

Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies

Course Catalogue Winter Semester 2025/26

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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)

English taught courses

P Si: Germany's Political and Social System In Comparative Perspective

Lecturer: Niklas Ferch

Time: Fridays: 09:00 – 12:00 (taking place until end of December)

Venue: Phil II, house G, room 104

Medium: classroom teaching

This proseminar provides an introduction to the political and social system of the Federal Republic of Germany. Together, we want to enable a reflective, comparative perspective on Germany today. The weekly seminar sessions cover the fundamental rights of the German constitution, the main political institutions and parties, the German welfare regime and the family conceptions underpinning it, the market economy model predominant in Germany as well as trending topics such as rising inequalities, rising populism and extremism and the climate crisis. Whenever possible, day-to-day politics serve to illustrate the theoretical arguments and models.

REQUIREMENTS

All participants of the proseminar are expected to actively participate in the discussions and to read short introductory texts before each seminar session. All mandatory readings as well as the slides used in the sessions will be provided via Stud.IP. Students need to take part in at least 51% of the sessions.

International Exchange Programme students are either assessed on the basis of a scientific Seminar Report (2 ECTS; 5 pages, not graded) or a Coursework (4 ECTS; 10 pages, graded), depending on their Learning Agreement.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please note that this course will only take place between October 17 and December 12, 2025, as a weekly, three-hour seminar (Friday mornings between 9:15 and 11:45am).

[Stud.IP](#)

MA Si: 'Safe space' and society

Lecturer: Nina Boy

Time: Tuesdays; 12:00 – 14:00

Venue: Phil II, house E, room 002

Medium: classroom teaching

This seminar explores the notion of 'safe space', which is gaining increasing importance not only in the classroom and on the campus but has itself become a parameter of societal conflict. Questions addressed are: How are safe spaces created? Are safe spaces inclusive or do they produce new forms of exclusion? Do they represent zones of comfort or sites of critique against existing (power) structures? How does the concept of safe space relate to public space, how does it shape society? What connects the idea of a "safe space" with other security dispositifs and other forms of spatial protection?

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MA Si: A Research Seminar on Autocratic International Organisations

Lecturer: Murad Nasibov

Time: Tuesdays, 16:00 – 18:00

Venue: Phil II, house E, room119

Medium: classroom teaching

This advanced research seminar introduces graduate students to the theory of Autocratic International Institutionalisation (All), a framework developed to understand the strategic, patterned, and regime-specific engagement of autocratic regimes with intergovernmental organisations (IGOs). Students will engage with the theory, develop and pitch empirical research questions, and collaborate in small groups to execute research projects. Outstanding papers may be selected for publication via JLU-PUB in a digital collection curated by the instructor.

[Stud.IP](#)

MA Si: Artificial intelligence and the democratic public sphere

Lecturer: Regina Kreide

Time: Tuesdays, 18:00 – 20:00

Medium: online

Artificial intelligence, especially large language models, which can be found in many digital applications, including social media apps, is omnipresent – and usually without us realizing it. Discussions in the political public sphere are now clearly influenced by them, with the visualization of certain political content, but also doxxing, swarming and other forms of discrimination and agitation playing an increasing role. The seminar aims to explore the question of what is meant by a functioning democratic public space, how AI programs can be understood and how technical tendencies influence democratic processes.

[Stud.IP](#)

Si: Peace, Migration, and Democratic Development in Europe

Lecturer: Sascha Krannich

Time: Block Seminar:

Fr. 24.10.2025, 13.00 - 18.00

Sa. 25.10.2025, 10.00 - 17.30

Fr. 07.11.2025, 13.00 - 18.00

Sa. 08.11.2025, 10.00 - 17.30

Medium: online

The seminar “Peace, Migration, and Democratic Development in Europe” focuses particularly on the interrelations of peace, migration, and democratic development by addressing the question of how migrants in European countries can contribute to the development of peace and democracy in their European countries of residence as well as of origin. In a comparative perspective, we look at how Turkish, Spanish, and Italian migrants engage in integration processes in Germany, and Moroccan migrant organizations in Spain promote peace and democracy in the Maghreb region. In addition, we examine how African migrants in Italy push asylum policies in Italy and promote peace in sub-Saharan Africa, and Syrian refugees in Turkey try to help to rebuild Syria through transnational

networks in Istanbul and Ankara. The seminar should improve knowledge about issues of peace, migration, and democracy, and contribute to a better understanding of European peace policies, and enlarge intercultural competences and English skills of students and future teachers (particularly regarding terminologies, categories, and concepts of peace and democracy).

[Stud.IP](#)

Si: Postmigrant Cultural Memory: Revisiting Social Inequality and Migration History

Lecturer: Pinar Gümüs Mantu

Block Seminar:

Mo. 20.10.2025,10.00 - 14.00

Mo. 03.11.2025,10.00 - 14.00

Mo. 17.11.2025,10.00 - 14.00

Mo. 01.12.2025,10.00 - 14.00

Mo. 15.12.2025,10.00 - 14.00

Mo. 12.01.2026,10.00 - 14.00

Mo. 19.01.2026,10.00 - 14.00

Mo. 02.02.2026,10.00 - 14.00

Venue: Alter Steinbacher Weg 44, room 303

Medium: classroom teaching

In this course, we will be working on memory as a cultural practice with a particular focus on migration processes. As we look closer to the question of how migration has been remembered (or forgotten), the postmigration perspective, which has been prominent regarding critical reflexive research on migration in the German speaking context in the last decades, will guide our analysis. Empirical materials of the course have a particular focus on young generations in Germany with migration history in their families. Drawing upon the definition of cultural memory as “the interplay of present and past in socio-cultural contexts” (ErlI 2010), this course aims to open space for a collective scrutinization of cultural practices of remembering migration, social inequality and otherness in relation to current senses and definitions of belonging in society. The course will provide an introductory theoretical discussion of concepts such as cultural memory, collective memory as well as postmigration as a new perspective in analyzing the current complexities of immigration societies. Examples such as collective memory projects, autosociobiographical texts and documentaries will be used as course materials for a deeper exploration of configurations of cultural memory in postmigrant settings. Course readings/empirical materials are in English and in German. Discussions are also open to bilingual participation. All participants are expected to read the assigned texts for each block session and take actively part during the course sessions.

[Stud.IP](#)

P Si: Sociology of the Future

Lecturer: Jörn Ahrens

Block Seminar: Introduction session tba

Friday 30.01.2026,09.00 - 16.00

Friday 06.02.2026,09.00 - 16.00

Medium: online

The relatedness of societies towards the future cannot be taken for granted. It rather is a characteristic of modernity which conceptualizes the future as open horizon of infinite dynamics, plannings, and designs. This affects economic as much as political agency and individual biographies.

Hence, the future has developed into one of the core variables of society and sociation. At the same time, the future remains unknown, is hard or simply not predictable and, thus, invariably remains risky. This class reflects on approaches towards the future from the social sciences and cultural studies.

[Stud.IP](#)

BA P Si: Multi-professional collaboration and digital innovation

Lecturer: Erum Azfal

Time: Mondays 10:00 – 12:00

Venue: Phil II, house B, room 030

Medium: hybrid

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.

[Stud.IP](#)

P Si: Propädeutikum (I)/Academic Writing

Lecturer: Erum Azfal

Time: Wednesdays 10:00 – 12:00

Venue: Phil II, house B, room 221

Medium: hybrid

This course aimed to equip students with essential skills for scientific research writing, focusing on core principles such as understanding the nature of science, learning scientific work techniques, conducting topic research, and correctly citing sources. Students will develop the ability to formulate independent research questions and engage in ethical research practices. These insights and skills will not only enhance their academic performance but also develop mindset as educators promoting a culture of critical thinking and integrity in educational institutions. This course will be in English, basic knowledge of English is sufficient.

[Stud.IP](#)


MA Si: Development Studies in Times of Political Disruption

Lecturer: Stefan Peters

Time: Mondays, 14:00 – 16:00

Medium: online

The course will discuss theoretical approaches to development. Afterwards it will focus on the current political changes and turmoils. Based on a critical analysis of contemporary politics, it will then analyse various topics of development studies (Political Economy, Development State, Natural Resources and Development, Sustainable Development and SDGs, Social Development; Peace and Development etc.)

 [Stud.IP](#)

MA Si: Environmental Justice

Lecturer: Sandra Schwindenhammer

Medium: digital

Tue. 14.10.2025,14.00 - 16.00: Thematic, Organizational, and Technical Introduction

Tue. 21.10.2025,14.00 - 16.00 Environmental Justice – Historical Origins in the US and Recent Challenges

Tue. 28.10.2025,14.00 - 16.00 Environmental Justice – Key Conceptual Dimensions and Principles

Tue. 04.11.2025,14.00 - 16.00 Development and Struggles of Environmental Justice Activism

Tue 18.11.2025,14.00 - 16.00 Identification, Framing, and Mapping of Environmental Distributional Conflicts

Tue. 25.11.2025,14.00 - 16.00 Environmental Justice – Analytical Significance, Impact, and Implementation Challenges

Tue. 02.12.2025,14.00 - 16.00 Guided Group Work on the Case Study Research Concept

Tue. 09.12.2025,14.00 - 16.00 Guided Group Work on the Case Study Research Concept

Sat. 31.01.2026,12.00 - 18.00 Group Presentations and Discussion of Case Studies

Sat. 07.02.2026,12.00 - 18.00 Group Presentations and Discussion of Case Studies

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 analyzing (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 analyze case studies demonstrating environmental inequalities across various issues, regions, and communities. The results of the group work will be presented, discussed, and commented on during two mandatory block seminar sessions on January 31, 2026 and February 7, 2026.

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MA Si Tech Sovereignty and Geopolitics

Svenja Falk:

Block Seminar

Fr. 17.10.2025,09.00 - 18.00 Uhr Raum 002, Haus E, Phil II

Sa. 18.10.2025,09.00 - 18.00 Uhr Raum 002, Haus E, Phil II

So. 19.10.2025,09.00 - 18.00 Uhr Raum 002, Haus E, Phil II

From artificial intelligence and semiconductors to the global cloud infrastructure — technology has become the new arena of power politics. Nations are racing to secure strategic advantages, pouring billions into innovation while reshaping trade, regulation, and alliances. As geopolitical tensions reshape globalization, technology is influencing everything from elections to economic competitiveness.

This seminar explores how key technologies shape civil society, democracy, and business; examines the political strategies of major global players; and compares national approaches to achieving technological sovereignty.

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Si: Networks of Control: Eurasian Regional Organisations

Murad Nasibov

Format:


in Präsenz

Zeit und Ort:

regelmäßiger Termin ab 16.10.2025

wöchentlich Do. 16:00 - 18:00 Uhr Phil. II Haus E Raum 119

This seminar explores the role of regional organisations in sustaining authoritarian rule across post-Soviet Eurasia. While many regional bodies in the area present themselves as platforms for cooperation and integration, they also serve as strategic instruments for regime survival, legitimacy, and control. The course focuses in particular on the emerging field of Authoritarian Regionalism, examining how organisations like the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) enable autocracies to project internal and external stability through mechanisms such as collective signalling, rhetorical posturing, and symbolic regional solidarity. Through case studies, readings, and student-led discussions, the seminar will critically engage with debates on regime legitimacy, authoritarian learning, international cooperation among autocracies, and the 'virtuality' of regional integration in Eurasia. Students will also gain hands-on experience working with empirical data and theoretical frameworks that help explain the contingent nature of authoritarian regional organisations.

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MA Si: Education in Africa

Lecturer: Tesfaye Semela Kukem

Medium: classroom teaching

13.02.2025-15.02.2025, 09:00-17:00
Phil II, B101

Spanish taught class:

MA Si: Memoria y Democracia

Stefan Peters

Block seminar:

Thu 16.10.2025,10.00 - 13.00 Licher Str. 68, room024

Sat. 18.10.2025,08.00 - 20.00 study field trip

Tue 21.10.2025,10.00 - 13.00 Licher Str. 68, room 021 (court room)

Thu 23.10.2025,10.00 - 13.00 Uhr Licher Str. 68, room 28

Tue 28.10.2025,10.00 - 13.00 Uhr Dekanatsitzungssaal

Mon 12.01.2026,10.00 - 13.00 Uhr Licher Str. 68, room 020

Tue 13.01.2026,10.00 - 13.00 Uhr Dekanatsitzungssaal

Wed 14.01.2026,10.00 - 13.00 Uhr Licher Str. 68, room 020

Thu 15.01.2026,10.00 - 13.00 Uhr Licher Str. 68, room 024

Fri 16.01.2026,10.00 - 13.00 Uhr Licher Str. 68, room 020

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