistzitierten und meistdiskutierten der Kommunikationswissenschaft.

Das Seminar dient der gemeinsamen Lektüre und Diskussion eines Studienbuchs zum Thema: Meltzer, Christine E. (2019): Kultivierungsforschung. Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlag (ISBN 978-3-8487-4839-6).

Abschlussprüfung: Schriftliche Klausur im Umfang von 12 offenen Frage zu den wichtigsten Punkten, die im Seminar besprochen wurden.

Beteiligungs nachweise: auf der Basis von 2 schriftlichen Tests im Umfang von je zwei Frage zu den wichtigsten Punkten, die im Seminar besprochen wurden.

### Civilizing Impacts of European Integration

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciencs, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Jörg Waldmann
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Thursdays 10.30 am – 12 noon

The multi-layered processes of European cooperation and integration constituted an area of peace and security. The use of violence between European states participating in these integration projects seems to be unthinkable today. How does political theory explain this phenomenon? What is crucial about the functionalistic idea of a 'working peace'? And - can Europe serve as a role model for other regions in the world?

The class aims to provide students with appropriate scientific expertise to answer these questions, or, at least, to come close to a suitable and satisfying answer. Based on Dieter Senghaas' Civilisational Hexagon different aspects of integration will be analysed in order to understand how Europeanization changed conflict management and generated new normative standards.

# Master Courses

## Winter Term 2020/2021

A detailed course outline, further information and relevant literature will be provided via course website.

### Measuring Political Participation and its Effects

Term	Winter Term 2020/2021
Department	Political Sciences, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Tobias Escher
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays 10.30 am – 12 noon

In this seminar we discuss the challenges of defining and measuring what constitutes political participation and which consequences are supposed to derive from the voluntary engagement of citizens in order to influence the political process. Therefore, in the first part we discuss different definitions of what it means to be politically active and get to know different approaches of operationalising engagement and respective patterns of participation. In the second part and third part, we look at different functions that political participation is supposed to fulfil for the individuals participating (instrumental, expression, identification, civic education) and the political system (transmission, legitimacy) respectively. For this we rely heavily on the discussion of empirical studies that aim to establish whether or not the postulated effects of participation can be realized in actual practice.

We are looking forward to welcoming you  
at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf!

The team for internationalization, Institute of Social Sciences

All courses listed are taught in English. They are open to regular as well as to ERASMUS and other international students.

Please note: All information given is subject to change!

For additional information see:

<http://www.phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de/sozswiss/englische-version/>

<https://www.phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de/sozswiss/internationaloffice/students-from-abroad/>

International coordinator:

Dr. Guido Quetsch

+49 (0) 211 - 81 14092

[quetsch@phil.hhu.de](mailto:quetsch@phil.hhu.de)