

hhu

Heinrich Heine
Universität Düsseldorf



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Courses in English at the Institute of Social Sciences

Bachelor & Master

Winter Term 2023/2024

Winter Term 2023/2024
Bachelor Courses

Media and Communication Studies

Political Marketing American Style

Term	Winter term 2023/24
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	mondays, 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm

With a focus on the upcoming mid-term elections 2022 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 favourable to their communication goals. Political marketing can therefore be understood as a tool designed to influence the public about political candidates and issues.

Artificial Intelligence and Society_ Public Communication and the Common Good

Term	Winter Term 2023/24
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Lünich, Marco
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	t.b.a.
Times	wednesdays, 10.30 am – noon (12.00)

In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) – broadly defined as a set of computer techniques that can identify patterns and trends from data, including machine learning, and can automate decision-making processes – has garnered significant public attention. While its potential applications promise transformative impacts on various societal domains, the study and development of AI isn't a recent phenomenon. It has evolved over several decades, concurrent with the widespread use of computers. What has triggered this surge in AI interest in recent times? Who are the key players shaping the public discourse about AI, and what narratives are they presenting? How does this discourse relate AI to broader topics concerning the relationship between science, technology, and society? This seminar delves deep into public communications about AI, exploring the resulting public perceptions, attitudes, and the influence of media narratives, particularly those that envision AI's contribution to the Common Good. Students will gain insights into the intricacies of AI and the conceptual framework of the Common Good. They will also explore the expectations and responsibilities imposed upon AI developers and users during the designing and implementation of AI systems. These pivotal questions form the core of our reading-intensive seminar. Upon successful completion, students will be adept at understanding and critiquing theoretical and empirical social science research methodologies that address the societal impacts of AI. Furthermore, they will be equipped to formulate research questions and design empirical research studies.

Bachelor Courses

Winter Term 2023/2024

Social Media, Digitisation and the Everyday: An Introduction to Digital Ethics

Term	Winter term 2023/24
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Zöllner, Oliver
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Full day meeting (20.10.+03.11.+17.11.+01.12.+15.12.+12.01.+26.01.

With a focus on the upcoming mid-term elections 2022 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 favourable to their communication goals. Political marketing can therefore be understood as a tool designed to influence the public about political candidates and issues.

Political Science

Gender, politics and language

Term	Winter term 2023/24
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	Full day meeting on November 17, 18, 24 and 25

This course will provide students with an introduction to gender, using this a basis to apply a gender lens to the study of political organisation and representation. We will cover the construction of gender and introduce the concept of intersectionality before learning about the formal, descriptive, substantive representation of women. To have a broad understanding of women's political organisation we will learn about the history of feminism and the women's movement before looking at the underrepresentation of women in politics. Against this background we zoom in on language and how language, gender and politics are related.

This will be illustrated with different empirical case studies, such as the political dimension of using gender-inclusive language, looking at way women and men talk in parliament, and an analysis of speeches made by heads of government during the COVID-19 pandemic through a gender lens.

Teaching objectives:

- Students will learn about the construction of gender and concept of intersectionality.
- Using case studies, students will learn to critically engage with current academic literature and how to apply the theory they have learnt to empirical case studies.
- Students will learn about both qualitative and quantitative methods of text analysis by reading empirical papers that use these approaches.
- By the end of the course students will be able to apply a gender lens to political science research.

Bachelor Courses

Winter Term 2023/2024

Welfare Recalibration in the European context: Inquiring change through leading theories

Term	Winter term 2023/24
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	Full day meeting on December 1,2, 08 and 09

The Welfare State represents a key institution in most European democracies. Some European countries thus dedicate up to a half of their public expenditures for social policies traditionally aimed at protecting citizens against risks related to health care, ageing, or unemployment spells. As new social risks and aspirations emerged in recent years (deindustrialisation and the rise of the service economy, demographic ageing, climate change), Welfare States have faced important pressures to transform and 'recalibrate' to the new reality. What should a 'modern' welfare state ideally look like to better fit citizens' needs? To what extent are EU governments able to embrace new priorities, be it at the cost of established constituencies? How can we, finally, account for the drivers of welfare change in a rigorous manner? The course seminar aims to serve two objectives. First, it proposes a general introduction to the main concepts used in the study of comparative welfare state research while providing a state-of-the-art on points of agreements and debates in the field. Second, it builds on methodological insights from the comparative welfare state to help students approach the study of welfare state developments as a historical process made of policy feed-backs and changes in interpretative patterns going beyond the shifts in the color of the governing party. No prior knowledge of the welfare state is needed; more advanced students might find further stimuli and food for thought in the additional readings that I will assign to each session.

Political Economy of Corruption Around the World

Term	Winter term 2023/24
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Neudorfer, Natascha
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Di 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon

The seminar will provide students with a general introduction to the academic debates on theories and empirical findings of corruption research. The seminar is guided by the following questions: What is corruption and how do we measure it? What causes corruption? What are the consequences from corruption? How do we fight corruption? The seminar combines a general textbook with high-quality research articles and book chapters. Various interactive teaching methods are used to help students engage with the material and learn about corruption.

Bachelor Courses

Winter Term 2023/2024

Sociology

Is God dead? Theories of (de-)secularisation

Term	Winter term 2023/24
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Hönes, Lisa Maria
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	tuesdays, 10.30 am – 12 noon

Religion may be understood as a grouping, guiding and guarding phenomenon. The idea of secularisation, meanwhile, implies that this phenomenon has become less and less binding, especially when seen in comparison with worldly powers such as the state. It works on the individual level, dealing with personal piety and faith, but also on the organisational level when it considers the supposed decline of the relevance of organised religion in everyday life. In this seminar, we will handle a variety of theories dealing with the alleged secularisation of the world as well as with theories that argue the exact opposite: De-secularisation or religious re-vitalisation. The scope will have a European focus, but we will look at the global scale as well. If you are interested in learning more about (de)secularisation in a specific part of the world, please do let me know (ideally via mail ahead of the first session) and I will try my best to include it in our sessions. Knowledge about religion or sociology of religion is welcome, but by no means necessary. **Please be aware that you will lose your spot in the seminar if you don't show up for the first session.**

Sociology of Migration and Integration

Term	Winter term 2023/24
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Ullein, Ann-Marie Claudia
Level	intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Full day meeting on November 3, 17 & December 1+15

In this seminar we deal with the basics of migration and integration. In the first part of the seminar, students will learn central concepts and theoretical models from sociological migration research. With this knowledge, current trends and causes of global migration movements are discussed. The second part of the course focuses on the integration of immigrants. Patterns and trends of integration in the four key societal dimensions (cultural, structural, social and identificational integration) will be addressed from a theoretical and empirical perspective. Upon completion of the course, students

will be familiar with the central concepts and theoretical foundations of migration and integration. They will be able to apply these to selected examples and critically review the empirical state of the literature. Although this seminar is designed as a block seminar in presence, the first and last date will take place online.

Labour Market Discrimination

Term	Winter term 2023/24
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Noack, Pamina Margit
Level	advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	Thursdays, 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm

The chances of finding a decent job, earning a great salary or getting into a leadership position vary between different communities. Discussions around these inequalities often point to discrimination as the explanation. But what exactly constitutes labor market discrimination? And can it really be the source of inequality? These are the questions we will tackle in the seminar. We will start by looking at the fundamental theories and measurements of discrimination. We will then explore several dimensions such as gender, sexuality, and age. We will read and discuss recent studies on the issue, examine their methodology and compare their results to our expectations.

Winter Term 2023/2024
Master Courses

Political Science

Civilizing Impacts of European Integration

Term	Winter Term 2023/2024
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

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.

Democracy and Intra-Party Democracy. Comparative Analyses

Term	Winter Term 2023/2024
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Poguntke, Thomas
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without final exam), 9 CP (with final exam)
Times	Thursdays 10.30 am - 12 noon

There is no agreement in the literature that intra-party democracy is a pre-condition for a functioning democracy. Schumpeter, for example, maintains that democracy is about being able to de-select incumbents and spends little time about the democratic quality of candidate selection or political parties. The German Basic Law, on the other hand, takes a decidedly different view and requires that political parties need to conform to democratic principles. Our seminar will address these different views and analyse the possibilities and limitations of intra-party democracy. We take different perspectives on democratic theory as point of departure and focus on different models of intra-party democracy. This will include traditional intra-organizational mechanisms like party congress as well as plebiscitary variants, including open leadership primaries which have become the hallmark of some Italian parties.

Master Courses

Winter Term 2023/2024

EU Foreign Policy In A Changing World

Term	Winter Term 2023/2024
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 noon

The European Union, representing more than 500 million citizens and the world's largest internal market, is acknowledged as an economic superpower. European Institutions conduct a tremendous number of external policies and assemble a large range of competencies to do so. However, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), incorporated into the integration process by the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, has to be perceived as a latecomer. Since most CFSP provisions are related to intergovernmental decision-making, many scholars doubt that a coherent foreign policy will ever be possible. This class, though, will put particular emphasis on CFSP and the accompanying Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The historic developments and achievements have to be addressed as well as current problems and shortcomings in this policy area. After analysing and assessing CFSP policy, politics and political we will explore how Europeanization affected and affects Member States. Selected national foreign policies and their contribution to CFSP have to be compared in this second block.

The EU as An Actor in Global Governance

Term	Winter Term 2023/2024
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, 2.30 pm -4 pm

Beyond its policies covered by the CFSP umbrella the European Union is a major actor in different fora of global governance. How can we sketch EU's actorness in global politics? What is formative on Europe's democratic agenda? Beside these introducing questions the class intends to investigate and assess more civilian external policies of the EU. Special emphasis will be put on the Union's contribution to global environmental governance and climate change regimes or EU's development policy.

Master Courses

Winter Term 2023/2024



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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