

Regionalisms – Varieties of Hegemony around the World

19 July – 13 August 2021

CATEGORY Social Sciences, Politics & Education

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course offers 45 contact hours, the equivalent to an on-site course. The study time is comprised of:

- virtual classroom lessons with the lecturer and the fellow students (50%)
- group exercises (25%)
- assignments and self-study (25%)

TRACK C – WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOM LESSONS

- Course days: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- Time: 4.15 pm – 6.30 pm (Berlin time, UTC+2)
10.15 pm – 0.30 am (Beijing time, UTC+8)
0.15 am – 2.30 am (Sydney time, UTC+10)
9.15 am – 11.30 am (Chicago time, UTC-5)

COURSE LANGUAGE

This course is taught in English, including the readings. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class, language-level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.

TARGET GROUP

Undergraduate students of all relevant subjects with a strong interest in the course topic.

CREDITS = 5 ECTS

All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC)
- Stable internet connection
- Software: Zoom (video/audio)
- Registration on Moodle (HU's e-learning platform)
- Recommended hardware: external headset for better sound quality

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Learning extends beyond your virtual course! As a participant in HUWISU, you are invited to join cultural, social, and academic programs. Cultural activities are designed to help students meet fellow international students, learn more about Berlin, and practice German language abilities. Apply what you learn in class, share your extracurricular interests, and expand your social network beyond your course through these programs!

VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

With the support of the online format, HUWISU introduces new cultural and social activities. The cultural activities will be both synchronous and asynchronous.

Our scheduled live meetings might include games, cooking/baking together, or a trivia night. You still have the unique opportunity to build community across time zones and meet your fellow international students through synchronous programming. More information about the specifics is TBA.

Learn and read about Berlin history or German culture in between classes! No matter your field of study or interests, Berlin has artistic, political, and cultural significance. Take a look at the eBook "Perspectives on Berlin". It will include an extensive collection of digital resources about Berlin. Although you may be oceans away from Germany, connecting ourselves to Humboldt-Universität's culturally and historically rich location is still incredibly valuable.



EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

Preparation for lively discussions in the virtual classroom: be on time, have at least the required readings completed, and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Assignments: complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

Commitment in online-class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct.

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will try to understand the hierarchies of power in the world regions and how they translate into regional orders of different degrees of stability. As an introductory course in comparative area studies, it will look at the geography of power, its ideas and concepts, issue areas and institutions, as well as the instruments and resources that define the character of a system of regional governance – all from the perspective of a European Germany.

We will look at the different forms hegemony can take. The world regions differ widely in how they conceive, design, and enforce regional governance. Regional powers play an important role in this structure, as they dispose of outsized power resources and enjoy some degree of influence, both within regional organizations and outside of it: They choose to be the good or the bad guys of regional governance. The way they deal with secondary powers in their neighborhood is the most important predictor of regional stability.

As regional powers are also interesting (but difficult) partners for international cooperation, this begs the question how powers such as Germany can influence the regional behavior of what it calls "Gestaltungsmächte" ("shaping powers") from outside their world regions.

Applying the German concept of "partnership", the course will identify and analyze the various forms of issue area alliances used with regional powers (e.g. Brazil or Russia) and regional organizations (e.g. the African Union), what kind of challenges they face – and, ultimately, what the world has to gain from it.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- understand core concepts of regional governance and regional power;
- apply these concepts to the institutions and organizations of the regional orders;
- analyze foreign policy ideas and behavior of pivotal states in regional politics;
- understand the German perspectives on and partnerships with regional powers;
- come up with concrete policy recommendations for their own countries.

READINGS

Required:

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

Suggested:

Amitav Acharya / Alastair Iain Johnston (eds.): *Crafting Cooperation*, Cambridge 2007.

Daniel Flesmes (ed.): *Regional Leadership in the Global System*, Ashgate 2010.

Ruchir Sharma: *Breakout Nations*, Penguin 2013.

Fredrik Söderbaum: *Rethinking Regionalism*, Palgrave 2015.

The websites of both FOREIGN POLICY and FOREIGN AFFAIRS are not only a great source on current developments in international relations, they also have some of the most comprehensive coverage of non-Western world regions, with authors from around the world: www.foreignpolicy.com; www.foreignaffairs.com

ASSIGNMENT INFO

In order to gain 5 ECTS, you are required to attend class regularly, read all assigned texts, hold a brief presentation (20 min) and most importantly: to participate actively in our discussions. The topic of your presentation will be decided during our first class meeting.

In addition, you ought to hand in an essay of at least 2,000 words as follow-up work of the course. Criteria for the grading of the essay will be: coherence of argument; interaction with literature presented in the course; depth of understanding of concepts presented in class; empirical understanding of how power works in the respective world region; quality of recommendations.

The final grade will be composed by evaluating the in-class presentation (30%) and the essay (40%). Active participation during class discussions will be taken into account as well (30%).

YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Mr. Christian E. Rieck is Assistant Professor in Contemporary History and International Relations at the University of Potsdam and Senior Analyst for Regional Powers and Regional Integration at the Global Governance Institute in Brussels. He also teaches regularly at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid.

Previous posts in applied research include the foreign policy think tank at Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the European Foresight Program at the technology think tank Stiftung Neue Verantwortung, the Latin American Institute of the German Institute for Global and Area Studies GIGA, as well as a Carlo Schmid Fellowship in the area of competition policy at the United Nations in Mexico City.

Christian has also taught international relations, global governance and foreign and development policy at renowned universities throughout Latin America as well as in Canada, France, Greece, Ireland and Singapore – and continues to be a country tutor at the Academy for International Cooperation at GIZ in Bonn. He was a member of the Think Tank 20 process of the G20.

The area studies specialist holds a postgraduate degree in Latin American Studies by the University of Oxford. Before that he studied law and economics in Bayreuth and Seville, then European and international public law at HU Berlin as well as at the European University Institute in Florence. His prize-winning work on European integration was awarded, among others, the Prize on the Future of Europe from the German Council on Foreign Relations.

COURSE SCHEDULE

A detailed syllabus containing the concrete topics, research questions, readings and assignments for every class will be made available online before the start of the course.

The course will include talks and discussions by guest speakers from relevant government agencies and think tanks.

The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 21 April 2021