Course

Current Challenges of International Relations and International Perspectives (CCIRP)

Lecturer

Prof. Dr. Markus Bresinsky

Objectives

Global developments in the political, social and economic domains make it necessary to understand, explain and in best case to predict the current dynamics and interdependencies of actors, structures and processes. Social sciences have a rich set of methods and theories to support the analysis of current global challenges and can provide scientific assistance for political consultation and problem solving.

The course intends to train and develop competencies and skills in critical thinking about international challenges by focusing on international topics, which are highly relevant for the perspectives and development of International order, security and stability. To achieve this objective the course follows a ‘two pillars’ and ‘four phases’ approach.

The two pillars are the international issues of ‘Development and Regional Integration’ and ‘Global Democracy’. Within these pillars students will be guided through the four phases:

Phase I ‘Set-up and Research’: Each student will choose a specific topic of one of the pillars and will research on the topic mentored and coached by lecturers. Students start to write a term paper.

Phase II ‘Discussion and Reflection’: Students will present, discuss and reflect on the current state of their results based on term paper, work progress and further steps of analysis.

Phase III ‘Blind review’: Students together with lecturers will comment and assess term papers in a blind review process.

Phase IV ‘Conference’: Students will present and discuss their papers in a conference open for all students.

Competencies:

- Understand the issues of current challenges of International Relations
- Know how to identify a challenge to the specific field of international relations, and to scale the impact of the challenge.
- Know how to analyze the actor, structures and processes of international challenges and produce a concise term paper.
- Know how to support research by reviewing research and analysis products of other participants.
- Know how to present results to plenum and work groups
- Improve English conversation, reading and writing

Content

- Administration & Organization; Introduction
- Definition of subject matter of interest
- Developing work plan and research design
- Work groups and plenum discussion
- Blind review
- Conference
Grading/Evaluation  Written term paper (English) max. 3000 words. This term paper in a first version is due to 7th of May 2017. Final version is due to start of conference 18th of June 2017.

Attendance  Max. 30 students (circa 15 AM, circa 15 BW or other faculties)

Admission  Registration via mail (Katrin.baumgartner@oth-regensburg.de)
Attendance at the first lecture mandatory

Start  2017-03-23 Kick off room P065
1) Set-up Phase (2 sessions) — week 12/14
2) Research Phase (2 weeks) — week 15/16
3) Discussion Phase (2 sessions) — week 17/18
4) Blind Review Phase (2 weeks) — week 19/20
5) Conference (2 session) — week 25

Special Note  Reading of literature, scientific working style, and self-commitment to work groups is mandatory!
Participating in a blind-review process is mandatory for all participants.
Presenting the research and analysis findings at the end of the course is mandatory for all participants.

Literature  Extended list will be provided at kick-off session.

DEVELOPMENT (*) available at library
Büscher, Hubertus; Speich, Daniel (2009): Entwicklungswelten. Globalgeschichte der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit. Frankfurt am Main: Campus (Reihe Globalgeschichte, Bd. 6). (*)
GLOBAL GOVERNANCE (*) available at library


WEBLINKS

UNU – CRIS: United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies: http://cris.unu.edu

Asian Regional Integration Center: https://aric.adb.org/beta