



Courses in English at the Institute of Social Sciences

Bachelor & Master

Summer Term 2021 and Winter Term 2021/2022

Summer Term 2021
Bachelor Courses

Media and Communication Studies

Digital Literacy in a Culture of Digitality

Term	Summer Term 2021
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Anna Soßdorf
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Thursdays, 2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

In a world with endless possibilities to get information and knowledge about anything, it is more than ever crucial to know how to navigate in this environment. While it was important in the past to learn the cultural techniques of writing and reading, today it is the Digital Literacy that we need to master in order to navigate in a Culture and Society of Digitality.

In this seminar we will first get to know and discuss the different relevant concepts of Digital Literacy as well as the understanding of Digitality. On this basis we will analyze the relevance and impact of Digital Literacy for different systems of our society (e.g. Education, Civic Society, Economics, Science, Politics) along with the implicated opportunities and challenges for individuals. Furthermore, we will explore and compare, how Digital Literacy is discussed in the international context. Lastly, we will delve into concepts and ideas of some foresight literature.

Students will be expected to prepare the presented literature, videos and podcast for the discussion within the seminar. Also there will be time for cooperative and creative learning in groups, in which digital outputs will be produced with digital tools (e.g. mindmaps, videos).

The seminar will be held in English language. Therefore the students will be given the opportunity to practice reading, speaking and argumentative skills in English on the topic of the seminar with fellow students and the lecturer.

Public Opinion and Political Discourse

Term	Summer Term 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	Wednesdays, 2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

With a focus on the 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.

Myths of the Digital Society

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2021

Term	Summer Term 2021
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Marco Lünich
Level	bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 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. It is argued that the use of digital media such as computers, smartphones as well as drones and sensors such as smartwatches 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, artificial intelligence 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. With this information at hand, especially, we will focus on the public discourse concerning the promises and pitfalls of the Digital Society. Upon successful completion of the seminar, all participants will be enabled to independently analyze and critically evaluate the opportunities and risks of current media technologies and to develop their own research questions and empirical research designs.

Political Science

The Populist Radical Right in Western Europe

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2021

Term	Summer Term 2021
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Guisepppe Gicollini (Dr. Lucy Kinski)
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Fullday meeting on July 9,10,16 and 17 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Radical right populism needs no introduction. Populist radical right parties have emerged in the 80s in the Western European public sphere. Since then, they have established themselves in several party systems, and occasionally even participated in government. As a political phenomenon, they represent the most prominent novelty of the last decades across borders. The reasons for its success (and failure) are very much debated among the public opinion and policymakers. This course aims at introducing students to academic knowledge on radical right populism. Scholars have gathered important evidence on this phenomenon, although blind spots are still present. Firstly, students will get a comprehensive overview of the key features of the populist radical right under several aspects: its history, its ideology, its voters. This will be complemented by two case studies: France and the German-speaking countries. We will conclude the first block by highlighting how other political actors reacted to the success of populist radical right parties. Finally, we will turn to the causes of the emergence of the populist radical right. These will be discussed from a multidisciplinary perspective, drawing on studies from political science, sociology, economics, and – to a lesser extent – psychology and communication science. Emphasis will be put on the demand-side explanations. Finally, we will conclude on the consequences of radical right populism for politics in the Western world.

Elections and Voting Behavior

Term	Summer Term 2021
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Lena Masch
Level	Advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon

t.b.a.

International Conflict Resolution

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2021

Term	Summer Term 2021
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 9.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

The course will focus on the theory and practice of international conflict resolution with specific references to the classification, causes, development, conduct, management, and outcomes. Particular emphasis will be placed on the process of bargaining, negotiation and (third party) conflict resolution. To this end, an analysis will be made of case studies with specific reference to international conflict resolution. The course aims at providing both an understanding of what constitutes conflict resolution, in addition to evaluating the debates within the field of conflict resolution. Through examining case studies from across the globe, you will become proficient in understanding the nuances generated by the history and evolution of a conflict, the nature of the actors involved, the timing of peace negotiations, the power and ability of mediating parties, and the socio-economic conditions in the area of conflict, among others. You will be challenged to reflect why some conflict resolution processes succeed and others fail. You will learn about factors that encourage one or the other outcome. Finally, you will engage with mediators involved in conflict resolution processes and understand the critical role that these play. After the course, you should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What is international conflict resolution?
2. What are the competing theories about international conflict resolution?
3. Who are the primary actors in international conflict resolution?
4. What is the interaction between the different actors in international conflict resolution?
5. What are the major challenges faced in international conflict resolution practice?

The international cross-site seminar will take place in cooperation with the **Kyung Hee University, South Korea, and the University of Pretoria, South Africa**. Conducted as blended learning, the seminar will consist of joint sessions via live-stream as well as e-learning elements in which students from Seoul, Pretoria, and Düsseldorf work together. In addition to the usual required reading, preparatory work for the seminar will include expert videos which will discuss the respective topic. In this regard, the key objective of the seminar will not only be to impart students the best possible expertise on international conflict resolution but to broaden perspectives due to interaction with international students as well as experts. Student's work such as term papers, input videos, or radio features will be made use of in an Open Educational Resources (OER) framework (see <https://cross-site-teaching.phil.hhu.de/>). Therefore, good command of English and the willingness to be closely involved in international cross-site student task-forces will be required. Due to the demanding technical implementation and content requirements, the advanced course is aimed at BA-students in higher semesters or MA-students.

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2021

Term	Summer Term 2021
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Jörg Waldmann
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Di 14.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The European Union claims having some of the world's highest environmental standards greening Europe and many European policies. Environmental Policy on EU level developed incrementally throughout the last four decades and in this seminar we aim to trace back these process. The seminar will address changing modes of environmental governance, means to integrate environmental thinking into other policies, EU's understanding of sustainability as well as EU's efforts to mitigate climate change.

Students are required to regularly attend classes, to regularly read the assigned texts for the classes, and to introduce one of the assigned readings in a group presentation.

Global Governance

Term	Summer Term 2021
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Ingo Take
Level	Advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Thursdays, 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon
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Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2021

Sociology of Religion: Lines of Thought, Comparative Perspectives and Diverging Dynamics

Term	Summer Term 2021
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Tilo Beckers
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays, 8.30 a.m. – 10 am

The advanced seminar (Vertiefungsseminar) will provide a basic introduction of the sociology of religion with a particular focus on religious change and its social consequences during the past 30 to 60 years. We will focus on specific aspects of religion and religiosity in cross-national and cross-cultural comparisons. First we will approach the phenomena of religion and religiosity (part I) and get to know selected lines of thought in the sociology of religion (II). Next, we will look at comparative perspectives and opposing paradigms, namely the debates around secularization, the revival of religion, religious individualization, and other forms of religious change, i.e. religiosity and religion as explananda (III). Finally, we will discuss diverging dynamics and trends: religious resurgence and immigration, non-religiosity and secularism (IV). This will be done by reading comparative empirical studies on a range of topics. A particular focus will be to identify the links between the macro and the micro level in explanatory models. All participants will also get to know a range of methods in the sociology of religion as well as secondary comparative data sources on religion. These aggregate and individual level data may be used for case-oriented and multilevel empirical survey research on religious change and its social consequences.

Summer Term 2021
Master Courses

Political Science

A new electorate? Immigrants as Political Actors in the US and Western Europe

Term	Summer Term 2021
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Dennis Spies
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays 10.30 am – 12 noon

Large-scale immigration is one of the most prominent challenges facing developed countries around the world. As far as the European Union is concerned, member states as Germany (12,8%), France (12,0%), and the Netherlands (11,6%) now face shares of the population not being born in their countries, which are very comparable to these that we find in classical countries of immigration, e.g. in the USA (13,1% of foreign-born population). The consequences of these demographic changes are at least as heatedly discussed as the actual numbers. As international immigration by definition means that people from one country come to live in another, it is a measure of the increased number of residents with different languages, religions, and ethnicities compared with the native population. Consequently, the most prominent debates have developed about questions of immigrant integration into their host societies, be it economic, social, or cultural. However, compared with these very elaborated debates, the aspect of the political integration of immigrants still remains largely unexplored. Do immigrants form a distinct electorate compared with native citizens when it comes to political participation, preferences, and voting? What is the relationship between political integration and the – well-researched – other dimensions of the integration concept? What motivates immigrants to run for office and what are their chances in the electoral arena? Do immigrants care at all about the politics of their host society or are they politically disinterested if not apathic? These questions are of crucial societal and immediate political importance for the host societies – and are at the core of this course. The course also introduces concepts and theories that can be used to study immigrants as well as individuals in general – theories of electoral research, party competition, and welfare state research being among them.

Master Courses

Summer Term 2021

Business and European Integration

Term	Summer Term 2021
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	Thursdays 10.30 am – 12 noon

Access to this course is limited, participation cannot be guaranteed

Contents

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, as well as financial markets. We will discuss the role of business interest groups and decision-making processes in EU institutions. The seminar covers EU policies relating to the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people, industrial policy and state subsidies, competition policy, supervision of financial markets, and corporate social responsibility.

Course Objectives and Teaching Approach

The seminar will be based on weekly readings of assigned texts and discussions in class, prepared by teams of 2-3 students. Students will prepare assigned texts in advance of each class and document this preparation in a short reading diary. Student teams will prepare class discussion with a short input, in which they will present their critical review of the assigned text. At the end of the term, you should be familiar with the Europeanization of business interest groups and their impact on European integration. In addition, the course serves as an opportunity to train research skills, in particular presenting an academic argument and drafting an analytical paper.

Master Courses

Summer Term 2021

The Evolution of a European Public Sphere

Term	Summer Term 2021
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)
Times	Thursdays 8.30 am – 10.30 a.m.

Access to this course is limited, participation cannot be guaranteed

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.

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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/sozwiss/englische-version/>

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

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