

Module number 24 - 26	Module title Specialised Elective Module: Theoretical and methodological issues of International Relations research (Theoretical and methodological issues of International Relations research)		
Code TMIIRR	Semester 4/5, 6, 7	Number of WSH 4	Module offered Changing Catalogue. Details can be found online (faculty web page).
Module coordinator Prof. Dr. Bresinsky	Tuition type Seminar-style tuition		Module duration 1 Semester
Lecturers Prof. em. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Reinhard Meyers Prof. Dr. Markus Bresinsky	Compulsory/Elective Elective		Module language English
Access requirements Course segment 2			
<p>Learning outcomes</p> <p>On completing the module the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes on the basis of scientific methods:</p> <p>Competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the research field of International Relations • Define an ontological/epistemological framework for International Relations theories • Know how to apply different theories and models of International Relations • Identify scope and limits of different theories and models • Know how to analyze the actor, structures and processes of international political issues with International Relation theories • Know how to develop a project in a team and present its results to an auditorium • Improve English conversation, reading and writing <p>The course focuses on the roles of theories and research methods in International Relations. Students are introduced to basic ontological and methodological concepts and major contending epistemological perspectives on theories and approaches in the field of International Relation. Furthermore, students will be acquainted with the background debates in the philosophy of the social sciences that undergird different methodological approaches.</p> <p>Main intention is to provide a sophisticated overview of the current scientific debates in the domain of International Relations theory and methodology against the background of a number of paradigmatic examples.</p> <p>Another aim is to assist students in the choice of the appropriate theoretical and methodological approach for their research project, not to train them in a multitude of research techniques as</p>			

such. The seminar will finish, however, with a session on how to construct a research proposal for a Bachelor / Master thesis.

The theoretical and methodological knowledge acquired during the seminar week will form the basis for a praxis-orientated conflict management/resolution role game on the last two days of the course.

Content

A. Basic ontological concepts

I: How can we know what we know? The sociolinguistic construction of worldviews. A simple start.

II: Concepts, roles, and functions of “theory” in the social sciences

III: Levels of Analysis and their consequences. Agency vs. structure: exclusivities or dialectical oppositions?

IV: The growth of theory - ordering the universe. Ontological and methodological perspectives on I.R.

B. Basic Ontologies of I.R.: From Hobbes via Grotius to Kant?

I: Realism – the shadows of international anarchy: national actors in a zero-sum game system of deterrence and security dilemmas

II: Idealism/Liberalism – from cooperation to interdependence: societal actors in a positive sum-game of progress and modernization

III: International Society – consensually ordered pluralist anarchical society with rules, norms, and institutions

C. Basic Epistemologies of I.R.: Understanding or explaining international phenomena. The methodological controversy between Traditionalism and Scientism

I: The traditionalist perspective: Qualitative Analysis, Hermeneutics, Policy Relevance.

II: The scientist or behavioral perspective: Quantitative Methods, Empiricism, Social Science without Values.

III: To bridge the gap: methodological pragmatism. The inter-paradigm debate and the Neo-Neo-discussion. Anything goes or Feyerabend for Epistemology?

IV: Superstructurally superficial: some methodological consequences of traditional Marxian premises for the analysis of I.R.; can scientific statements be interest-free?

D. From radical to post-modern critique of methodological traditionalism: the anti-foundationalist deconstruction of internationalist meta-narratives

I: The epistemology and methodology of post-modernism: how to describe the indescribable...

II: The meaning, condition, and means of (international) order creation: Global governance without global government? Or: What is underneath the Emperor’s new clothing?

E. Excursio

I: Unequal exchange, dependency, and core-periphery relationships: an alternative world view

II: Feminist perspectives in I.R. analysis – men make the war...[??]

F. Role play game / exercise

Peace Making in Slivonia. The prospects and disappointments of ethnic conflict resolution

Literature

Required reading

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Recommended reading

Introductory literature:

For a very brief, classical overview: Stephen van Evera: Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science. Ithaca: Cornell U.P.1997.

More extensive, deeper-going analyses in Vivien Lowndes/David Marsh/Gerry Stoker (eds.): Theory and Methods in Political Science. 4th ed., Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan 2018.

First Aid Conceptual Toolbox: Robert L. Miller/John D. Brewer (eds.): The A - Z of Social Research. A Dictionary of Key Social Science Research Concepts. London: Sage 2003.

Perspectives on and Theories of International Relations:

Robert Jackson/Georg Sorensen: Introduction to International Relations. Theories and Approaches. 6th ed. Oxford: Oxford UP 2016.

Tim Dunne/Milja Kurki/Steve Smith: International Relations Theories. Discipline and Diversity. 4th ed. Oxford: Oxford UP 2016.

Knud Erik Jorgensen: International Relations Theory. A New Introduction. 2. Aufl. London: Palgrave Macmillan 2018.

Conflict Management/Conflict Resolution:

Oliver Ramsbotham/Tom Woodhouse/Hugh Miall: Contemporary Conflict Resolution. The prevention, management and transformation of deadly conflicts. 4th ed. Cambridge: Polity Press 2016.

Hugh Miall/Tom Woodhouse/Oliver Ramsbotham/Christopher Mitchell (eds.): The Contemporary Conflict Resolution Reader. Cambridge: Polity Press 2015.

Jacob Bercovitch/Richard Jackson: Conflict Resolution in the Twenty-first Century. Principles, Methods, and Approaches. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 2009.

Teaching and learning methods

Seminar-style tuition

Symposium

Group works

Type of examination/Requirements for the award of credit points

Participation in class - 20%

Written essay (English) 1500 words:

Seminar paper on the premises, assumptions, characteristics, performance, achievements, and consequences of a particular theory/approach/method for I.R. analysis - 80% OR

Outline/disposition/research proposal for a Bachelor or a Master thesis on a subject of your choice based on an assessment of the relevant secondary literature and a discussion of the research methods to be used - 80% OR

Critical analysis of your and your groups behavior in the role game (with reference to premises & assumptions, definition of aims, agenda setting, negotiation, competition, game outcome, implementation of game results, achievements of game, feedback for a possible round II)

Other information

Max. 30 students

	<p>The course will be conducted together with students of the study program "International Relations and Management".</p> <p>Registration necessary. Details can be found online (faculty web page).</p> <p>Bloc course after summer exams period.</p> <p>Reading of literature, scientific working style, and self commitment to this course is mandatory!</p> <p>Lecture Times: 2019-08-05 until 2019-08-14</p> <p>Seminar sessions 10.30 - 12.45; 14.00 - 16.15; 16.30 - 18.00</p> <p>No course on 2019-08-10</p> <p>Room: tbd</p>	
<p>ECTS-Credits</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Workload</p> <p>150 hours</p> <p>Contact/attendance time: 60 h</p> <p>Additional work: 90 h</p>	<p>Weighting of the grade in the overall grade</p> <p>5</p>