

Prof. Dr. Michael Minkenberg

BA-Seminar „Capitals. National Identity, Urban Design and the Functioning of Capitals in their Political Systems“

6 ECTS

Präsenz

BA Kuwi - Sozialwissenschaften Vertiefung / BA Recht und Politik – Vertiefung /
Modul II.1: Recht und Politik im nationalen Kontext
BA CuSo Modul „Europe/s - History, Culture, Politics“

Dienstag, 14:15 - 15:45 Uhr

Veranstaltungsbeginn: 19.10.2021

Ort: Präsenz

Raum: GD 201

National capital cities are a class of cities on their own. They are characterized by many of the functions that other “ordinary” cities perform but are distinct in that they are the seat of national governments, i.e. its major institutions and organizations as well as the personnel. As such, they are expected to reflect – or even shape – the country’s national identity and political regime as much as they disclose the conflicts over political power and identity in nation states. This course addresses the question how capitals perform in these functions, in particular how their design and planning contribute to these functions and to what extent they embody a particular national meaning and the result of particular political struggles. The focus is on the modern age and modern political systems.

After several meetings dedicated to clarify the various concepts of and research on national capitals in the modern age, students will be introduced to particular cases of national capitals and their context, i.e. the basics of the political history and system in which they are embedded (for example a federal or centralized system, or the presidential/parliamentary type of democracy). Particular attention will be paid to the design and planning, the functioning and meaning of the respective capital city. The cases covered fall into the conventional categories of early or old capitals (such as London and Paris), and newer and designed capitals (such as Washington DC and Canberra). A section on “transnational capitals” (Brussels, New York) will conclude the seminar.

Literatur: D. Gordon, ed. *Planning Twentieth Century Capital Cities*. London/New York: Routledge, 2006; M. Minkenberg, ed. *Power and Architecture*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2014; L. Vale, *Architecture, Power, and National Identity*. 2nd ed. London/New York: Routledge, 2008.

Leistungsnachweise: Referat mit Thesenpapier/Oral presentation plus handout (50% of final grade); Hausarbeit/Research paper (50%).

Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: gute Englischkenntnisse (aktiv und passiv).

Sprache: Englisch