

Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies

Course Catalogue Summer Semester 2025

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P Si: Introductory seminar, 4 ECTS (with grade)

Si: Seminar, 5 ECTS (with grade)

MA Si: Master Seminar, 5 ECTS (with grade)

[MA Si] Conflicts about the Climate Change

Lecturer: Priska Daphi

Medium: classroom teaching

Time: Thursday 10:00 – 14:00, bi-weekly starting 24.04.

Room: Licher Str. 68 (Campus Law & Economics), room 052 (first floor)

The seminar explores current conflicts about climate change and about the measures implemented to mitigate its acceleration and effects. We will examine such conflicts with regards to different arenas and actors – ranging from the transnational to the local – as well as with respect to different forms of conflicts – ranging from litigation and parliamentary debates to protests and online disputes.

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[Si] Critical Perspectives on Entrepreneurship

Lecturer: Farhad Feizi

Medium: classroom teaching

Time: Monday 12:00 – 14:00

Room, Phil II, building E, room 201

This seminar will introduce participants to emerging concerns and criticisms about entrepreneurship, or more generally, to what is known as de-mystifying entrepreneurship. Given the diversity of perspectives through which entrepreneurship has been challenged in recent years, the seminar covers various topics such as entrepreneurship and slavery, business propaganda, and institutional aspects of the issue. The seminar aims to navigate participants to further explore its subjects in economic sociology, management critical studies, or entrepreneurship critical studies. The main teaching references will be a combination of seminal papers and book chapters, moreover, multimodal content (e.g., videos) will also be utilized to improve audiences' learning quality and sensory engagement.

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[P Si] Democratic Dystopias: Populism, Perception and Reality

Lecturer: Maria Natalia Beske

Medium: classroom teaching

Time: Wednesday 12:00 – 14:00, Saturday 09:00 – 12:30

Room, Phil II, building E, room 002

This seminar centers on the analysis of populism and offers the students the chance to learn the basics of democracy, Authoritarianism, and populism. Furthermore, using current examples for analysis, this seminar aims at answering the following questions: What is the role of perception in politics? Can an electorate be manipulated? What is the role of the media? Moreover, can our democracies (and political systems) survive the new digital age of populism? Keywords: Democracy ideals/Health, Populism Theories, Authoritarianism. Examination Method: Group Presentation (Individually graded) + 1 small written assignment (4 pages total). Online consultation hours: Every Wednesday with prior registration.

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[MA Si] Dwelling: Financialization, Political Strategy, Camp

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Regina Kreide

Medium: online

Time: Tuesday 19:00 – 21:00

Dwelling is a vital condition and activity. In continuation of the seminar from the winter semester, we will explore the question of what characterizes dwelling. And how dwelling becomes the plaything of various powers, from the financial market to propagandistic demands to camps in which dwelling can become a nightmare. We will discuss fundamental texts on the topic, including works by Aalbers, Agamben, and P. Marcuse.

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[Si] Environmental Justice

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Sandra Schwindenhammer

Medium: online

Time: block seminar (Tuesdays 22.04., 29.04., 06.05., 13.05., 20.05., 27.05., 03.06. 10.06.: 12:00 – 14:00 and Saturdays 12.07. & 19.07: 11:00 – 17:00)

The unequal distribution of environmental benefits and harms produced by modern capitalist production remains one of the most pressing societal challenges of our time, giving rise to “environmental justice” as a topic of socio-political mobilization and a theoretical concept in social science for analysing (re-)distribution, mobilization, representation, and political participation. Environmental justice focuses on the nexus between social discrimination and environmental burdens affecting groups such as poor communities, racial minorities, children, and indigenous peoples, and highlights demands for equal environmental protection. Today, environmental justice is central to challenges in areas such as food, agriculture, climate change, water, and land use. It is actively adopted by social movements addressing disproportionate environmental harms, mobilizing against threats like polluted environments, and advocating for fair access to environmental goods. Simultaneously, environmental justice has been integrated into governance arrangements at multiple levels. As a theoretical perspective, environmental justice enables reflection on local mobilizations and global connections while contextualizing key questions through frameworks like post-colonial theory, social movement theory, and environmental governance studies.

In the course, following an introduction to the foundations, history, and definitions of environmental justice, several key questions are assessed: How are environmental benefits and harms distributed, and what dependencies, inequalities, and conflicts result? How do environmental conflicts and struggles over resources manifest? What justice claims are mobilized, and how are they expressed? What power dynamics and social structures perpetuate environmental inequality? What mechanisms address or resolve conflicts related to environmental justice?

Students will analyse case studies demonstrating environmental inequalities across issues, regions, and communities. Results from group work will be presented, discussed, and commented on in two block seminar sessions on July 12 and July 19, 2025.

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[MA Si] EU Enlargement Policies

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Andrea Gawrich

Medium: classroom teaching

Time: Tuesday 16:00 – 18:00

Room, Phil II, building E, room 201

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[Si] Exploring Digital Pedagogy: Integrating Technology in Schools

Lecturer: Erum Afzal

Medium: classroom teaching and online (hybrid)

Time: Monday 10:00 – 12:00

Room: Phil II, building B, room 209

This course explores digital pedagogy, equipping participants with the skills to integrate technology effectively in the classroom. It combines theoretical foundations with practical applications, focusing on enhancing teaching methods, supporting diverse learning styles, and promoting engagement. Participants will gain hands-on experience with AI tools, digital assessment methods, and strategies for fostering digital literacy, all while aligning technology use with pedagogical goals. By the end of the course, educators will be able to design tech-enhanced lessons, adapt teaching practices, and evaluate the impact of Technology on the learning of Students.

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[Si] Feminisms and peacebuilding in the Global South

Lecturer: Juliana González Villamizar

Medium: online

Time: Monday 10:00 – 12:00

The seminar focuses on the multiple forms of feminist activism and knowledge production emerging in different locations of the Global South, with a particular emphasis on Latin America. It connects the political activities and discussions taking place in these contexts around women's and LGBTQ+ rights with the fields of transitional justice and peace building, which seek to address conflicts and political violence around the world.

Students will approach various feminist currents focusing for instance on armed conflict and human rights violations, antiracist and decolonial praxis, environmental justice, and sexual and reproductive rights. The seminar also provides a conceptual background on key elements of feminist and queer theorization such as gender, intersectionality, sexual orientation/gender identity, patriarchy, structural racism, coloniality, ethnicity, care and many others.

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[VI] Global Governance, Peace and the Crisis of Liberal World Order

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Helmut Breitmeier

Medium: online

Time: Monday 10:00 – 12:00

Access: Step 1) Join course on Stud.IP , Step 2) "Meeting" button, Step 3) Big Blue Button, Meeting "Online-Lecture Monday 10-12 am"

The live-lecture will be held online and in a synchronous format. It is also accessible for students enrolled in JLU's Virtual International Programme (VIP). In a first section, the lecture deals with basic concepts (e.g., global governance, theories of international relations, liberal world order) and the impacts of populism, nationalism, and the regression of democracy on global governance - or on the system of the United Nations. On the one hand, students from different study programs will be provided with basic information necessary to understand arguments made about the impact of declining liberal world order on global governance. On the other hand, the lecture will follow a problem-oriented approach and analyse or explore these issues in depth. It will analyse developments in different issue areas (e.g., environment/climate change, development, world trade, disarmament, management of violent conflict and peace-keeping, human rights, food etc.). Lectures will be held in English language. Each lecture includes puzzles with questions to students (for self-study or discussion with students in Stud.IP) or small video-clips about specific themes related to an issue area.

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[P Si] Interaction and communication in areas of sustainability and natural relations

Lecturer: Dr. Lisa Gromala
Medium: classroom teaching
Time: Wednesday 08:00 – 10:00
Room, Phil II, building E, room 101

The course is split into two sections: while the first weeks are dedicated to in-depth literature work on sociological classics of social interaction and communication, the second half uses their main concepts as a basis for the discussion of topics on natural relations and sustainability.

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[MA Si] International Security Organisations in Comparison

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Andrea Gawrich
Medium: classroom teaching
Time: Tuesday 14:00 – 16:00
Room, Phil II, building E, room 201

International organisations are a central element of world politics. They structure international relations in many respects. Their character and their fields of work are very different. The central aim of this seminar is to provide an in-depth introduction to the field of international security organisations. In a first step, the concepts and theories of international organisations will be explained in more detail. In the further course of the seminar, selected security organisations will be analysed in more detail. These are in particular the UN, NATO, the EU, the OSCE, but also selected security organisations from other regions of the world. Methodologically, the seminar is based on joint text discussions, group work and a weekly news corner.

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[P Si] Migration and Collective Memory

Lecturer: Dr. Pinar Gümüs Mantu

Medium: classroom teaching

Time: Tuesday 08:00 – 10:00

Room, Phil II, building E, room 101

This course examines memory as a cultural practice from a postmigration perspective. Empirical materials of the course have a particular focus on young generations in Germany with a family migration history from Turkey. Drawing upon the definition of cultural memory as “the interplay of present and past in socio-cultural contexts” (Erl 2010), the course aims to open a space for a collective scrutinization of how younger generations deal with their migration history in relation to their current experiences in society through different media, spaces and forms of cultural practices such as online archival projects, films, biographies, music etc. The course will provide an introductory theoretical discussion of concepts such as cultural memory, collective memory, acts of memory as well as postmigration as a new perspective in analysing the current complexities of immigration societies. Examples such as collective memory projects, auto-sociobiographical texts and documentaries will be used as course materials for a deeper exploration of configurations of cultural memory in postmigrant settings.

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[Si] Migration and Health in the European Union and Turkey

Lecturer: Dr. Sascha Krannich

Medium: online

Time: block seminar (Mo. 28.04., 05.05., 12.05., 19.05.: 14.00 - 16.00, Mo 26.05.: 12:00 – 18:00,

Tue 27.05.: 12:00 – 18:00

The seminar Migration and Health in the European Union and Turkey is structured as a transdisciplinary and transnational hybrid seminar (online and in presence). The transdisciplinary character is given in different research and teaching approaches to understand the nexus of migration and health: The sociological approach focuses on the social determinants of health by analysing social networks of migrants (labour migrants, family reunification, students as well as asylum seekers and refugees). The political approach investigates the political determinants of health by looking at immigration and health policies and laws.

Furthermore, the medical approach is analysing the actual health outcomes of migrants and differences between various migrant groups. The transnational character of the seminar is embodied in the conceptual collaboration of the seminar between different EU Peace partners from Giessen University, University of Calabria (Italy), Universidad Comillas Madrid (Spain), and Cukurova University (Turkey). We look at the different determinants of health of migrants in Germany, Italy, Spain, and Turkey in a comparative perspective.

The seminar should improve knowledge about migration and health issues, contribute to a better understanding of EU and Turkish migration policies, and enlarge intercultural competences and English skills of students and future teachers (particularly regarding migration and health terminology, categories, and concepts) of students.

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[P Si] Multi-professional collaboration and digital innovation

Lecturer: Erum Afzal

Medium: classroom teaching and online (hybrid)

Time: Tuesday 12:00 – 14:00

Room: Phil II, building B, room 101

This course helps educators build collaboration and teamwork skills to work effectively with diverse teams. It focuses on integrating technology into teaching to enhance education quality and support lifelong learning. Participants will gain future skills to adapt to the evolving educational landscape and confidently use advanced tools to drive positive change in their institutions, fostering student engagement and improving the learning experience.

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[MA Si] Peace and Conflict Studies 2st.

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Stefan Peters

Medium: online

Time: Monday 14:00 – 16:00 (2 full hours)

The course offers an introduction to the field of peace and conflict studies. After discussing basic concepts, the course will deal with topics including Peacebuilding; Rebel Governance; Transitional Justice and Human Rights; Gender and Intersectionality; Natural Resources and Environmental Peacebuilding as well as Education and Peace Building.

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[MA Si] Pop'n'Politics - Popular Music(ians) and Politics

Lecturer: Niklas Ferch

Medium: classroom teaching

Time: Tuesday 14:00 – 16:00

Room, Phil II, building E, room 112

From a political science perspective, this seminar deals with the manifold relationship between politics and popular musicians (of different, popular musical styles). In the first part of the lecture period, we will focus on core concepts relevant to the phenomenon (such as politics, popular music and media) and selected theoretical approaches to be found in the current state of the art. In the second part, the seminar participants prepare and deliver presentations based on examples of their own choice, which will then be the subject of our discussions in class.

REQUIREMENTS

Regular (min. 50%) and active participation in the seminar sessions; independent reading of the seminar literature (provided via Stud.IP).

ASSESSMENT

Individual student presentation (max. 25 min., graded) plus written paper (10 pages, graded; submission by 30 September 2025) based on a chosen example.

International students very welcome, including those still on Bachelor level and from disciplinary backgrounds other than political science. In case of doubt, please contact me

beforehand: Niklas.Ferch@sowi.uni-giessen.de

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[P Si] What is Sustainability?

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Jörn Ahrens, Ghita Rezzouk

Medium: classroom teaching

Time: Tuesday 14:00 – 16:00

Room, Phil II, building E, room 101

Sustainability is one of the key concepts of our times. The UN SDG17 agenda sets the ambitious goal for sustainable development worldwide in 17 different fields ranging from the erasure of hunger to the improvement of education to the protection of the environment. Contemporary debates on the transformation of societies decisively focus on issues of sustainability. As sustainability is as much a societal agenda as a concept in sociology and political sciences, it is worth to reflect on how the concept is designed, communicated, and debated.

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