



PWM-IE-HS4 Hauptseminar Internationale und europäische Politik IV

War and Peace in International Relations

Summer term 2024

Date: Thursday, 8:30 – 10:00

Room: FMA/01.20

War and peace are not only topics of academic interest, but also of great public relevance. In the seminar we will first discuss how we can define the terms 'war' and 'peace' and how they can be measured empirically. We will then examine how different theoretical perspectives explain the emergence and persistence of interstate and intrastate wars. We will then look at tools of conflict management and finally discuss prospects for conflict resolution. The core of the seminar is the application of these theories and concepts to empirical cases. Students present a research design for a theory-driven empirical analysis of contemporary conflicts and receive feedback from their peers and the lecturer, thereby training their academic skills.

Eligibility Requirements:

The seminar consists of text-based discussions and presentations of empirical case studies. Active participation is required. A syllabus and reading list will be made available on the Virtual Campus. The reading will form the basis of the seminar discussion and are therefore considered compulsory. In order to obtain credit points, you will be required to write a term paper of about 18 pages and give a 15-minute presentation, starting in week 6. Topic, research question, and outline should be discussed with the lecturer at least 10 days before the presentation. Presentations will be assigned during the first session, as will the roles of discussants. Discussants will prepare feedback on a specific presentation in advance. The language of the seminar will be English, including discussions and presentations, unless otherwise agreed by all students during the first session. Written work may be submitted in either English or German.

The International Crisis Group provides an overview of current trends relevant to peace and conflict studies. This is a good starting point to familiarise yourself with ongoing conflicts: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/global/10-conflicts-watch-2024>

Introduction

- 1) 18.04. Introduction
- 2) 25.04. What is war? What is peace?
- 3) 02.05. War and peace: Empirics, data, and methods
- 4) 09.05. Bank holiday - No session
- 5) 16.05. How to prepare your presentation and write a good term paper



Theoretical explanations for war and peace

- 6) 23.05. Realist perspectives on war and peace
- 7) 30.05. Bank holiday – no session
- 8) 06.06. Rational perspectives on war and peace
- 9) 13.06. Liberal perspectives on war and peace

Conflict management

- 10) 20.06. Mediation
- 11) 27.06. Peacekeeping
- 12) 04.07. Conflict resolution
- 13) 11.07. Post-conflict peacebuilding
- 14) 18.07. Reflection, outlook and requirements for term papers