



Commented Lecture Directory Winter Term 2024/25

M.A. Peace and Conflict Studies

Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg

Chair of Political Science

Lehrgebäude 40, Zschokkestr. 32, 39104 Magdeburg

Postfach 41 20, 39016 Magdeburg

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Important Note

Please note that this document is only meant as a reference and guidance in order for you to plan your upcoming semester. Since the planning of many of the seminars is still ongoing, details such as room, time or else can change. Also, no literature recommendation can be found here, but on the respective web page. Therefore, always check the [LSF](#) for most up to date information and register for all courses!

For questions contact: pacs@ovgu.de

Course Table Overview

Module	Courses
<u>PM 1</u>	<u>Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies</u>
	Tutorial: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies
<u>PM 2</u>	Only summer term
<u>PM 3</u>	<u>Conflict Analysis</u>
<u>PM 4</u>	<u>Mediation: Practical skills</u>
<u>PM 5</u>	<u>Methods in Peace and Conflict Studies & European Studies: An Overview</u>
	Tutorial: Methods in PACS: An Overview
<u>WPM 6</u>	<u>Introduction to the political system of the European Union</u>
	<u>Applied Policy Analysis</u>
	<u>Beratungen und Konsensfindung im Mittelalter</u>
	<u>Critical approaches to Peacebuilding</u>
	<u>European Social Integration./ Towards a European Society?</u>
<u>WPM 7</u>	<u>Global Sustainability and Governance</u>
	<u>Transformationsprozesse für einen nachhaltigen Campus</u>
	<u>Konfliktbehaftet: Modern-nachhaltig-ressourcenschonende Nutzung und historisch-kulturelles Erbe: Das Photovoltaik-"Sonnenschloss" Walbeck bei Hettstedt - gestern und heute</u>
	<u>Navigating Resource Frontiers: Power, Conflict, and Extractivism in the Global South</u>
<u>WPM 8</u>	<u>Media, Culture and Politics: Key Concepts and Theories of Cultural Analysis</u>
	<u>Germanistische Linguistik: Sprache in Digitalen Medien - Language in Digital Media</u>
	<u>Germanistische Linguistik: Zeichen im öffentlichen Raum - Signs in Public Space</u>
	<u>Once upon a time: The role of narratives in conflict</u>
	<u>Filmseminar Informatik und Ethik</u>
	<u>The Historical Novel: Maria Edgeworth to Lucy Caldwell</u>
	<u>Popular Culture and World Politics</u>
	<u>Artificial Friends in Fiction</u>
	<u>Colonial Heritage in Literature, Film and TV</u>
<u>Gender, crime, and human rights: Global perspectives on sex work</u>	

	<u>Critical Approaches to Peacebuilding</u>
	<u>Transitional Justice</u>
<u>WPM 10</u>	<u>Kolloquium/ Forschungsseminar für Abschlussarbeiten (BA,MA)</u>
	<u>Colloquium & Research Seminar (SP)</u>
	<u>Colloquium: Thesis Writing in European Studies and Political Science</u>
	<u>Colloquium: Abschlussarbeiten in European Studies</u>

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00 - 11:00	<p>Methods in Peace and Conflict Studies & European Studies: An Overview*</p> <p>Konfliktbehaftet: Modern-nachhaltig-ressourcenschonende Nutzung und historisch-kulturelles Erbe</p> <p>Filmseminar Informatik und Ethik</p> <p>Beratungen und Konsensfindung im Mittelalter</p>	<p>Tutorial: Methods in PACS: An Overview</p> <p>Colloquium: Abschlussarbeiten in European Studies</p>	<p>Introduction to the political system of the European Union</p> <p>The Historical Novel: Maria Edgeworth to Lucy Caldwell</p>		<p>Mediation: Practical skills*</p> <p>Critical Approaches to Peacebuilding*</p> <p>Filmseminar Informatik und Ethik</p>
11:00 - 13:00		<p>Navigating Resource Frontiers: Power, Conflict, and Extractivism in the Global South</p>	<p>Artificial Friends in Fiction</p> <p>Critical Approaches to Peacebuilding*</p> <p>Global Sustainability and Governance</p>	<p>Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies</p> <p>Germanistische Linguistik: Sprache in Digitalen Medien - Language in Digital Media</p>	<p>Transitional Justice*</p> <p>Colloquium & Research Seminar (SP)</p>
13:00 - 15:00	<p>Media, Culture and Politics: Key Concepts and Theories of Cultural Analysis</p>	<p>Conflict Analysis</p>	<p>Colonial Heritage in Literature, Film and TV</p> <p>Transformationsprozesse für einen nachhaltigen Campus</p>	<p>Germanistische Linguistik: Zeichen im öffentlichen Raum - Signs in Public Space</p>	<p>Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies (Tutorial)</p> <p>Applied Policy Analysis</p>
15:00 - 17:00		<p>Colloquium: Thesis Writing in European Studies and Political Science</p>	<p>Popular Culture and World Politics</p> <p>European Social Integration./ Towards a European Society?</p>	<p>Once upon a time: The role of narratives in conflict</p>	
17:00 - 19:00	<p>Gender, crime, and human rights: Global perspectives on sex work</p>	<p>Kolloquium/ Forschungsseminar für Abschlussarbeiten (BA,MA)</p>			

Legend: PM1 PM3 PM4 PM5 WPM6 WPM7 WPM8 WPM9 WPM10

*Block seminar – please refer to LSF!

Module 1 Theories and Approaches of Peace and Conflict Studies

Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Alexander Spencer

Details: Lecture, 2SWS
 Thursday 11 - 13:00 G40B-231 (91 Pl.)
 4 CP

 Language: English

Note: The seminar will be accompanied by a [tutorial](#). Please sign up for both!

Content: The lecture 'Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies' will examine some of the key concepts of and theoretical approaches to peace and conflict. It will commence in part one by considering the developments of the discipline and reflecting on the seemingly straightforward terms such as "peace" and "conflict". Part two will turn to different makro-theoretical explanations for peace and conflict in situations of social interaction. This will include approaches which examine the role of power, institutions, democracy, culture, language, gender, (post-)colonialism and the environment in peace and conflict.

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Module 2 Concepts of Securing Peace

Only in summer term

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Module 3 Conflict Analysis and Theories of Conflict Management

Conflict analysis

Lecturer: M.A. Lena Merkle

Details: Seminar, 2SWS
 Tuesday 13-15:00 G40B-332 (40 Pl.)
 6 CP

 Language: English

Note: All Literature will be provided in the first session through E-Learning.

Content: This course is a mandatory class for 1st semester PACS students. The focus lies on the analysis of conflicts by identifying central dimensions and learning about tools of conflict analysis. All necessary information will be provided in the first session.

Module 4 Applied Conflict Management

Mediation: Practical Skills

Lecturer: Dr. rer. pol. Kristina Roepstorff

Details: Block seminar, Present

First seminar: Wednesday, 23.10.2024, 1pm - 3 pm, G40B-229 (28 Pl.)

[See LSF](#) for exact dates, times and room numbers

10 CP

Language: English

Notes: There will be an additional online session (to be announced)!

Content: Mediation as a form of conflict management is used in a variety of contexts ranging from interpersonal to international conflicts. The UN Guidance for Effective Mediation defines it as "a process whereby a third party assists two or more parties, with their consent, to prevent, manage or resolve conflict by helping them to develop mutually acceptable agreements". For this, mediators require certain (e.g. communicative) micro skills, a high level of self-reflexivity and role awareness, as well as the ability to structure and moderate complex processes. The seminar introduces participants to the structure, principles and methods of mediation in both interpersonal and international conflicts. They will learn key mediative micro skills and apply them to conflicts. Role play and simulations are used as forms of experimental learning.

Module 5 Methods of Peace and Conflict Studies

Methods in Peace and Conflict Studies: An Overview

Lecturer: M.A. Tina Rosner-Merker et al.

Details: Block seminar, 2SWS

Monday 09-11:00 - G40B-140 (54 Pl.) See [LSF](#) for exact dates, times and room numbers

10 CP

Language: English

Note: The seminar will be accompanied by a [Tutorial](#). Please sign up for both!

Content: The seminar this term will be held in a hybrid format. This means that the entire module will be organised in four parts:

- 1.) Online lecture: Each session will be composed of a recorded video lecture by the respective teacher. This video together with the reading will be available on E-Learning (login details below). The lecture will NOT be live and will be uploaded in the week of the session at the latest. The videos for each session will be in different parts
- 2.) Home study: The home study element of the seminar is composed of doing the reading as well as watching the video.
- 3.) Tutorial: Each of the three parts of the seminar will be followed by a tutorial session (four in total) in which you will have the time to ask questions and discuss the topics covered so far.
- 4.) PACS & EUS Methods Conference: At the end of the seminar there will be a live student conference over 2 days in which you will present your ideas and the methods you intend to use in your term paper. The conference will be organized like a normal conference with 3-4 presenters per session plus discussant and chair. The sessions will be organised along the methods you intend to use in the term paper. The tutorial as well as the conference will be organised by Kamelia Dobрева. The conference will be open to all students of PACS and EUS and should be understood as the highlight of the year.

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Module 6 **Regional and Global Order**

[Introduction to the political system of the European Union](#)

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Eva G. Heidbreder

Details: Seminar 2SWS
Wednesday 09-11:00 G40B-414 (40 Pl.)
4/6 CP

Language: English

Note:

Content: This course introduces students to the European Union's (EU) political system with a particular focus on the process of European integration within the EU and the multi-level nature of this polity. The course is centred on the notion of ongoing and multiple crises in European integration and how they challenge both the EU itself as well as research and theorizing on European integration. In discussing what different theoretical approaches can deliver in order to understand, explain (and thus possibly change) the

crisis dynamics that have shaped EU politics in the past years, the seminar takes stock of what is “available” in theoretical terms and how research on European integration could or should develop in the future.

As an introduction to the political science perspective in the MA European Studies, it offers a) a basic overview on the political system, actors and processes of the EU’s political system, b) a deepened understanding of integration dynamics and c) approaches to scientifically analyse these.

Through group-based and independent activities, participants will learn to analyse and comprehend European integration through different analytical lenses and thereby develop their skills in applying different political science approaches to specific phenomena, in particular to contemporary questions the EU is currently facing.

Applied Policy Analysis

Lecturer: M.A. Tina Rosner-Merker

Details: Block seminar 2SWS
Friday 13-15:00 - Online (Mix of synchronous and asynchronous) See [LSF](#) for details
4/6 CP

Language: English

Note: Online: mix of synchronous and asynchronous

Remarks: Since this seminar's field trip is organized with an external partner, there are limited spaces available - especially for students studying Peace and Conflict Studies. In case of too many interested students, a waiting list policy will be applied

Content: What is applied policy analysis - or, in other words: what to do with a MA in EUS? This course assembles practitioners from very different professional backgrounds who illustrate which qualifications matter, how policy analysis is conducted in a variety of sectors and fields and, not least, how personal biographies make people to become policy makers, policy analysts, policy advisors - short, how EU policies are shaped.
For MA students in the third term, this course serves as preparation for the team projects. The interaction with practitioners is to inspire the formulation of a research topic, which must be defined at the end of the term. To this end, this group of students will also: develop questions and moderate the single sessions with practitioners, identify and organise certain sessions independently, i.e. you will have a chance to invite personalities of special interest to you.

Beratungen und Konsensfindung im Mittelalter

Lecturer: Alena Reeb

Details: Seminar, 2 SWS

Monday, 11:00 - 13:00, G40B - 236 (25 Pl.)
4-6 CP

Language: German

Note:

Content: Das mittelalterliche Herrschaftssystem war stark von dem Aspekt des Konsens geprägt - ein König war in seiner Regierung auf die Unterstützung seiner Fürsten angewiesen und diese legten großen Wert auf Teilhabe am Herrschaftsprozess. Die politische Landschaft war geprägt von Versammlungen, Beratungen und dem Bestreben, einen Konsens zu finden, der die beteiligten Personen(-gruppen) zufriedenstellte. Dabei ist es uns heute nur noch in Ausschnitten möglich nachzuvollziehen, wie umfangreich diese Prozesse waren - manchmal erfahren wir durch die zeitgenössischen Quellen nur, dass 'geheime Beratungen' stattgefunden hatten, bevor man zu einem Ergebnis kam, manchmal hingegen gibt es ausführliche Berichte über Beratungen zu Streitthemen.

Mit Hilfe von zeitgenössischen Quellen und gestützt durch Forschungsliteratur wollen wir uns im Seminar dem Phänomen der sogenannten 'konsensualen Herrschaft' zuwenden und betrachten, auf welchen Wegen die mittelalterliche Oberschicht zu einem Konsens kam, aber auch, was geschah, wenn ein solcher Konsens nicht gefunden werden konnte. Wir beschäftigen uns zudem mit den Fragen, wer in solche Prozesse eingebunden war, wer als Berater fungierte und wie Versammlungen zustande kamen und abliefen.

Critical Approaches to Peacebuilding

Lecturer: Dr. rer. Pol. Roepstorff Kristina

Details: Seminar
Wednesday 11-13:00 G40D-425 (25 Pl.)
Block seminar Friday 31.01.2025 09-17:00 G40B-026 (28 Pl.)

Language: English

Note: **The course takes place weekly until January, then as a compact / block seminar!**

Description: Peacebuilding aims at fostering sustainable peace in post-conflict societies. It uses different approaches and methods to help societies overcome conflict causes, support the reconstruction of the state apparatus and infrastructure and facilitates reconciliation. Today it presents an important field in international politics in which multiple actors engage, ranging from the UN to local civil society actors. However, peacebuilding interventions have not only come under criticism for its liberal ideology reflected in the liberal peace paradigm, but also for its reproduction of global power relations, its forms of knowledge production and the practices of international peacebuilding actors. Inspired by post-structuralist, post-colonialist, feminist but also interdisciplinary perspectives, a vibrant debate on the shortcomings of current peacebuilding approaches has ensued.

This research seminar will introduce the concept of peacebuilding and the liberal peace paradigm, before discussing the critique of peacebuilding interventions. Building on the knowledge acquired in the first part of the course, students will conduct their own individual research on topical issues in peacebuilding, ie. forms of knowledge production, the

construction of the 'local', the role of dominant narratives and practices in the context of peacebuilding interventions or the connection between gender and peacebuilding which they may also use to develop a research proposal for their master thesis.

European Social Integration./ Towards a European Society?

Lecturer: Jun.-Prof. Stefanie Börner

Details: Seminar
Wednesday 15-17:00 G40B-332 (40 Pl.)
5 CP

Language: English

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Module 7 Sustainable Development and Resource Management

Global Sustainability Governance

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Michael Böcher

Details: Seminar, 2 SWS
Wednesday 11-13:00 G40B-414 (40 Pl.)
4/6/10 CP

Language: English

Note: Literature (more literature will follow and must be researched by the students):

Biermann, F., Hickmann, T., Sénit, C., & Grob, L. (2022) (Eds.), *The Political Impact of the Sustainable Development Goals: Transforming Governance Through Global Goals?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781009082945.009 (OPEN ACCESS)

Bowen, K. J., et al. (2017). "Implementing the "Sustainable Development Goals": Towards addressing three key governance challenges — Collective action, trade-offs, and accountability." *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 26: 90-96.

Griggs, D., et al. (2013). "Policy: Sustainable development goals for people and planet." *Nature* 495(7441): 305.

Kates, R. W. (2018). "What is sustainable development?"

Mulligan, M. (2014). *An introduction to sustainability: Environmental, social and personal perspectives*, Routledge.

Portney, Kent E. (2015): *Sustainability*, Cambridge, Massachusetts : The MIT Press. 2015

Robertson, M. (2014). *Sustainability principles and practice*, Routledge.

Sachs, J. D. (2012). "From millennium development goals to sustainable development goals." *The Lancet* 379(9832): 2206-2211.

Content: The aim of the seminar is to discuss potentials and limitations of global sustainability governance. After a general introduction to global governance concepts, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN will be used to present and critically evaluate current

trends, achievements and problems in achieving global sustainability. The main concept of the seminar is that different student groups will individually research one of the 17 SDGs in detail and present their findings to the group. This will happen during a "mini-conference" that will take place all day on Friday, Jan. 19, 2024. The outcome will be to assess which of the SDGs are more realistic to achieve than others and whether there are even conflicting goals. In addition, it will be determined to what extent the efforts to implement the SDGs can be described with global governance. For the first time, the course will be held in cooperation with the TU Braunschweig (Prof. Anja Jakobi). This means that the course consists of a combination of face-to-face and online formats. The group from Braunschweig will visit Magdeburg. The mini-conference will take place together on site in Magdeburg as a **face-to-face event on Jan. 19, 2024.**

Transformationsprozesse für einen nachhaltigen Campus

Lecturer: M. Sc. / M.A. Juliana Hilf

Details: Seminar, 2 SWS
Wednesday 13-15:00 G40B-140 (54 Pl.)
6 CP

Language: German

Comments: Das Seminar findet zum Großteil auf Deutsch statt. Internationale Studierende sind herzlich willkommen und es wird eine Gruppenarbeit auf Englisch angeboten. Auch die Literatur und Aufgabenstellungen während des Kurses wird auf beiden Sprachen angeboten. Erste Grundkenntnisse in Deutsch erleichtern evtl. den Austausch mit anderen Gruppen und das Verstehen der Abschlusspräsentationen.
Most of the seminar will be held in German. International students are welcome and there will be one group working in English. The literature and assignments during the course will also be offered in both languages. A basic knowledge of German may make it easier to communicate with other groups and to understand the final presentations

Description: Dieses ist ein Service Learning Seminar. Das amerikanische Wort "Service Learning" setzt sich zusammen aus "Community Service" (gesellschaftliches Engagement) und "Learning" (Theorielernten). Das Seminar wird sich aus einem theoretischen und einem praktischen Teil zusammensetzen, in denen es inhaltlich um eine nachhaltige Entwicklung an unserer Universität und darüber hinaus geht. Es soll grundlegende theoretische Konzepte einer nachhaltigen Entwicklung vermitteln und den Studierenden die Gelegenheit bieten, eigene praktische Projekte auf dem Campus zu planen und zu realisieren. Es ist zudem eine Exkursion geplant.
This is a service learning seminar. "Service Learning" combines "Community Service" (social commitment) and "Learning" (theory learning). The seminar will consist of a theoretical and a practical part, which will focus on sustainable development at our university and beyond. It is intended to convey basic theoretical concepts of sustainable development and offer students the opportunity to plan and implement their own practical projects on campus. A field trip is also planned.

Remarks: Das Seminar kann auch im Modulebereich 1 des Nachhaltigkeitszertifikats angerechnet

werden.

The seminar can also be credited in module area 1 of the sustainability certificate.

Konfliktbehaftet: Modern-nachhaltig-ressourcenschonende Nutzung und historisch-kulturelles Erbe: Das Photovoltaik-"Sonnen Schloss" Walbeck bei Hettstedt - gestern und heute

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Stephan Freund

Details: Seminar, Präsenz

Monday, 11:00 - 13:00, G40B - 232 (28 Pl.)

Note:

Content: Im Mansfelder Land, in der Nähe von Hettstedt, ist in markanter Spornlage bereits von weitem eine beeindruckender, aus mehreren großen Gebäuden bestehender offenkundig historischer Gebäudekomplex zu sehen – Sonnen Schloss Walbeck. Seinen modernen Namen verdankt das Ensemble dem Umstand, dass mit Ausnahme des zentralen schlossartigen Mittelbaus alle Dachflächen vollständig mit Sonnenkollektoren bedeckt sind. Diese, mit dem Denkmalschutz en detail abgestimmte Form der Nutzung ermöglicht die Finanzierung eines Teils der Ausgaben, die für einen dauerhaften Erhalt der Anlage erforderlich sind. Im 10. Jahrhundert als königlicher Aufenthaltsort bezeugt, wurde in Walbeck 992 ein Frauenkloster gegründet und den Äbtissinnen von Stift Quedlinburg unterstellt. In späteren Jahrhunderten aufgehoben, entwickelte sich in Walbeck ein Adelsitz und eine Wirtschaftsdomäne, auf die die heutigen Baulichkeiten zurückzuführen sind. Für diesen besonderen historischen Ort ein modernes Nutzungskonzept zu entwickeln, das Anknüpfungspunkte an dessen Geschichte mit aktuellen touristischen Interessenschwerpunkten verbindet, ist Ziel des Seminars. Im Rahmen der Veranstaltung werden ein bis mehrere Exkursionen nach Walbeck und durch das Mansfelder Land stattfinden. Angesprochen zur Teilnahme sind Studenten aller Studiengänge (BA, MA und Lehramt), die sich für ihr Bundesland interessieren und zugleich konkrete Erfahrungen an der Schnittstelle von wissenschaftlicher Forschung, touristischer Vermarktung und beruflicher Betätigung sammeln wollen.

Navigating Resource Frontiers: Power, Conflict, and Extractivism in the Global South

Lecturer: Laura Marcela Zuniga Ordonez

Details: Seminar
Tuesday 11-13:00 G40B-337 (28 Pl.)
4/6 CP

Language: English

Note: See [LSF](#) for required literature

Content: The global hunt for natural resources creates a complex web of battles fought by different

actors vying for access and control. From the corridors of power to the frontlines of activism, conflicts over resource extraction reverberate throughout societies, shaping landscapes and livelihoods. Extractivism, characterised by expansive extraction of natural resources for export-oriented economies lies at the heart of many development narratives in the Global South. Yet beneath its surface lies a landscape of social, environmental and political tensions.

This course explores the intricate interplay between extractivism and conflict, drawing on a range of theoretical approaches, including development theories, political ecology, feminist perspectives and decolonial approaches. Through a mix of theoretical exploration and case study analysis, students will explore the drivers, impacts and dynamics of conflicts associated with natural resource extraction. From the mineral-rich areas of the Global South to the boardrooms of multinational corporations, they will examine the contested terrain where power, profit and politics intersect. Through discussion and critical enquiry, the course will also explore the strategies employed by grassroots movements to navigate these turbulent landscapes. From indigenous land struggles to transnational advocacy networks, they will explore the myriad responses to the conflicts caused by extractivism and identify pathways to resilience, justice and sustainability in resource governance.

Learning objectives

- Understand the key lessons of extractivism: Gain a comprehensive understanding of the concept of extractivism, its different forms and its socio-political implications in the Global South.
- Analyse conflict dynamics: Analyse the multi-layered nature of conflicts arising from extractive activities, including social, environmental and political dimensions.
- Explore different theoretical approaches: Examine various theoretical frameworks used to study conflict related to extractive activities, including political ecology, theories of greed and grievance, environmental justice, and feminist and decolonial approaches.
- Analysing case studies: Apply theoretical concepts to analyse real-life case studies of conflicts related to extractive industries in different regions.
- Evaluate resistance strategies: Evaluate the effectiveness of different strategies used by communities, civil society organisations and governments to address or resist conflicts related to extractivism.
- Political Implications: Reflect on the political implications of extractive conflicts for governance, development and environmental sustainability in the Global South.

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Module 8

Violence and Media

[Media, Culture and Politics: Key Concepts and Theories of Cultural Analysis](#)

Lecturer: Dr. phil. Tatjana Samostyan

Details: Semi-hybrid, 2SWS
Monday 13-17:00 G40B-140 (54 Pl.)

4/6/10 CP

Language: English

Note: **Please register for the course via LSF.** Your registration will be confirmed during the first semester week.

Priority acceptance: MA European Studies: CPA/EPA, MA PACS & Cultural Engineering

The seminar will be organized in a semi-hybrid format and consists of different units: in-person sessions / online self-study units in which you have to read texts and prepare short assignments / guest lectures (in-person or online) / online Zoom sessions. A detailed time schedule will be announced during the first session & distributed via E-Learning in the beginning of the term.

The first session will take place in-person on Monday, 14th October 2024.

For further information, read the [detailed course description](#) in LSF.

Content: This seminar is mandatory for MA European Studies (European Social and Cultural Policy Analysis) in the PM 2, a core module of the MA EUS/CPA.

This seminar investigates the interconnection of media, culture, politics and society whilst focusing on the dominance of visuality, performance and entertainment in the context of the mediatization of power and general media development.

The focus will be set on visual and digital culture, popular culture (infotainment, performance, politainment, violence, glamour, kitsch, cult), the staging of political power in festive and everyday culture, participatory culture, political correctness & cancel culture, cultural identities in Europe and creative protests in public space.

After a brief introduction to the key concepts and theories of cultural studies – milieu and lifestyle, subcultures, festivity and everyday life, time and space; gender, postcolonialism (race, ethnicity, nation); identity, the otherness, stereotypes, memory, collective memory and cultural identity (focus on EU identity), etc. – the seminar will deal with semiotic and multimodal image, text, film/video analysis as well as discourse analysis. An interdisciplinary approach will be used for the application of theories, analytical tools and interpretation strategies in exploring how cultural processes and artefacts are produced, shaped, distributed, and consumed in the modern mediatized world, especially in political and public discourses. The scope of analysis covers media- and cultural artefacts from Western & Eastern Europe and in particular the post-soviet space.

Selected case studies of visual images, discontinuous texts (image & text) and continuous texts from mass media, television, the Internet and from public space, including performance art, music, creative protests, street art, architecture and exhibition will be examined during the seminar.

In the first part of the seminar, a special emphasis is set on the application of methods and theories. In the second part, students will conduct their own research projects as a team work and write a term paper on it.

A detailed syllabus will be distributed at the beginning of term.

As a part of internationalisation@home strategy this seminar will include the guest lectures and joint sessions in cooperation with the scientists from our partner universities.

Germanistische Linguistik: Sprache in digitalen Medien - Language in Digital Media

Lecturer: Janett Haid

Details: Seminar, 2SWS
Thursday, 11 - 13, G40B-340 (28 Pl.)
4/6 CP

Language: German

Note:

Content: Trotz (oder vielleicht auch gerade wegen) der schnellen und vielfältigen Entwicklung stehen digitale Medien und analoge Kommunikationsformen in einer engen Anhängigkeit voneinander. Sichtbar wird dies beispielsweise darin, dass kommunikative Praktiken, die in den „Neuen Medien“ verbreitet sind, die (analoge) Kommunikation in unserem Alltag auf verschiedenen Ebenen beeinflusst. Zugleich brauchen wir aber auch Prinzipien der analogen Kommunikation für das Interagieren in digitalen Medien. In diesem Seminar werden wir Formen, Funktionen und Wechselwirkungen von Sprache und digitalen Medien erkunden. Im ersten Teil wird es um theoretische und methodische Grundlagen gehen, im zweiten Teil werden wir uns das Thema anhand von empirischen Studien erarbeiten. Themenschwerpunkte können dabei sein: Bildung, Inklusion, Digitalisierung, Medienkompetenz, Sprachentwicklung, Gaming oder KI. Auf der Basis der im ersten Teil erarbeiteten theoretischen und methodischen Grundlagen, sollen zum einen empirische Studien reflektiert und erfasst, zum anderen selbstständig linguistische Analysen erstellt werden.

Germanistische Linguistik: Zeichen im öffentlichen Raum - Signs in Public Space

Lecturer: Dr. Kirstin Kuck

Details: Seminar, 2SWS
Thursday, 13-15:00, G40B-412 (28 Pl.)
4/6 CP

Language: German

Note: Anmeldung über das LSF.

Content: Der öffentliche Raum ist voller sprachlicher Zeichen und kommunikativer Akte. Das beginnt beim unscheinbaren Aufkleber an der Laterne, geht über Plakate, Schilder und Inschriften und endet bei ganzen Gebäuden, deren Zweck darin besteht, bestimmte Formen des Sprachhandelns zu ermöglichen: Parlamentsgebäude, Gerichte, Universitäten und viele mehr. Kommunikativ wirken aber auch nicht-sprachliche Zeichen - Gebäude selbst zum Beispiel, die Gestaltung von Plätzen und ähnliches. In der Linguistik widmen sich verschiedene

kulturwissenschaftlich ausgerichtete Ansätze - v.a. der sogenannte "Linguistic-Landscape"-Ansatz - seit einiger Zeit intensiv diesen sprachlich-kommunikativen Phänomenen, die uns tagtäglich oft unbeachtet umgeben. Aber auch der „Place-Making“-Ansatz untersucht das Zusammenwirken verschiedener Zeichen an einem Ort. Das Seminar folgt dieser Idee mit eigenen praktischen Analysen im öffentlichen Raum. Dazu werden wir einen Teil des Seminars außerhalb des Seminarraums verbringen und in Magdeburg gemeinsam Orte in der analysieren und charakterisieren

Once upon a time: The role of narratives in conflict

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Alexander Spencer

Details: Seminar (present), 2SWS
Thursday, 3pm - 5 pm, G40B-414 (40 Pl.)

4/6/10 CP

Language: English

Notes:

Content:

Filmseminar Informatik und Ethik

Lecturer: Dr.-Ing Eike Schallehn

Details: Seminar (present), 2SWS
Meets twice weekly:
Monday 9-11:00 G02-112 (40 Pl.)
Friday 9-11:00 G05-314 (30 Pl.)
4/6 CP

Language: German

Content: In fiktionalen Kulturprodukten wie Spielfilmen und Computerspielen bilden sich Vorstellungen von ethischen Problemen, Politik und Gesellschaft ab, die in den filmischen bzw. informationstechnologischen Entwicklungs- und Produktionsprozess zwangsläufig mit eingebracht werden. Auch vermeintlich völlig unpolitische unterhaltende Spielfilme und Spiele transportieren dabei oft historische, moralische, gesellschaftliche und politische Informationen, Interpretationen und Meinungen. Diese sind zuweilen nicht einmal den Macherinnen und Machern selbst überhaupt konkret bewusst, aber trotzdem geeignet, die politischen Meinungen und moralischen Einstellungen der Rezipientinnen und Rezipienten (hier besonders in Hinblick auf Informationstechnologien) zu beeinflussen.

In diesem Seminar soll an verschiedenen Beispielen untersucht werden, welche Vorstellungen unserer sozialen und technischen Welt in verschiedene Spielfilme und Computerspiele inhaltlich Eingang gefunden haben bzw. welche Weltbilder sich jeweils aus deren Gestaltung ergeben und wie diese auf die Rezipient*innen wirken.

Nach 2-3 Einführungssitzungen wird als Muster die Analyse eines Spielfilms bzw. Spiels vorgestellt. Die Aufgabe der TeilnehmerInnen besteht anschließend darin, in 2er- oder 3er-Teams ebenfalls ein selbst ausgewähltes Medienprodukt (im ersten Block Spielfilme, im zweiten Block Computerspiele) auf seinen philosophisch-moralischen bzw. sozialwissenschaftlich relevanten Gehalt hin zu analysieren und diese Analyse im Seminar vorzustellen.

The Historical Novel: Maria Edgeworth to Lucy Caldwell

Lecturer: PD Dr. phil. Habil. Nora Pleßke

Details: Seminar
Wednesday 09-11:00 G40B-331 (30 Pl.)
4/6 CP

Language: English

Note: See [LSF](#) for literature

Content: The Walter Scott Prize created in 2010 can be seen as a sign for the ongoing popularity of historical fiction. Walter Scott's novel *Waverley* (1814), which depicts a fictitious average hero alongside real world-historical individuals, is commonly read as the first modern historical novel. It tells the story of a young Englishman Edward Waverley who finds himself unexpectedly caught up in the Jacobite Rebellion "sixty years since". This approach of the historical romance to the past has been altered and diversified in postmodern and contemporary historical fiction. Neo-Victorian or neo-historical novel as historiographic metafiction raise crucial questions about fact and fiction, history and writing, authenticity and identity, postcolonialism and feminism. Indeed, a particular point of interest in our discussion will be the gendering of the genre.

This seminar starts with assessing the origins and characteristics of classical historical fiction in the early 19th century before exploring recent developments of the historical novel in the 20th and 21st centuries. While Walter Scott's *Waverley* will serve as a set text for the first part, in the second part of the seminar, students will select a text of their own choice. The class will thus allow students to not only gain an overview on the literary history of the historical genre and engage with various canonical texts, but also to focus on key concerns of British literature and history.

Popular Culture and World Politics

Lecturer: Laura Marcela Zuniga Ordonez

Details: Seminar, 2SWS
Wednesday, 3pm - 5pm, G40B-410 (28 Pl.)
4/6 CP
Language: English

Note: For information on literature see the [detailed course description](#) in LSF.

Content: What do Cardi B, TikTok and The Avengers have in common? To what extent are our everyday encounters with pop cultural products connected to international politics? How do films, video games and reality shows contribute to the perpetuation or critique of ideas about masculinity and femininity? To what extent are these relationships relevant to our understanding of world politics? What role does pop culture play in challenging power structures? What influence does this have on international institutions and events such as war? This course aims to promote an understanding of the complex relationships between pop culture and world politics and provide insights into critical, feminist and postcolonial perspectives.

Artificial Friends in Fiction

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. phil. Habil. Susanne Peters

Details: Seminar
Wednesday 11-13:00 G40B-337 (28 Pl.)
4/6 CP

Language: English

Note: See [LSF](#) for literature

Content: In this course we will discuss a specific form of artificial intelligence: the artificial friend. Using two recent novels by important contemporary writers — Ian McEwan's 2019 *Machines Like Me* and Kazuo Ishiguro's 2021 *Klara and the Sun*, we will focus on issues such as ethics, realism, transhumanism, emotion and the economic exploitation of androids and humanoids, as represented in contemporary fiction.

A detailed syllabus will be available in the first session.

Colonial Heritage in Literature, Film and TV

Lecturer: PD Dr. phil. Habil. Nora Pleßke

Details: Seminar
Wednesday 13-15:00 G40B-331 (30 Pl.)
5 CP

Language: English

Description: Please register for the course via LSF and sign in for the course on the E-Learning OVGU-platform. A detailed syllabus will be distributed at the beginning of term.

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Module 9 **Global Justice**

[Gender, crime, and human rights: Global perspectives on sex work](#)

Lecturer: Sonja Dolinsek

Details: Seminar
Monday 5pm - 7pm, G40B-236 (25 Pl.)

4-6 CP
Language: English

Notes:

Content: This interdisciplinary course offers a global and historical perspective on sex work, beginning with its evolution and socio-legal contexts. We will explore various policy approaches, focusing on the complexities of criminalization and marginalization, and critically analyze the human rights violations faced by sex workers. The course will examine the place of sex work within the broader gendered social order and engage with diverse methodologies, including sociological, legal, and human rights frameworks, to study sex work and its social representations. Through this analytical approach, students will gain insights into the intersecting issues of gender, crime, and human rights, and the implications of different policy approaches.
Advanced students in BA-courses can attend the course for their "Optionaler Bereich".

Critical Approaches to Peacebuilding

Lecturer: Dr. rer. Pol. Roepstorff Kristina

Details: Seminar
Wednesday 11-13:00 G40D-425 (25 Pl.)
Block seminar Friday 31.01.2025 09-17:00 G40B-026 (28 Pl.)

Language: English

Note: The course takes place weekly until January, then as a compact / block seminar!

Description: Peacebuilding aims at fostering sustainable peace in post-conflict societies. It uses different approaches and methods to help societies overcome conflict causes, support the reconstruction of the state apparatus and infrastructure and facilitates reconciliation. Today it presents an important field in international politics in which multiple actors engage, ranging from the UN to local civil society actors. However, peacebuilding interventions have not only come under criticism for its liberal ideology reflected in the liberal peace paradigm, but also for its reproduction of global power relations, its forms of knowledge production and the practices of international peacebuilding actors. Inspired by post-structuralist, post-colonialist, feminist but also interdisciplinary perspectives, a vibrant debate on the shortcomings of current peacebuilding approaches has ensued.

This research seminar will introduce the concept of peacebuilding and the liberal peace paradigm, before discussing the critique of peacebuilding interventions. Building on the knowledge acquired in the first part of the course, students will conduct their own individual

research on topical issues in peacebuilding, ie. forms of knowledge production, the construction of the 'local', the role of dominant narratives and practices in the context of peacebuilding interventions or the connection between gender and peacebuilding which they may also use to develop a research proposal for their master thesis.

Transitional Justice

Lecturer: Dr. phil. Valerie Waldow

Details: Blockseminar, present
Friday / Saturday from 11 am - see [LSF](#) for exact times, dates and rooms.

4 / 6 CP

Language: English

Notes: Literature will be announced in the introductory session

Content: During the past 30 years transitional justice became a primary element of international peacebuilding efforts and human rights policy to address the effects of conflict. This seminar explores different responses taken by individual countries and the international community to gross human right abuse and violations of international humanitarian law. It examines the logic of mechanisms such as truth and reconciliation commissions, criminal tribunals, lustration, memorials, apologies and amnesties.

The course will be held in two parts. The first part is introductory and will explore the historical and conceptual development of transitional justice as a »global project« (Nagy), from its growing popularity in liberal peacebuilding during the 1990s, the broadening of the concept by aspects of social justice, to current postcolonial perspectives. The second part of the seminar invites to debate the relationship between politics, law, peace and justice. On selected cases, and in the form of roundtables and panel discussions, we will evaluate conditions for, and limitations to, realising aims such as order, truth, or justice. Can justice be achieved with measures such as amnesty or a truth commission? Should transitional justice aim to transform societies? What standards of justice should be applied for assessing responses to wrongdoing during periods of transition?

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Module 10

Master's Thesis

Kolloquium / Forschungsseminar für Abschlussarbeiten (BA, MA)

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Michael Böcher

Details: Kolloquium
Tuesday 17-19:00 G40B-229 (28 Pl.)

Language: German
5 CP

Note: See LSF for required literature

Content: Im Seminar werden alle von Herrn Böcher und seinem Team betreuten Abschlussarbeiten (BA & MA) diskutiert. Teilnehmen können nur Studierende der ausgewiesenen Studiengänge, die beabsichtigen, bzw. dabei sind, ihre Abschlussarbeit am Lehrstuhl von Herrn Böcher zu erstellen. Neben den Themen der Abschlussarbeiten werden methodische und theoretische Grundlagen und Arbeitstechniken der Politikwissenschaft und Politikfeldanalyse besprochen.

Colloquium & Research Seminar (SP)

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Alexander Spencer

Details: Colloquium, 2 SWS
Friday 11-13:00 G40B-330 (28 Pl.)
Language: English
5 CP

Note:

Content: The Colloquium offers students the opportunity to present a draft of their BA or MA thesis and to receive feedback on their work by their peers. Several sessions at the start of the course will provide an introduction to research design. We will discuss core concepts that make for a well-structured draft such as relevance, problem, question, claim and method. After this introduction, the remainder of the course will be dedicated to student presentations and feedback.

The seminar is for MA & BA students who are writing their final thesis and are being supervised by a A. Spencer or a member of his staff at the chair of international relations.

Colloquium: Thesis Writing in European Studies and Political Science

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Eva G. Heidbreder

Details: Colloquium
Tuesday 15-17:00 G40B-330 (28 Pl.)
5CP

Language: German and English

Note:

Content: Das Kolloquium bietet einleitende eine knappe Übersicht zum Vorgehen bei der Erstellung

von Abschlussarbeiten (erste Sitzung). Im Mittelpunkt stehen dann die individuellen Arbeiten der Teilnehmenden, die ihre Arbeitskonzepte vorstellen und gegenseitig kommentieren. Am Ende des Kolloquiums hat jede/r Teilnehmer/in seine Arbeit individuell diskutiert und erlernt, sowohl die eigene als auch Arbeiten anderer kritisch zu hinterfragen und kommentieren, um so begleitend zum eigenen Arbeitsprozess das Erstellen von Abschlussarbeiten zu erlernen.

The course will be in German / English in response to the needs of students participating.

See LSF for required literature

Colloquium: Abschlussarbeiten in European Studies

Lecturer: Dr. Phil. Tatjana Samostyan

Details: Colloquium
Tuesday 9-11:00 G40B-236 (25 Pl.)
5CP

Language: ?

Note:

Details: Im Seminar werden alle von Dr. Tatjana Samostyan betreuten Abschlussarbeiten (BA & MA) diskutiert. Teilnehmen können nur Studierende der ausgewiesenen Studiengänge, die beabsichtigen, bzw. dabei sind, ihre Abschlussarbeit mit den Schwerpunkten Mittel- und Osteuropa, insbesondere Russland und Ukraine, oder medien- und kulturwissenschaftliche (und historische) Analysen zu erstellen. Dazu zählen auch Studierende, die bereits an den Seminaren von Frau Samostyan teilgenommen haben *oder* deren Thema im Forschungs-/Arbeitsbereich von Frau Samostyan liegt. Neben den Themen der Abschlussarbeiten werden methodische und theoretische Grundlagen und Arbeitstechniken besprochen.