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Courses in English at the Institute of Social Sciences

Bachelor & Master

Summer Term 2023

Summer Term 2023
Bachelor Courses

Media and Communication Studies

Public opinion and political discourse

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Unterberg, Thomas
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Wednesdays, 2.30 pm - 4 pm

With a focus on the 2022 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 2023

International Organizations

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Rolf, Jan Niklas
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Block seminar → Friday (30.06.23) – Sunday (02.07.23), 09.00 am – 6.00 pm.

The course deals with the role of International Organizations (IOs) in global politics. In a first part of the seminar, we will distinguish IOs from International Institutions and International Regimes and look into the main theoretical perspectives on IOs. In a second part, we will apply the terminological and theoretical toolset developed in the first part of the seminar to improve our understanding of selected IOs in the fields of trade and security. In a third part, we will conduct a role play to simulate the decision-making process of the UN Security Council.

Comparative Political Economy: An Introduction

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Zons, Gregor
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Block seminar, (16.06.23, 17.06.23, 23.06.23, 24.06.23) 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.

Why do capitalist countries differ in their economic performance in a non-random way? Which structural factors underpin the relative wealth of some nations and the relative backwardness of others? Why do some countries achieve a more equitable distribution of income, while in others social disparities reign supreme? Comparative political economy (CPE) is the systematic analysis of questions pertaining to such cross-national differences by looking at relevant actors, institutions, historical processes and economic doctrines.

This seminar will offer an introductory overview of some the main theories, ideas and debates in comparative political economy. While many of the scholarly contributions focus solely on the advanced capitalist economies of Western Europe and North America, a growing body of literature also deals with problems specific to developing economies, and a special block of the seminar will be dedicated to those questions.

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2023

German Party System

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Poguntke, Thomas
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays, 10.30 am – 12.00 pm

The Politics of Inequality

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Zons, Gregor
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Block seminar → 30.06.23, 01.07.23, 07.07.23, 08.07.23, 10.00 am – 6.00 pm

This course will introduce undergrad students to some of the major topics related to the political economy of inequality, institutions, and redistribution, exploring the assumptions underlying most of the literature.

Distributional issues have been at the core of political science for a long time. Yet over the last two decades the study of the political origins and consequences of inequality is gaining strength in comparative politics. New data sources and analytical tools explain a revival that is shedding new light on many issues central to the discipline. At the same time, the important and visible societal consequences of inequality mean there is widespread attention to discern its causes and its influence on political behaviour.

The course exposes students to the state-of-the-art academic literature on the subject. At the end of the course, students will develop the relevant analytical skills to understand how inequality affects and is affected by individual preferences, political and economic institutions, and policy outcomes. They will be exposed to many of the key issues confronting the relationship between political and economic factors in different countries.

The format of the course is 4 lectures of 6 hours each, for a total of about 22 hours. In the latter part of the course, students will present on one of the topics that have been explored.

Security Studies

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2023

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Rolf, Jan Niklas
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Block seminar, Friday (21.04.23) – Sunday (23.04.23) 09.00 am – 6.00 pm

The course deals with security in international relations. In a first part of the seminar, we will look into different concepts of and approaches to security. In a second part, we will critically assess the structures, functions and roles of selected security institutions. In a third part, we will discuss current security challenges (including nuclear weapons, terrorism and cyber warfare) as well as non-traditional security issues (including health, energy and environmental security).

The Politics of Inequality

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Zons, Gregor
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Block seminar → 30.06.23, 01.07.23, 07.07.23, 08.07.23, 10.00 am – 6.00 pm

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Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2023

Sociology

Sociology of Sexuality: Social Continuities and Transformations of Sexualities

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Beckers, Tilo
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays, 8.30 am – 10.00 am

Please note that the room size limits the maximum of places to 30 (+ internationals). There will be a preselection of admitted students in advance of the seminar. Since this is a bad predictor of actual attendance, all second/third year students (or higher) are welcome to attend the first session. In case of overbooking, places for those not admitted in advance will be allotted randomly. All admitted in advance or interested in ECTS (BN or AP) are required to attend the first session to secure a place.

A warm welcome to Erasmus exchange, other international students and students with refugee status. This is a sociological seminar. Basic knowledge in Sociology ("Foundations of Sociology" or equivalent) is required.

Please contact me asap regarding a reservation of a place in this seminar even if you are able to register by LSF. If not: please contact me before the first session.

Materialist Theories on Racism

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Goldkuhle, Bjarne
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	t.b.a.
Times	Tuesdays, 10.30 am – 12.00 pm

Few issues of sociological research have experienced such a rise in interest in recent years as has the study of racism. Simultaneously, this field is divided into many different disciplines, approaches and theoretical concepts. In view of university department chairs and publications however, it is especially postmodern-influenced postcolonial approaches that are successively gaining dominance in both academia and public discourse.

In order to widen the view on the complex issue of racism, this course aims at different approaches that can be summarized as *materialist*. In general, materialist approaches in social sciences comprehend social phenomena in their embeddedness in material societal reproduction, that is specific forms of labor and production as well as the exchange and allocation of services and produced goods. In order to lay the theoretical foundations, students are being introduced with general positions and debates regarding racism and materialist theory. It is mainly Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels who are considered to be the founders of materialist social theory. Currently this type of theory, especially its Marxist form, is faced with the critical

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2023

verdict of "Eurocentricism", expressed particularly by postcolonialists, implying their observations might be valid for European societies only. Still, Marx and Engels have given many thoughts on colonialism, slavery and the American Civil War, also under consideration of racism. Ever since then, there have been various scholars of racism drawing on materialist thoughts, although they are mostly marginalized in current scientific discourse. In order to explore this largely unknown field, we will be critically discussing approaches by W E. B. Du Bois as well as more contemporary theory like the "race relations studies" associated with Oliver Cox and John Rex and the concept of "racialisation" and racist ideology by Robert Miles.

The aim of this course is to provide basic knowledge on materialist approaches to racism as well as its critical distance to postcolonial theory. Prior knowledge is not required. Along with reading and preparing the supplied literature, students are required to work on small 'research' tasks along the course, examining anti-racist or anti-colonial movements across the world from a materialist perspective. During the sessions, we will have the opportunity to discuss each week's literature as well as historical and present events, politics, movements etc. in light of the theories addressed.

This course will be entirely held in English.

Assigned modules for exams are "Systeme & Strukturen" and "Individuum & Gesellschaft".

Social status: Micro-mechanisms and Macro-effects

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Tranow, Ulf
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Wednesdays, 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm

From a sociological perspective, status is a comparative social ranking of people, groups, or objects in terms of esteem, honor and respect. Status is a crucial and ubiquitous element of social order. It is attached to social identity categories (like gender, ethnicity, or age) as well as to class positions. Once established, the social status order is relatively persistent and intractable to change. In the formation of new interpersonal groups (e.g. work groups, clubs, social movements), implicit or explicit status differences emerge quickly, independent of the status ideologies the participants hold. The seminar will focus on the micro-sociological mechanisms for the emergence and propagation of status and what effects status has on the (re-)production of other dimensions of inequality such as power and wealth. The theoretical reference points of our discussion are *expectation states* and *status construction theory* (e.g. Ridgeway), which are conceptually highly developed and empirically well-documented theories of the production and maintenance of status hierarchies. The aim of the course is for participants to acquire a profound knowledge of these theories and to be able to apply them on their own to analyze status processes in different social contexts.

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2023

Social and biological transmission of positions and attitudes

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Spörlein, Christoph
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Wednesdays, 10.30 am. – 12.00 noon

There has been very little integration of findings and insights generated by behavioral genetics research into the social sciences. The aim of this seminar is to provide students with an introduction to the methods and findings of studies concerning sociologically relevant research topics using behavioral genetics approaches.

The seminar will cover classic topics from twin- and adoptions studies as well as more recent ideas related to gene-environment interaction and polygenic risk scores.

The seminar's central approach is to apply the conceptual knowledge of the first part of the seminar to core research areas of sociology by relying exclusively on research literature merging the two fields. Hence, research on intergenerational transmission of positions and attitudes will play a key role over the course of the seminar since it captures a key moment where biological and social processes become most apparent in generating differences between individuals.

Sociology of Migration and Integration

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Science, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Spörlein, Christoph
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Wednesdays, 8.30 am – 10.00 am

This seminar introduces the two core themes of migration sociology: migration and integration. Students will gain foundational knowledge on current trends and causes of global migration movements as well as theoretical models to explain these. In the second part of the course, integration of immigrants will take center stage. Students will learn about the debates between "old" and "new" integration theories in the last 50 years. We will then cover the patterns and trends of integration into the four central societal dimensions (cultural, structural, social and identificational integration) from a theoretical as well as empirical perspective.

After completing this course, students will know the central concepts and theoretical foundations of migration and integration. They are able to apply these to selected examples and are able to critically review the empirical state of the literature.

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2023

Prejudice and Discrimination

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Science, HHU
Lecturer	Noack, Pamina & Hönes, Lisa Maria
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	t.b.a.
Times	Thursday 22.06.23 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm & full-day-meetings → 22.06.23 (2.30 p.m. – 4.00 pm.) + 17.07.23 – 20.07.23 (9.00 am. – 3.00 pm.)

This seminar analyses the emergence and spread of prejudice as well as discrimination as a possible effect. Prejudices as disapproving and/or hostile attitudes towards social groups (cf. Allport 1954) can – but don't have to – lead to discriminatory and/or hostile actions towards these groups. After building a theoretical base on prejudice, referencing theories from prejudice studies out of social psychology, and diving into how prejudice can be measured empirically, different forms of prejudice will be discussed and analysed along the lines of recent empirical studies. Possible topics include transphobia and ethnic discrimination as well as ageism, we are however very open to any suggestions that students might have. Feel free to give some input!

Exams (AP) can be done in the form of an oral exam or a written essay.

Sociology of religion

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Science, HHU
Lecturer	Hönes, Lisa Maria
Level	intermediate bachelor course

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2023

ECTS 2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)

Times Wednesdays, 10.30 am. – 12.00 pm.

Religion continues to be an important part of social interaction; the construction and upholding of communities (especially collective identities) and the catalyst for certain kinds of solidarity can be anchored in and facilitated by religion. However, the split into religious groupings can also result in a differentiation between 'us' and 'them' and (possibly) social fragmentation or even segregation. The tension surrounding the topic of religion is particularly visible in discussions around both legal and 'everyday' decision-making concerning religious clothing (e.g. the hijab) and religious practices like circumcision, but also topics such as abortion or same-sex marriage.

In this seminar, we will compile a basic understanding of what religion means from a sociological point of view as well as delve into certain topics such as religion and violence, the connection of religion, state and law and the shifting functions that religions encompass. If you have special scholarly interests such as 'new' religions and world views, esoterics etc. and would like to see them represented in a session later in the semester, please feel free to either contact me before the first session or speak up in our introductory session in April.

Summer Term 2022
Master Courses

Political Science

Business and European Integration

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Waldmann, Jörg
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays, 10.30 am – 12.00 pm

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.

Framing Public Life

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Marcinkowski, Frank
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Mondays, 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm

European integration and domestic politics

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Winzen, Thomas
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Tuesdays 2.30 pm -4.00 pm

Master Courses

Summer Term 2021

This seminar introduces academic and political debates about European integration. The focus will be on whether and how domestic politics influences the institutional development and policymaking process of the European Union. Amongst others, the seminar will examine the role of public opinion, national and European Parliament elections, and political parties.

The Evolution of a European Public Sphere

Term	Summer Term 2023
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Waldmann, Jörg
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Thursdays 10.30 am -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.



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/>

International coordinator:

Dr. Guido Quetsch

+49 (0) 211 - 81 14092

quetsch@phil.hhu.de