MA Political Science PW-M7

**Seminar: International Security and Human Rights**

Tue 8-10, GW 2 B 3010

**Goals**

The seminar provides an introduction to post-Cold War international security with a special emphasis on the intersection of security and human rights. More specifically, the seminar will look at basic conceptual issues (“what is security?”, “what is the nature of human rights?”), discuss major sources of present-day insecurity (civil war, terrorism, migration), explore (nontraditional) security actors such as international organizations, NGOs, and private military companies, and study attempts to explain major security trends and practices such as humanitarian intervention, peacekeeping, transitional justice, or humanitarianism. Moreover, the seminar will touch upon pertinent normative issues such as the moral constraints on the use of force in anti-terrorism as well as the normative status of private military companies.

**Schedule**

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*Note: session 4 takes place at the InIIS (UNICOM Haus Wien, 2nd floor) room 2210*

**Requirements**

All participants are expected to read the assigned texts in preparation of the sessions. Participation without reading will not be beneficial.

MA Political Science (PW-M7)

- short oral presentation plus handout (15 min.) or short essay (5 pages)
- seminar paper (15-20 pages) (in one of the seminars belonging to the module)

The module is worth 12 CP.

General Studies

- MPL (3 CP): short oral presentation (15 min.) plus written elaboration (5 S.) or short seminar paper (8-10 pages)
- GPL (6 CP): seminar paper (15-20 pages)

Students who wish to obtain 6 CP in this seminar can reduce the expected length of the seminar paper to 12-15 pages by volunteering for an oral presentation (without written elaboration).

Note that the page numbers given above assume that the papers are formatted according to the rules laid down in the Institute of Political Science’s “Kompendium” (sec. 4.1). The expected range of pages includes the bibliography (references) but not the cover sheet, the table of contents, and annexes (if applicable).

Students are required to gain the instructors’ consent to their topic before they start writing. In other words, we may reject or downgrade a paper the topic of which we had not endorsed.

Papers (including elaborations of presentations) may be written in English or German and must be handed in by 30 September 2016 (both electronically and as a printout).

For more information on requirements see the “Information” section (tab) on the StudIP course site (visible only when you log in to StudIP via the desktop access!).
Topics and Readings

5 April 2016

1 – Introduction

12 April 2016

2 – Security

Required Reading:


19 April 2016

3 – Human Rights

Required Reading:


26 April 2016 (InIIS 2210)

4 – Civil War

Required Reading:


3 May 2016

5 – Terrorism

Required Reading:


10 May 2016

6 – Migration

Required Reading:


17 May 2016

7 – Humanitarian Intervention

Required Reading:


24 May 2016 (InIIS 2210, 2-4 p.m.)

8 – International Organizations: The Case of the United Nations

Required Reading:


31 May 2016

9 – Peacekeeping

Required Reading:


7 June 2016

10 – Transitional Justice

Required Reading:


14 June 2016

11 – Private Military Companies

Required Reading:


21 June 2016

12 – Humanitarianism and Emergency Relief

Required Reading:


13 – Normative Perspectives: Updating Just War Theory

Required Reading:


5 July 2015

14 – Conclusion