

Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences

Winter semester 2026/27

Master of Arts

Conflict and Democracy

Course catalogue

Greeting and notes from the Dean

Dear students of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences,

The team of the Dean's Office warmly welcomes you to the winter semester 2026/27.

A new semester brings new opportunities, challenges and, above all, exciting learning moments. You will have the opportunity to deepen your knowledge, discover new perspectives and develop your skills in a broad range of lectures, seminars and workshops.

The coming weeks will be characterised by learning, discussing and exploring together. Please take the opportunity to engage in dialogue with dedicated lecturers and your fellow students. Educate yourself not only professionally, but also personally, because studying is more than just acquiring knowledge.

We aim to provide you with an inspiring and supportive learning environment. This course catalogue, our student advisory service and our email newsletter are designed to help you find your way around the faculty. This winter semester, for the first time, we are offering a range of new degree programmes to further diversify our academic provision and give you the opportunity to explore the pressing challenges of our time from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. We are very grateful for your feedback and suggestions for improvements, as we are very interested in constantly improving your study experience.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions, share ideas and actively participate in academic life in the future. Each of you contributes to bringing the campus to life.

We are looking forward to an inspiring and productive semester!

Yours sincerely

Prof Dr Daniel Illger (Dean), Prof Dr André Rottmann (Dean of Studies) & Team

Greeting and notes from the Head of the Master's Programme

Dear students of the Master's Programme Conflict and Democracy,

A warm welcome to the European University Viadrina and to the very first semester of our new Master's Programme Conflict and Democracy!

You are joining us as the founding cohort of a brand-new programme, and that makes your role here a special one. Your questions, ideas, and feedback will directly shape how we refine it for the cohorts that follow you. We see you not only as our students, but as partners in building this programme together.

We launched the programme at a moment when questions of conflict and democracy feel particularly urgent. Democracies and democratic institutions worldwide are under pressure – from Russia's war against Ukraine, the confrontation between Israel and Iran and the tensions between China and Taiwan, to the rise of right-wing populist and anti-pluralist movements in Europe and around the globe, which challenge core principles of liberal democracy from within.

Understanding how such conflicts arise, and how they can be productively transformed, is essential if we want to strengthen democracy rather than allow it to be undermined. The programme brings together three disciplines that help us to do this – political science, legal studies, and applied conflict studies – and combines theoretical insight with practical tools for conflict analysis and resolution.

Your first semester lays the foundation for this: the Introduction module's three mandatory courses – *Politics of Conflict and Democracy*, *Legal Aspects of Conflict and Democracy*, and *Methods of Conflict and Democracy: Practical Approaches to Challenged Democracy* – give you a shared grounding before you move into the programme's specialisation areas and to the interdisciplinary electives.

This course catalogue is your guide to the full range of lectures, seminars, and courses on offer, helping you to build your individual path through the programme.

We begin together during the university's orientation week, with the **MA Conflict and Democracy Welcome Days on 6th and 7th October (Room AM 03)**, before lectures start on Monday, 12th October.

We are genuinely excited to start this journey with you – welcome aboard!

With warm regards,

Dr. Anne Holper (Programme Head) & Laura Bannan-Fischer (Programme Coordinator and Academic Student Advisor)

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General Information

Dear students,

we would like to welcome you to the winter semester 2026/27 at the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) and wish you a successful semester.

In particular, we would like to welcome our newly enrolled students and invite you to the faculty events during the introductory orientation week from 5th October to 9th October 2026.

You can find more information and the full programme of the orientation week on the following website:
<https://www.europa-uni.de/en/studium/termine-fristen/einfuehrungswoche/index.html>

Lecture period

The lecture period of **winter semester 2026/27** begins on **Monday, 12th October 2026** and ends on **Friday, 5th February 2027**.

Further events for students during the semester

Welcome Days for the students of the Master's Programme Conflict and Democracy

On Tuesday and Wednesday, 6th and 7th October, from 10:00 to 16:00 in Room AM 03, the team of the Master's Programme Conflict and Democracy welcomes the new students with a two-day onboarding dedicated to getting to know each other and introducing the course and the direction of the semester ahead.

Welcome and Information Event for the new Master's Programmes

On Tuesday, 6th October, at 16:00 in Room AM 03, the Graduate Center will host a welcome and information meeting in order to introduce ourselves and get to meet you in person. After a general introduction to the University and the new Master's Programmes, we will split into groups for each of them. We will present the structure and content of the respective Master's programme and answer your questions. We look forward to meeting you there!

KuWi First-Year Welcome-Evening

KuWi is the abbreviation for "Kulturwissenschaftliche Fakultät" (our Faculty's name in German). Right after our welcome meeting, on Tuesday, 6th October 2026, at 18:00, the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences, the Master in European Studies and the Faculty Student Council (FSR) invite you to the welcome evening for first-year students. In a relaxed atmosphere with snacks and drinks, all newly enrolled students will have the opportunity to get to know each other and some of the faculty's lecturers and staff. The venue is the [Kulturmanufaktur Gerstenberg](#).

For your information: Study and examination regulations (SPO)

Please find the study and examination regulations here: <https://www.kuwi.europa-uni.de/en/studium/studienordnungen/index.html>.

Any other questions?

If you have any questions about your studies, please contact the Graduate Center coordinator, Dr. Henrik Bispinck. You can find the contact details and further information on the programme at www.kuwi.europa-uni.de/de/studium/graduate-center/index.html. We wish you a successful and exciting winter semester!

Your team from the Dean's Office and the Graduate Center of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences

Plagiarism in academia

Students demonstrate in their term papers and theses that they can develop knowledge independently and thus truthfully represent their own research process. A scientific paper is an independently written text based on an independently conducted empirical study and on knowledge of research findings of others. In accordance with good academic practice, references to other people's intellectual achievements must be cited in the author's own text (as well as in the bibliography) in a complete and comprehensible manner. Please find the guidelines for style and citation in academic papers at the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences here: https://www.kuwi.europa-uni.de/de/studium/_dateien/leitfaden_zitieren_en.pdf.

Indications that these principles have been violated in an academic paper will be considered an attempt at cheating. If there is an attempt to deceive during the examination performance (e.g. plagiarism in a term paper, deception in an exam), the performance is to be graded as "failed" (5.0). The chairperson of the examination board will be informed of the student's attempted cheating and will record it. The procedure can be found in the currently valid ASPO (dated 13.07.2022) in §21 on deception. There, paragraph (2) refers to the fact that "attempts to deceive [...] are to be recorded", which is particularly relevant in the case of repetition.

Self-plagiarism

Plagiarism in the sense described above must be distinguished from the reuse of texts (often referred to as "self-plagiarism") that were written by the author him/herself. When copying text passages from their own term papers into their (own) thesis, students should consult with their lecturers and cite the sources just as carefully as when copying from other texts.

AI and student writing

The use of AI tools is not generally forbidden at our faculty but it comes with particular challenges for unexperienced writers. For example, all content generated by AI has to be checked by authors in original scientific texts as any form of untrue content (so-called 'hallucinations', which are frequently produced by AI) is rated as an attempt to deceive. This will lead to rejection of the paper and may result in serious consequences for your studies. Please read the [guidelines](#) for the use of AI carefully and discuss them with your examiner if in doubt.

Digital submission of papers and theses

Theses and term papers are to be submitted in a print version and an electronic version (PDF file). By means of a plagiarism detection software, texts can be checked for plagiarism.

The digital submission of the bachelor thesis (as PDF, max. size of 5 MB) is now possible via upload in the Moodle course ["Einreichen der Abschlussarbeit - Kulturwissenschaftliche Fakultät"](#). After uploading, please send a short email to the responsible processor in the examination office so that she can retrieve the thesis (tesche@europa-uni.de).

Further notes

The required declaration of academic integrity of the final thesis or term paper should be taken seriously and is not only a formal part of a term paper, thesis or any other written assignment. Those who adhere to the rules of citation and prudently try to avoid (un)intentional plagiarism will be able to successfully complete their studies. If you have further questions about citation and sources in a specific subject, always consult the lecturers and professors at the faculty. Please also note that you have to sign a ["Declaration of Academic Integrity"](#) with any text that you hand in for official examination.

Course and examination management

Enrolment in a course via Moodle (Learning Management System)

In addition to your registration in viaCampus, you should also register for your courses on Viadrina's e-learning platform Moodle at the beginning of the semester (the course catalogue in ViaCampus includes direct links to the respective course on Moodle). There you will find all the course materials you need for the semester, such as a syllabus or course readings, and many of your lecturers will communicate with you via Moodle. Please always use your Viadrina account (euv000000@europa-uni.de) to register on Moodle.

[To the Moodle courses](#)

[Moodle instructions for students](#)

ViaCampus (Examination Management)

In the course catalogue on viaCampus you will find all courses as well as detailed information about the individual courses, e.g. a description of the course content, the credits to be earned, the course dates and the modules in which the course is offered. Some courses are available in more than one module, so please make sure that you register for the course in the correct module on viaCampus to ensure that the course is recorded correctly.

When we compile the course catalogue, we have good reasons for assigning or not assigning certain courses to certain modules. In principle, the module assignments in the course catalogue are therefore final and binding. If, in exceptional cases, you would like to attend a certain course in a module to which it is not assigned, even though it seems to fit the module's content, you can contact the programme coordinator (cuso@europa-uni.de) within the first three weeks of the semester and request an additional assignment.

At the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences we also record all your grades and achievements digitally in ViaCampus. So, please make sure that you register for all your courses in viaCampus until the end of the lecture period (ideally already in the beginning of the semester).

- With the registration in ViaCampus, the course, module, ECTS credits and type of achievement (e.g. term paper, presentation, certificate of attendance) are recorded in the student's account.
- Your grades and achievements are usually registered by the lecturer's secretary. In case of inquiries regarding unregistered achievements, please contact the lecturer and the secretary.
- You can view your grades in a transcript of records in ViaCampus, which can also be exported as a pdf file.
- The examination office uses the data in ViaCampus to check whether you are eligible to register for your bachelor's thesis and final exam, and to issue your diploma. So, please make sure in advance that your transcript is complete and correct.
- If you encounter any technical problems using ViaCampus, please contact the technical support.

You can find a wiki on viaCampus here: <https://viawiki.europa-uni.de/index.php/Studieren>

Free IT tools and Wi-Fi for your studies

A range of IT tools is available to you free of charge during your studies. These include Microsoft Office 365, Citavi and HAWKI. Further useful applications and information on how to use them can be found in the [overview of available IT tools](#).

Writing at Viadrina

Do you have questions about academic writing?

Then come to the writing consultation without an appointment – free of charge and directly on campus.

Student writing consultants from the Center for Teaching and Learning will support you in an individual consultation (up to 50 minutes) with your writing projects, for example with

- topic search
- the development of a question and a common thread
- the handling and use of text-generating AI tools
- the application of rules in scientific writing, such as citation and much more

Where?

- Room GD 03 or Viadrina Coworking Space

When?

- Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 pm

Language

- German, English, Polish and more

Can't be there in person? Arrange an individual consultation appointment (in person or online) by emailing.

How?

- schreibsprechstunde@europa-uni.de

Please Note: Your writing project remains your writing project. We support your individual process with methods, strategies, and space for reflection – on equal terms and in an encouraging atmosphere.

Further information can be found here: www.europa-uni.de/zll



Große Scharnstraße 59
15230 Frankfurt Oder
Tel.: 0335 – 5534 2540
zll@europa-uni.de

ERUA at Viadrina - Information for students

The European University Viadrina is a member of the [European Reform University Alliance \(ERUA\)](#) – a network of European reform universities. The aim of the alliance is to promote innovative teaching and learning formats as well as international exchange.

What does ERUA offer for students?

International Seminars

- Courses at ERUA partner universities
- Interdisciplinary exchange with students from all over Europe

Workshops and Travelling Seminars

- International Workshops
- Summer and Winter Schools
- Travelling Seminars

Networking and exchange opportunities

- Establishing international contacts
- Interdisciplinary learning

Questions about the seminars or how to apply for travel support:

Leon Weber

E-Mail: leweber@europa-uni.de

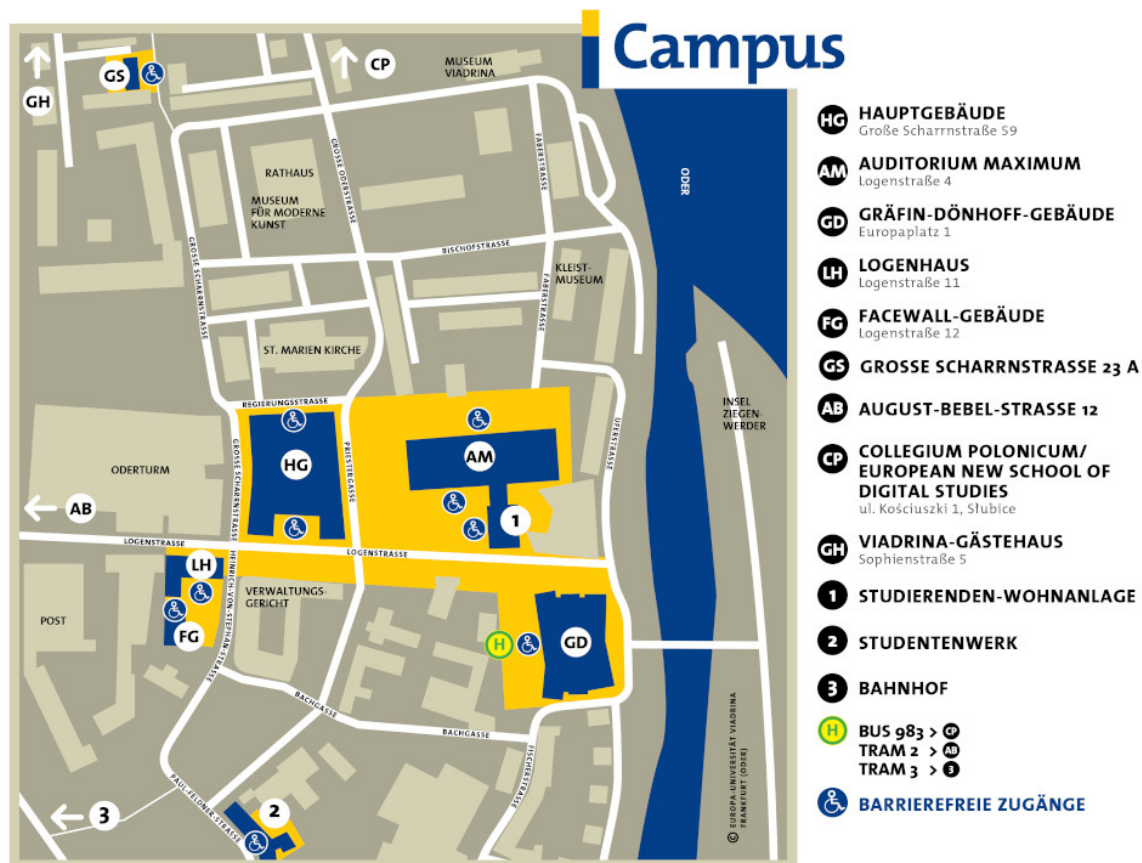
Tel.: +49 335 5534 2601

Curious to know more?

You can find all information and offers here: www.europa-uni.de/erua

Follow our Info Channel on [Telegram](#) or [WhatsApp](#)!

Campus map and list of abbreviations



Buildings

GD = Gräfin Dönhoff Gebäude am Oderufer, Europaplatz 1

HG = Hauptgebäude, Große Scharrnstraße 59

CP = Collegium Polonicum, ul. Kościuszki 1, PL 69-100 Stubice

GH 1 = Internationales Begegnungszentrum (IBZ), Sophienstraße 6

GS = Große Scharrnstraße

AM = Audimax-Gebäude, Logenstraße 4

AB = Sprachenzentrum, August-Bebel-Straße 12
(Straßenbahnlinie 2, Richtung Messegelände,
Haltestelle Witzlebenstraße)

LH = Logenhaus, Logenstraße 11

Abbreviations

SWS = hours per week, 1 SWS = teaching hour = 45 min. per week, the usual course covers 2 SWS = 90 min. per week

Please note that courses usually start a quarter past the hour (= c.t. = cum tempore = quarter past). A lecture that is announced at 11:00 c.t., for instance, will start at 11:15.

If the "academic quarter" does not apply and courses start on the hour, they are marked s.t. (= sine tempore = precisely as announced). If your course is announced at 11:00 s.t., it will start precisely at 11:00.

Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences

Europa-Universität Viadrina

Große Scharrnstraße 59

15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

kuwi.europa-uni.de

Overview: Degree Programmes at the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences

Bachelor's programmes

Kultur und Gesellschaft

Degree: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Duration: 6 Semester

Recht und Politik/Politik und Recht

(together with the Faculty of Law)
Degree: Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) /
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Duration: 6 Semester

Cultural and Social Studies

Degree: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Duration: 6 Semester

Kulturwissenschaften (discontinued)

Degree: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Duration: 6 Semester

Master's programmes

Central and Eastern European Studies

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

Conflict and Democracy

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

European Studies

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

Kultur und Geschichte Mittel- und Osteuropas (discontinued)

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

Soziokulturelle Studien (discontinued)

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

Language and Media Studies

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

Social Studies: Crises, Culture, Critique

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

Geschichte der Moderne transkulturell (discontinued)

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

Literaturwissenschaft: Literatur – Ästhetik – Philosophie (discontinued)

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

Sprache - Medien - Gesellschaft (discontinued)

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

Further education programmes (tuition fee)

Schutz Europäischer Kulturgüter

Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Duration: 4 Semester

Doctoral studies

A doctorate is proof of an advanced academic qualification with an own research achievement. To be eligible for doctoral studies, students must usually have completed their Master's degree. The Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences awards the title:

Doctor of Philosophy (Dr. phil.)

Dissertations are supervised individually by a professor or within the framework of graduate schools or programmes.

Team of the Dean's Office

The current contact details and office hours of the Dean of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences can be found on the relevant [faculty webpage](#).

Student advising service at the Graduate Center

The Graduate Center of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences hosts and manages the Faculty's bilingual Master's Programmes. We are your address for questions regarding your studies and are happy to assist and advise you.

You reach us per E-Mail at graduate-center-kuwi@europa-uni.de or under the contact details and office hours listed in the [Graduate Center webpage](#).

MA Central and East European Studies MA Language and Media Studies MA Social Studies: Crises, Culture, Critique	Dr. Henrik Bispinck	HG 064	+49 335 5534 2588 graduate-center-kuwi@europa-uni.de
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MA Conflict and Democracy	Laura Bannan-Fischer	HG 071	+49 335 5534 5303 master-code@europa-uni.de
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Examinations Office

Further information and the contact details of the relevant Examinations Office at the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences can be found via the [link below](#).

Examinations Office – MA Central and East European Studies MA Language and Media Studies MA Social Studies: Crises, Culture, Critique	Nancy Tesche	AM 15	+49 335 5534 4212 tesche@europa-uni.de
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Examinations Office – MA Conflict and Democracy	Elke Noack	AM 09	+49 335 5534 4322 enoack@europa-uni.de
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Professors and academic staff

For an overview of the professors and the academic staff, including their contact details and office hours, please consult the following website: <https://www.kuwi.europa-uni.de/de/professuren-mitarbeitende/index.html>.

Faculty Student Council (FSR)

Faculty Student Council (Fachschaftsrat, FSR)

The Student Council office is located at August-Bebel-Straße 12, 15234 Frankfurt (Oder). Further information is available online at: <https://fsrkuwi-viadrina.de/>

Chairpersons of the examination board

An up-to-date overview of all examination boards, including all relevant information and their current composition, [can be found here](#).

Courses offered in the winter semester 2026/27

Placement within the Study Programme

Master Conflict and Democracy

Introduction

<i>Holper, A. / Gerards Iglesias, L.</i>	Methods of Conflict and Democracy: Practical Approaches to Conflicts Challenging Democracy	Tue, 14:15–15:45 AM 03
<i>Lahusen, B.</i>	Legal Aspects of Conflict and Democracy	Mon, 14:00–16:00 GD Hs2
<i>Neyer, J.</i>	Politics of Conflict and Democracy	Mon, 11:15–12:45 GD Hs4

Politics of International Conflict and Democracy

<i>Bareikyte, M.</i>	Weaponized Media: Hybrid Warfare and Subversion	Tue, 16:15–17:45 AM 105
<i>Bellezza, S.</i>	Introduction to European Border Regimes	Thu, 16:15–17:45 GD 205
<i>Diefenbach, K.</i>	Philosophy and Colonialism: On Epistemic Violence	Thu, 14:15–15:45 AM 202
<i>Gagatek, W.</i>	Designing Comparative Research: Concepts, Cases and Causal Reasoning	Thu, 9:15–10:45 AM 233
<i>Janczak, J.</i>	European Borders and Cross-Border Cooperation in Comparative Perspective	Tue, 9:15–10:45 CP 20
<i>Priebe, S.</i>	European Governance in the Polycrisis	Thu, 14:15–15:45 LH 101/102
<i>Sienknecht, M.</i>	Democracies, International Conflict, and Peace	Tue, 11:15–12:45 AM 03
<i>Slavko, A.</i>	Human Rights in Times of Crisis	Wed, 14:00–16:00 GD 302
<i>Slavko, A.</i>	The Right to Truth	Thu, 9:00–11:00 AM 202

Politics of Domestic Conflict and Democracy

<i>Gagatek, W.</i>	Political Parties in a Multilevel Europe: Representation, Competition and Strategy	Wed, 16:15–17:45 AM 105
<i>Lanz, S.</i>	Zwischen ‚Selfservice-Urbanism‘ und ‚Departure City‘: Prishtina als postsozialistische und Postkonflikt-Stadt	Tue, 16:15–17:45 HG 104
<i>Leutloff-Grandits, C.</i>	Ein immer noch geteilter Himmel? Verflechtungen und Asymmetrien entlang der ehemaligen innerdeutschen Grenze	Wed, 11:15–12:45 GD 201
<i>Münnich, S.</i>	Crisis and Critique in Capitalist Societies	Wed, 9:15–10:45 LH 101/102
<i>Radchenko, O.</i>	Der Sowjetische Sicherheitsdienst: Gestern und Heute	Wed, 9:15–10:45 GD 204
<i>Slavko, A.</i>	Transitional Justice in Ukraine: Law and Politics during and after war	Tue, 16:00–18:00 GD 311
<i>Stetka, V.</i>	Introduction to Digital Political Communication: Key Trends and Debates	Tue, 16:15–17:45 CP 102
<i>Weber, C. / Tilmets-Gerhardt, E.</i>	Die Außenpolitik der ostmitteleuropäischen Staaten: 1919-2014	Thu, 11:15–12:45 GD 07
<i>Worschech, S. / Sayatz, L.</i>	KIU Ukraine Lecture Series: Transitional Justice in Ukraine: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accountability, Memory, Democratic Renewal and Reconstruction	Mon, 16:00–18:00 GD 102

Legal Regulation of Conflict

Course offer in this module will start in the summer semester

Navigating Conflict within and about Democracy

Course offer in this module will start in the summer semester

Central and East European Studies

Benecke, W.	From Paris to Moscow and back. Central and Eastern Europe under Napoleon's Rule	Tue, 11:15–12:45 AM 233
Chernii, K.	Russian Hybrid Warfare against Ukraine, 1991–2013/2014	Wed, 16:15–17:45 AM 204
Kornienko, O.	Soviet Ukraine and the World: Cold War Cultural Diplomacy, Material Culture, and Fashion	Wed, 14:15–15:45 GD 07
Slavko, A.	Human Rights in Times of Crisis	Wed, 14:00–16:00 GD 302
Slavko, A.	The Right to Truth	Thu, 9:00–11:00 AM 202
Slavko, A.	Transitional Justice in Ukraine: Law and Politics during and after war	Tue, 16:00–18:00 GD 311
Weber, C. / Tulumets-Gerhardt, E.	Die Außenpolitik der ostmitteleuropäischen Staaten: 1919-2014	Thu, 11:15–12:45 GD 07
Werberger, A.	Paul Celans poetische Anthropologie	Mon, 11:15–12:45 GD 201
Zalewski, P.	Theories and Themes of the Contemporary Heritage Studies	Fri, 14:15–15:45 AM 205

Gender and Queer Studies

Kosnick, K.	Racism and Sexuality	Thu, 11:15–12:45 AM 205
Lanz, S.	Sorgende Städte	Tue, 11:15–12:45 GD 07
Speck, S.	Family, Economy and the State: Materialist Feminist Perspectives	Tue, 11:15–12:45 GD 04
Speck, S.	Feminismus: Geschichte - Biographien - Bewegungen. Ein Oral-History Seminar	Wed, 11:15–12:45 GD 05

Cultural History

Bähr, A.	Between Legitimization and Criminalization: Robbery at Sea in the "Golden Age of Piracy" (1650-1730)	Tue, 11:15–12:45 AM 202
Bähr, A.	Kulturrkritik. Zur Geschichte einer neuzeitlichen Reflexionsfigur	Thu, 16:15–17:45 AM 202
Bent, J.	On Time: Temporality and Historicity in Modern Historical Thought	Tue, 11:15–12:45 GS 105
Burlot, D.	La bataille du bleu : un conflit franco-allemand pour l'appropriation d'une couleur (1700-1900).	Wed, 11:15–12:45 AM 204
Radchenko, O.	Dark Tourism: Der Schwarze Tourismus	Wed, 11:15–12:45 GD 204
Radchenko, O.	Der Sowjetische Sicherheitsdienst: Gestern und Heute	Wed, 9:15–10:45 GD 204
Weber, C. / Tulumets-Gerhardt, E.	Die Außenpolitik der ostmitteleuropäischen Staaten: 1919-2014	Thu, 11:15–12:45 GD 07
Weber, C.	Grundlagen der Kulturgeschichte – Theorien und Methoden transkultureller Studien	Thu, 9:15–10:45 GD 07
Zalewski, P. / Burlot, D.	The Box with Special Contents: Architecture and Museography Inside and Outside the Museum	Thu, 12:30–14:00 GD 04
Zalewski, P.	Theories and Themes of the Contemporary Heritage Studies	Fri, 14:15–15:45 AM 205

Philosophy and Arts in Times of Crisis

<i>Diefenbach, K.</i>	Philosophy and Colonialism: On Epistemic Violence	Thu, 14:15–15:45 AM 202
<i>Konitzer, W.</i>	Subjektive Phänomenologie der Digitalisierung: Das Smartphone	Fri, 10:00–17:00 AM 202
<i>Rottmann, A.</i>	From Automatism to Algorithm: Surrealism and its Critical Legacies	Tue, 11:15–12:45 AM 204
<i>Schloßberger, M.</i>	Krise, Krise, Krise	Wed, 11:15–12:45 GD 311
<i>Ullrich, V.</i>	Kämpfe um Kunst in Europa: Protestbewegungen und ihre Ästhetik	Mon, 11:15–12:45 GD 07

Practice

<i>El Gammal, N.</i>	Academic Skills: Literature Research, Writing, and Referencing	Block HG 104
<i>El Gammal, N.</i>	Grundlagen des wissenschaftlichen Arbeitens: Recherchieren, Schreiben und Zitieren	Block HG 104
<i>Helten, I. / Ullrich, M.</i>	Unithea 2027 - Dein Theaterfestival!	Thu, 11:15–12:45
<i>Kasis, N.</i>	Building cultural competence - a practice- oriented international collaboration course	Mon, 10:00–17:00 GD 102
<i>Kasis, N.</i>	Viadrina: Learning Organization/Lernende Organisation (Engl/Deu)	Fri, 10:00–15:00 GD 05
<i>Köhler, C.</i>	Foundations of GenAI - Competencies	Fri, 11:00–13:00 GD 102
<i>Köhler, C.</i>	Foundations of GenAI - Knowledge	Fri, 9:00–11:00 GD Hs8
<i>Starkova, H.</i>	Memes, Meanings, and Blind Spots: How internet culture shapes European values	Wed, 14:15–15:45 GD 06

**Vacation courses in the Bachelor's and Master's
programs at the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences**

<i>El Gammal, N.</i>	Academic Skills: Literature Research, Writing, and Referencing	Block HG 104
<i>El Gammal, N.</i>	Grundlagen des wissenschaftlichen Arbeitens: Recherchieren, Schreiben und Zitieren	Block HG 104

Courses in the winter semester 2026/27

with comments in alphabetical order (sorted by lecturer)

Between Legitimization and Criminalization: Robbery at Sea in the "Golden Age of Piracy" (1650-1730)

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Cultural History
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 11:15–12:45 Location: AM 202

Between 1650 and 1730, England's attitudes towards robbery at sea in the Atlantic and Caribbean underwent a fundamental change. For decades, "freebootery" had been used as a political and military weapon against competing colonial powers. Since the mid-seventeenth century, however, British authorities began to prosecute all sorts of robbery at sea as "piracy". Today's images of the "Golden Age of Piracy" are influenced and shaped by this criminalization of buccaneers as well as their romantic idealization as freedom fighters and radical democrats. In the seminar, we will analyze these narratives and representations which can be found both in popular culture and modern historical research. Interpreting selected primary and secondary sources, we will address early modern piracy between its politico-military instrumentalization on the one hand and its prosecution on the other hand, comparing the violence of the buccaneers with the violence of the governmental authorities who tried to impose a juridical, political and economic order on the maritime space. We will examine depictions of pirate social orders and anti-orders as well as the religious ideas of those "villains of all nations" who, in the eyes of many, had fundamentally renounced Christianity. Finally, the seminar is to show that from the early 18th century, robbery at sea and the scientific exploration of the world, which had been closely intertwined for more than two hundred years, began to be separated.

Selected Readings: David Graeber: *Pirate Enlightenment, or The Real Libertalia* (London, 2013); Margarette Lincoln: *British Pirates and Society, 1680–1730* (London, New York, 2016); David Cordingly: *Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life among the Pirates* (New York, 2006); Marcus Rediker: *Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age* (Boston, MA, 2004).

Requirements for Participation: Good reading skills in English are required, German reading skills are not required but would be an advantage.

Forms of Assessment: Oral presentation; written seminar paper

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Kulturkritik. Zur Geschichte einer neuzeitlichen Reflexionsfigur

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Cultural History
Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 16:15–17:45 Location: AM 202

Kulturkritik ist eine Praxis der Selbstreflexion, in der je eigene gesellschaftliche Lebensformen und Wertsetzungen hinterfragt werden. Nach ersten Ansätzen in der Antike gewinnt dieses Denken im 16. Jahrhundert eine Gestalt, die der europäischen Zivilisation den Spiegel einer „edlen Wildheit“ vorhält, bei Michel de Montaigne und frühen Gegnern der Kolonisierung vor allem. Zur Entfaltung kommt Kulturkritik dann in der Zeit der Aufklärung, in der die Begriffe der Kultur und der Kritik eine neue Bedeutung erhalten. Seitdem sieht sich das Fortschrittsversprechen der Moderne mit einem Einwand konfrontiert, der die verheißenen Gewinne von Rationalisierung, Ökonomisierung und Verwissenschaftlichung mit deren Kosten und Verlusten verrechnet. Nach einzelnen Schlaglichtern auf die Frühe Neuzeit werden wir im Seminar die vielschichtige Entwicklung der Kulturkritik als Reflexionsfigur der europäischen Moderne analysieren. Wir verfolgen die kritische Zeitdiagnostik von der Aufklärung des 18. Jahrhunderts über kulturpessimistische Strömungen des Fin de siècle bis hin zu soziologischen und psychoanalytischen Ansätzen im frühen 20. Jahrhundert und nehmen dabei auch unterschiedliche politisch-ideologische Positionen in den Blick – um so zu einer historischen Kritik der Kulturkritik zu gelangen.

Selected Readings: Georg Bollenbeck: *Eine Geschichte der Kulturkritik. Von J. J. Rousseau bis G. Anders*, München 2007; Theo Jung: *Zeichen des Verfalls. Semantische Studien zur Entstehung der Kulturkritik im 18. und frühen 19. Jahrhundert*, Göttingen 2012; Christian Marty / Hans-Peter Müller / Barbara Thériault (Hg.): *Kulturkritik im Namen der Freiheit. Von Georg Simmel bis Hannah Arendt*, Bielefeld 2023; Ralf Konersmann: *Kulturkritik*, Frankfurt a. M. 2008.

Forms of Assessment: Referat, Hausarbeit

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Weaponized Media: Hybrid Warfare and Subversion

6 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of International Conflict and Democracy
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 16:15–17:45 Location: AM 105

This seminar explores the weaponization of media with the special focus on hybrid warfare. It examines what hybrid warfare means and how media technologies and practices may contribute to, critique, subvert, or resist conflict. How can we understand hybrid warfare not only as a sequence of actions on the front line, but also as a mediated process in which media actively shape, sustain, and transform the conduct of war? The seminar provides the conceptual and theoretical tools needed to analyse hybrid warfare through the lens of media studies while drawing on insights from related disciplines. By tracing the shifting forms of warfare (from battlefields to information and infrastructural networks, and from the frontline to broader societal practices that instigate or resist friction and conflict) the course invites students to critically engage with theories of media, warfare, and society. This interdisciplinary seminar brings together perspectives from media studies, political theory, security studies, and science and technology studies (STS).

Selected Readings: Hoffman, Frank G. 2007. Conflict in the 21st Century: The Rise of Hybrid Wars. Arlington, VA: Potomac Institute for Policy Studies. Rovner, Joshua, Rory Cormac, and Lennart Maschmeyer. "Sand in the Gears: Sabotage in World Politics." *European Journal of International Security*, 2025, 1–20. Matviyenko, Svitlana. 2024. "Terror Environment." Center for Spatial Technologies, March 4, 2024.

Forms of Assessment: Examination (60 minutes) and presentation (not graded). Mandatory attendance of 75%.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Introduction to European Border Regimes

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of International Conflict and Democracy
Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 16:15–17:45 Location: GD 205

The European border regime has witnessed massive transformations in the last decades as it has become ever more securitized, externalized, and logistified. Its ongoing proliferation and militarization are repeatedly at the center of public and political attention and have a significant impact on people living and arriving in Europe and on conceptions and imaginations of freedom and the future. In this seminar, we examine external and internal borders that contribute to migrants' exclusion, exploitation, confinement, and racialization as well as to their differential inclusion into workfare and work. We will learn from ethnographic studies and empirical examples across different locations and cities from North Africa, over the Alpes, to the Aegean and from the Balkans over Belarus, to Brandenburg and Berlin. Besides considering the spatial and temporal differences and diverse effects of border regimes, we will also discuss the resistance and struggles it meets. The image of a deadly fortress Europe that keeps migrants out and reproduces whiteness has been continuously contested by migrants' border struggles and autonomy as well as persisting infrastructures of flight and solidarity. We will conclude the seminar by discussing recent anti-racist and no-border activism that calls for an abolition of borders and resonates with abolitionist movements against prisons and the police.

Selected Readings: Casas-Cortes, M., Cobarrubias, S., De Genova, N., Garelli, G., Grappi, G., Heller, C. Tazzioli, M. (2015). New Keywords: Migration and Borders. *Cultural Studies*, 29(1), 55–87. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09502386.2014.891630>. Riva, S., Campbell, S., Whitener, B., & Medien, K. (Eds.). (2024). *Border Abolition Now* (1st ed.). Pluto Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/jj.13286156>

Remarks: The remaining details will follow shortly.

Forms of Assessment: Regular, active participation is required as a prerequisite for all types of assessments. **3 ECTS:** three reading questions for three separate sessions, detailed comment on one session to present in class. | **6 ECTS:** three reading questions on three separate sessions, detailed comment on one session to present in class, term paper (10-12 pages). | **9 ECTS:** three reading questions on three separate sessions, detailed comment on one session to present in class, term paper (20-25 pages).

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

From Paris to Moscow and back. Central and Eastern Europe under Napoleon's Rule

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Central and East European Studies
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 11:15–12:45 Location: AM 233

Napoleonic rule in Central and Eastern Europe evokes very different connotations in the historical consciousness of Germany, Poland, and Russia. While Napoleon's powerful intervention marked, for the German states, the end of the Holy Roman Empire and a radical redrawing of the political map east of the Rhine, a divided Poland hoped for France's involvement in regaining its statehood and national sovereignty. For Russia, on the other hand, the victorious defense against the Grande Armée in 1812 was to become a cornerstone of its national identity. But no state in Central and Eastern Europe could henceforth ignore the fundamental questions that Napoleonic rule had posed to them: those concerning the legal equality of citizens, constitutions and fundamental rights, the emancipation of peasants, and political participation.

Selected Readings: Czubaty, J.: The Duchy of Warsaw 1807-1815. A Napoleonic Outpost in Central Europe, London 2016; Forrest, A.; Wilson, P.H. (ed): The Bee and the Eagle. Napoleonic France and the End of the Holy Roman Empire, Basingstoke 2009; Grab, A.: Napoleon and the Transformation of Europe, Basingstoke 2017.

Forms of Assessment: Conference presentation/ term paper

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Bent, J.
Viadrina Center of Polish and Ukrainian Studies

KUL-14956

On Time: Temporality and Historicity in Modern Historical Thought

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Cultural History
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 11:15–12:45 Location: GS 105

"Time" is one of the central yet often implicit categories of historical thinking. This seminar examines the emergence, transformations, and possible crisis of modern historical temporality from the late eighteenth century to the present. We will begin by exploring Reinhart Koselleck's influential account of how modern historical thought came to be organized around notions of progress, acceleration, novelty, and an open future. The seminar then turns to influential critiques of the modern conception of time and history, including that of Walter Benjamin, and investigates contemporary diagnoses of a "crisis of the modern time regime". Drawing on the works of François Hartog, Aleida Assmann, Hartmut Rosa, and others, we will discuss concepts such as "presentism" and examine ongoing debates about the changing relationship between past, present, and future.

Selected Readings: Assmann, Aleida: Is Time Out of Joint? On the Rise and Fall of the Modern Time Regime, transl. by Sarah Clift, Ithaca 2020; Koselleck, Reinhart: Futures Past: On the Semantics of Historical Time, trans. by Keith Tribe, New York 2004; Tamm, Marek; Olivier, Laurent: Introduction: Rethinking Historical Time, in: id. (eds.), Rethinking Historical Time: New Approaches to Presentism, London 2019, pp. 1–16.

Requirements for Participation: Good command of English (B2).

Forms of Assessment: Referat, Essay, Hausarbeit

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Burlot, D.
Masterstudiengang „Europa Studien“

KUL-14885

La bataille du bleu : un conflit franco-allemand pour l'appropriation d'une couleur (1700-1900).

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Cultural History
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 11:15–12:45 Location: AM 204

L'histoire de la peinture met traditionnellement en avant les conflits entre les styles et les écoles. Longtemps considérée comme peu pertinente pour comprendre la création, dont la part intellectuelle est particulièrement vénérée, la matérialité de l'art a été peu étudiée. En réalité, les artistes ont toujours eu une connaissance précise des matériaux et sélectionnaient les meilleurs pigments pour leurs œuvres. L'un d'entre eux, le bleu, était difficile à obtenir : rare dans la nature, ce pigment était soit très cher (autant que la feuille d'or), soit trop pâle ou trop peu solide. L'invention du bleu de Prusse en 1704 à Berlin a totalement transformé la palette des artistes, pour la peinture mais aussi pour la céramique ou la teinture des textiles. Au cours du XVIII^e siècle, en France, de nombreuses tentatives d'imitation ou de contrefaçon du bleu de Prusse ont été entreprises, dans une course effrénée à la technologie. Ce cours vise à faire évoluer le point de vue traditionnel des études d'histoire de l'art, en remplaçant l'étude de la matière dans une compréhension plus globale de l'évolution des pratiques artistiques. Il examinera l'évolution de la technologie artistique au cours des XVIII^e et XIX^e siècles et montrera comment l'art s'est transformé avec la création de nouveaux matériaux artistiques. Il étudiera également la lutte entre la France et les pays germaniques pour développer les meilleurs matériaux, ainsi que le commerce des produits artistiques entre les deux pays.

Forms of Assessment: Referat+Hausarbeit

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Französisch

Russian Hybrid Warfare against Ukraine, 1991–2013/2014

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Central and East European Studies
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 16:15–17:45 Location: AM 204

The annexation of Crimea and the military conflict in Eastern Ukraine, which evolved in 2014 following the Euromaidan protests, were widely perceived, especially from abroad, as a sudden and unexpected crisis between Russia and Ukraine. This was, however, only the next military dimension of Russia's long-lasting pressure on Ukraine since the proclamation of its independence in 1991. Post-communist Ukraine was heavily influenced by Russia at the political, economic, and cultural levels. This sustained pressure can be characterised as Russian hybrid warfare against Ukraine, through which Russia tried to keep Ukraine within its sphere of influence by all means. This seminar examines the multiple instruments of control that Russia employed before initiating open military conflict. These include the status of Crimea and the stationing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet; the transfer of Ukraine's nuclear arsenal to Russia under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum; asymmetrical economic relations; Ukraine's structural dependence on Russia's energy supplies; information warfare; and Russia's direct involvement in Ukraine's domestic politics, most visibly during the Orange Revolution of 2004 and Euromaidan protests of 2013/2014. Russia's cultural expansion in the former Soviet republics, with the promotion of the idea of the so-called 'Russian World' (russkij mir) centered on the Russian language, culture, and Orthodoxy, also played a significant role. The course is chronologically and partially thematically organised, drawing on diverse sources and recent scholarly literature in political science, security studies, and history, and sheds light on the pre-history of the ongoing Russian war against Ukraine.

Selected Readings: Balmaceda, Margarita. *Politics of Energy Dependency: Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania between Domestic Oligarchs and Russian Pressure*, Toronto, 2013. D'Anieri, Paul. *Ukraine and Russia: From Civilized Divorce to Uncivil War*. Cambridge, 2023. Kasianov, Georgiy; Minakov, Mykhailo. *From "the Ukraine" to Ukraine: A Contemporary History, 1991–2021*, Stuttgart, 2021. Kuzio, Taras; D'Anieri, Paul. *The Sources of Russia's Great Power Politics: Ukraine and the Challenge to the European Order*. Bristol, 2018. Plokhy, Serhii. *The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine*. London, 2016. Wilson, Andrew. *The Ukrainians: Unexpected Nation*. Yale, 2022.

Forms of Assessment: 3 ECTS: active participation and a short essay (3 - 5 pages) / 6 ECTS: oral presentation and a short term paper (10 pages) / 9 ECTS: oral presentation and a long term paper (20 pages). Consistent attendance and active engagement are required.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Philosophy and Colonialism: On Epistemic Violence

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of International Conflict and Democracy // Philosophy and Arts in Times of Crisis
Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 14:15–15:45 Location: AM 202

This seminar explores the links between modern concepts of race, the development of colonial capitalism and key positions in Western philosophy. Taking the Iberian conquests of the Americas as its starting point, the course reconstructs the philosophical patterns used to legitimise land appropriation, enslavement and colonial warfare between the 16th and 19th centuries. We begin by discussing how the jurists of the Salamanca School (Francisco de Vitoria and others) – despite their criticism of the excessive brutality of the Conquista – created new international and natural law definitions of global trade, property, and war, in order to morally justify the subjugation and enslavement of Amerindian populations as well as the acquisition of African slaves. We then turn to 17th-century social contract theories: what natural law arguments did Thomas Hobbes and John Locke employ to nullify the sovereignty and property rights of the First Nations? What concepts of "uncultivated wastelands", "lawless spaces", "non-sovereign people", and "enslavable bodies" did they create? In the final part of the seminar, we examine the significance of colonial racism and slavery within the philosophical systems of Kant and Hegel. Key questions of the course are: How could philosophical discourses, whose **central concepts** included universality, legal personhood and freedom, defend Euro-colonialism? How did their patterns of epistemic violence differ? What metamorphoses did the concept of race undergo in its interplay of cultural and biological articulations? Are critical counter-readings of the texts we discuss possible on the basis of their own arguments?

Selected Readings: A. Bohrer. 2017. "Just Wars of Accumulation: The Salamanca School, Race and Colonial Capitalism" – G.W.F. Hegel. 1975. *Lectures on the Philosophy of World History* – T. Hobbes. 1996. *Leviathan* – O.U. Ince. 2018. *Colonial Capitalism and the Dilemmas of Liberalism* – J. Jorati. 2024. *Slavery and Race. Philosophical Debates*, 2 vols. – M. Nyquist. 2013. *Arbitrary Rule. Slavery, Tyranny, and the Power of Life and Death* – R. Bernasconi. 2009. "Who invented the Concept of Race?" – T. Tibebe. 2011. *Hegel and the Third World: The Making of Eurocentrism in World History*.

Forms of Assessment: 3 ECTS: presentation – 6 ECTS: 10- to 12-page term paper – 9 ECTS: 20- to 22-page term paper

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Academic Skills: Literature Research, Writing, and Referencing

1,5 ECTS

Seminar (Vacation Course): Practice

Course Start: 09 Feb 2027 Block Location: HG 104

Whether you are writing your first term paper or simply want to improve your academic writing skills, this seminar will provide a practical introduction to the formal standards of academic work. The main focus is on correct citation and referencing, including footnotes, American citation styles and compiling a bibliography. You will also learn how to avoid plagiarism and use Microsoft Word effectively for formatting academic papers. Beyond these essential writing skills, the seminar offers an introduction to finding and evaluating scholarly literature, gaining an overview of a research topic, and developing topics for written assignments. Through practical examples and exercises, you will acquire the tools and knowledge needed to produce well-structured and concise academic papers.

Forms of Assessment: Active participation during the whole workshop.

Course Start (in-person): Tue 09 Feb 2027, 10:15–16:45 (HG 104) | Fri 12 Feb 2027, 10:15–16:45 (HG 104)

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Grundlagen des wissenschaftlichen Arbeitens: Recherchieren, Schreiben und Zitieren

1,5 ECTS

Seminar (Vacation Course): Practice

Course Start: 08 Feb 2027 Block Location: HG 104

Das Seminar vermittelt Grundlagen des wissenschaftlichen Arbeitens. Im Mittelpunkt stehen das korrekte Zitieren und Belegen, der Umgang mit Fußnoten und die Anwendung amerikanischer Zitiertile sowie das Bibliographieren und Exzerpieren. Darüber hinaus erfahren Sie, wie Plagiate vermieden werden können und wie Sie Microsoft Word effizient für die Formatierung von Seminar- und Abschlussarbeiten einsetzen. Sie lernen, wissenschaftliche Literatur systematisch zu recherchieren und sich einen Überblick über ein Themenfeld zu verschaffen, um eine Fragestellung zu entwickeln. Anhand praktischer Übungen und anschaulicher Beispiele wird das vermittelte Wissen vertieft.

Forms of Assessment: Aktive Seminarteilnahme

Course Start (in-person): Mon 08 Feb 2027, 10:15–16:45 (HG 104) | Thu 11 Feb 2027, 10:15–16:45 (HG 104)

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Political Parties in a Multilevel Europe: Representation, Competition and Strategy

6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of Domestic Conflict and Democracy

Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 16:15–17:45 Location: AM 105

Political parties play an important role in structuring political representation, competition and conflict over European integration. The course examines parties operating at regional, national and European levels and asks how they represent interests, compete for support and develop strategies within Europe's multilevel political system. It also considers how parties respond to European integration, seek to influence its course and why their responses differ across countries and regions. Particular attention will be paid to party programmes, electoral competition, public attitudes towards European integration, Euroscepticism, populism and relations between party organisations at different political levels. The course will also examine the dilemmas faced by mainstream, radical-right and radical-left parties, as well as the methodological challenges involved in comparing party positions, strategies and political performance across countries and levels of governance.

Requirements for Participation: The course combines short lectures with active student participation. Students are expected to complete regular individual and group assignments, both in and outside class, and to take part in debates and other interactive activities. Since the course is based on participatory learning, students must complete the assigned readings before each class and come prepared to discuss them. Regular attendance without adequate preparation and active engagement will not be sufficient to complete the course successfully.

Forms of Assessment: The participation requirements outlined above apply to both assessment options. 6 ECTS: An analytical paper, normally 10–12 pages. 9 ECTS: A research paper, normally 20–25 pages. Before submitting the final paper, students will present and discuss their research proposal in class.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Designing Comparative Research: Concepts, Cases and Causal Reasoning

6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of International Conflict and Democracy
Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 9:15–10:45 Location: AM 233

The comparative method is among the most widely used approaches in the social sciences. Prominent scholars have long argued that there can be no science without comparison. The course, however, starts from the premise that simply comparing cases is not the same as using the comparative method. Rather than providing technical training in individual methods, the course examines how research questions are formulated and translated into comparative designs, how concepts and cases are constructed, how cases are selected, and how the strengths and limitations of different comparative designs can be assessed. Particular attention will be paid to the relationship between theory and evidence, the possibilities and limits of causal reasoning, problems of equivalence and measurement, and the choices involved in small-N, medium-N and large-N research.

Selected Readings: Landman, T., and Carvalho, E. (2017). *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction*. 4th ed. Routledge. A detailed syllabus listing the required readings for each week will be provided via Moodle.

Requirements for Participation: The course combines short lectures with hands-on guidance in designing a comparative research project. Its central component is the students' own work, undertaken individually and, for selected activities, in groups. Beginning early in the semester, each student will develop and systematically refine a research project through successive exercises, feedback and revision. Completing the assigned readings before each class is therefore essential for effective participation.

Forms of Assessment: Both assessment options require regular attendance, completion of the assigned readings, active participation, and the completion of individual and group activities both in and outside class. As part of these activities, all students will present and discuss their developing research projects in a workshop format before submitting their final work. 6 ECTS: A comparative research proposal developed and systematically refined throughout the semester. 9 ECTS: A comparative research proposal accompanied by a pilot study or another partial empirical implementation of the proposed research design.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Helten, I. / Ullrich, M.

ZSE-0039

Unithea 2027 - Dein Theaterfestival!

3/6 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Practice
Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 11:15–12:45

Du willst in der Kulturszene durchstarten und weißt nicht, wo du anfangen sollst? Genau hier! An der Viadrina in der Doppelstadt hast du die einmalige Chance, mit dem Support des lokalen Theaters Kleist Forum ein internationales Theaterfestival auf die Beine zu stellen. Wir treiben das Geld auf, wir suchen die Acts aus, wir machen Werbung auf allen Kanälen dafür - wir, das bist du und alle interessierten Studis, die hier mit anpacken wollen, plus die Begleitung von erfahrenen Seminarleiter*innen aus der Kulturszene. Im Kleist-Jahr werden wir uns unter der mission "Intersektions/Kreuzungen" Fragen stellen wir: Wie kann ein Theaterfestival 2026 aussehen? Welche Orte sollten bespielt werden neben einem klassischen Theater? Wo kreuzen sich Performance, Erwartung und Blick aller Beteiligten? Gestalte Kultur hier vor Ort mit, gib wichtigen Themen eine Bühne! || Do you want to break into the cultural scene but don't know where to start? This is the place! At Viadrina in the twin city, you have a unique opportunity to organize an international theatre festival with the support of the local Kleist Forum theatre. We raise the funds, we select the acts, we advertise across all channels — and "we" means you and all interested students who want to get involved, plus guidance from experienced seminar leaders from the cultural scene. In the Kleist Year, we will explore the theme "Intersections/Kreuzungen" and ask: What should a theatre festival look like in 2026? Which venues should we use besides a traditional theatre? Where do performance, expectation, and the perspectives of all participants intersect? Shape culture here locally and give important topics a stage!

Remarks: Die Lehrveranstaltung findet im Konferenzraum des Kleist Forums statt. || Conference room in Kleist Forum (see Moodle).

Forms of Assessment: Aktive Teilnahme und Verantwortungsübernahme, theoretisch über zwei Semester (4.-6. Juni zum Festival besteht Anwesenheitspflicht) und Erfahrungsbericht. || Active participation and taking responsibility theoretically over two semesters (attendance is mandatory June 4–6 for the festival) and Experience report.

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Methods of Conflict and Democracy: Practical Approaches to Conflicts Challenging Democracy

6 ECTS Credits

Seminar (In-Person Course): Introduction
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 14:15–15:45 Location: AM 03

As one of the three mandatory introductory courses in the Master's programme "Conflict and Democracy", this course complements the courses on *Politics of Conflict and Democracy* and *Legal Aspects of Conflict and Democracy* with interdisciplinary Peace and Conflict Studies and practical Conflict Resolution. The course asks how scholarly insights and practical approaches from these fields can help us understand and work with conflicts that challenge democracy – whether they are conflicts within democratic societies, conflicts about democracy itself, or conflicts between democratic and authoritarian/autocratic forces. And it examines where existing approaches reach their limits in these conflict environments. Among other topics, we explore how conflicts emerge, evolve, and escalate; how contingent perspectives shape what we perceive as "the problem" and "the solution"; and how conflict analysis can inform decisions about intervention. Key themes include conflict dynamics, polarization, power in conflict, and the limits of democratic approaches to conflict resolution, as well as both established and emerging responses to these challenges. The course combines theory-based conceptual work with case-based learning, interactive simulations and practical exercises. It prepares students of the Master's Programme Conflict and Democracy for subsequent courses of the Module *Navigating Conflict within and about Democracy* by providing a shared analytical foundation and opportunities to critically explore selected methods and approaches.

Selected Readings: Galtung, J. (1996). *Peace by Peaceful Means: Peace and Conflict, Development and Civilization*. SAGE. Jeong, H.-W. (2000). *Peace and Conflict Studies: An Introduction*. Ashgate. Kriesberg, L., & Dayton, B. W. (2016). *Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution* (5th ed.). Rowman & Littlefield. Tripathi, S., & Richter, S. (Eds.). (2025). *The Rowman & Littlefield Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies: Perspectives from the Global South*. Rowman & Littlefield. Arendt, H. (1969). *On Violence*. Harcourt, Brace & World.

Remarks: Course Dates: 13.10. 14–16 c.t. (AM 03) | 20.10. 11–13 c.t. and 14–16 c.t. (AM 03) | 27.10. 11–13 c.t. and 14–16 c.t. (AM 03) | 3.11. 14–16 c.t. (AM 03) | 10.11. 14–16 c.t. (AM 03) | 17.11. 14–16 c.t. (AM 03) | 8.12. 14–16 c.t. (AM 03) | 15.12. 14–16 c.t. (AM 03) | 5.01. 14–16 c.t. (AM 104) | 12.01. 14–16 c.t. (AM 104) | 19.01. 14–16 c.t. (AM 104) | 26.01. 14–16 c.t. (AM 104) | 2.02. 14–16 c.t. (AM 104)

Forms of Assessment: The quality of this interactive course depends directly on your continuous participation; regular attendance is an essential part of the course. Therefore, **a minimum attendance requirement of at least 80% of all class sessions is strictly enforced**. Please take this requirement into account when registering for the course. Assessment consists of two separate components: a graded practical assignment during the course (3 ECTS credits); a multiple-choice test at the end of the course (3 ECTS credits). Further details on both assessment components will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Janczak, J.
Masterstudiengang „Europa Studien“

KUL-14904

European Borders and Cross-Border Cooperation in Comparative Perspective

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of International Conflict and Democracy
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 9:15–10:45 Location: CP 20

The process of European integration has been particularly visible at the borders of EU member states. Political stabilization and the development of the Schengen Area have reduced the traditional separating function of borders, creating new opportunities for cross-border cooperation and regional development. At the same time, recent crises - including the COVID-19 pandemic, migration pressures, and Russia's war against Ukraine - have led to renewed re-bordering tendencies, strengthening the role of borders as instruments of security and control. This seminar examines the dynamics of de-bordering and re-bordering in Europe from the collapse of communism to the contemporary era of polycrisis. Combining micro- and macro-level perspectives, it explores cross-border cooperation among local and regional actors, as well as developments at the EU's external borders. Particular attention is devoted to border twin towns, Euroregions, and the symbolic and practical dimensions of European integration, security, and border governance.

Selected Readings: Thomas M. Wilson (2025), *Border Studies: A Multidisciplinary Approach* (Multidisciplinary Movements in Research), Elgar; Victor Konrad, Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary (2022), *Border Culture: Theory, Imagination, Geopolitics*, Routledge; Pertti Joenniemi & Alexander Sergunin (2017) *City-Twinning in IR Theory: Escaping the Confines of the Ordinary*, *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 32:4, 443–458, DOI: 10.1080/08865655.2016.1257361. Jarosław Janczak, 2017, *Cross-Border urbanism on the German-Polish border – Between spatial de-Boundaryization and social (re-)frontierization*, [in:] *European Borderlands. Living with Barriers and Bridges*, Elisabeth Boesen, Gregor Schnuer (eds.), London and New York: Routledge, pp. 47–63. ISBN978-1-4724-7721-1. Victor Konrad (2015) *Toward a Theory of Borders in Motion*, *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 30:1, 1–17, DOI:10.1080/08865655.2015.1008387. Jouni Häkli, *Re-Demarcating Transnational Space: The Case of Haparanda-Tornio*, [in:], *De-bordering, Re-bordering and Symbols on the European Boundaries*, Jarosław Janczak (ed.), Berlin: Logos Verlag

Requirements for Participation: Fluent English

Forms of Assessment: Attendance, presentation and seminar paper

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Building cultural competence - a practice-oriented international collaboration course

6 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Practice

Course Start: 15 Feb 2027 Mon, 10:00–17:00 Location: GD 102

Online pre-session for this course: Thursday, 14.01.2027 15:00-17:00 (s.t.). Intercultural Competence is considered a key competence and future skill. However, its idea remains fuzzy. There is a variety of definitions as well as critique. Intercultural learning and cultural awareness are becoming more and more relevant, e.g. in the sustainability discourse, as challenges require collaboration and consideration from an interconnected and global perspective. In this interactive and practice-oriented seminar concepts of intercultural learning will be introduced based on theoretical approaches. At the same time, we will critically discuss and challenge those concepts and explore their limitations. Through small hands-on exercises and by looking at practical examples from various perspectives, including our own, we will raise our cultural awareness and train our ability to deal with ambiguity and uncertainty. Regular reflective practice and peer feedback will allow participants to deepen the learning experience and constantly train their communication skills. The course will benefit from Viadrina's membership in the European Reform University Alliance (ERUA) through on-site collaboration with students from other European Universities who will attend this course as an ERUA Intensive course. Students therefore not only gain an insight on Viadrina's international network activities; they are also offered an opportunity to practically engage in real international collaboration and to practice their English language skills. Active participation, readings and written assignments will be a central part of the learning process. Within the Viadrina Peer-Tutoring Training, this seminar is equivalent to Module 1 in Intercultural Learning. Note: In case you have any concerns regarding your participation in terms of accessibility, please do not hesitate to get in touch via email (kasis@europa-uni.de) or phone (+49 335 5534 2345).

Selected Readings: will be announced during the course

Requirements for Participation: Being ready to engage and interact in a team in an international setting. The course is open to students from all faculties.

Remarks: The number of participants is limited. Please register via moodle. Applicants will be considered according to the date of registration.

Forms of Assessment: Regular attendance and active participation, readings, written tasks, small group work and a final report.

Course Start (in-person): Mon 15 Feb 2027, 10–17 (GD 102) | Tue 16 Feb 2027, 10–17 (GD 102) | Wed 17 Feb 2027, 10–17 (GD 102) | Thu 18 Feb 2027, 10–17 (GD 102) | Fri 19 Feb 2027, 10–17 (GD 102)

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Viadrina: Learning Organization/Lernende Organisation (Engl/Deu)

6 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Practice

Course Start: 06 Nov 2026 Fri, 10:00–15:00 Location: GD 05

English: This seminar offers a practical introduction to university governance and student participation at the European University Viadrina (its European alliance ERUA). Universities as institutions and the role of their members are constantly evolving – democratic processes play an important role in this and are continually being renegotiated. We will make (decision-making) processes transparent and identify possibilities for action. Additional visits to university bodies and practical case studies enable students to observe and practise participation and democracy in real life. The seminar has been designed in collaboration with engaged students and student bodies, as well as lecturers from all three faculties. Deutsch: Dieses Seminar bietet eine praxisorientierte Einführung in Hochschulgovernance und studentische Mitbestimmung an der Europa-Universität Viadrina (und ihrer europäischen Allianz ERUA). Universitäten als Institutionen und die Rolle ihrer Mitglieder sind immer wieder im Wandel - demokratische Prozesse spielen hierbei eine wichtige Rolle und werden immer wieder neu verhandelt. Wir machen (Entscheidungs-) Prozesse transparent und identifizieren Handlungsspielräume. Zusätzliche Gremienbesuche und praktische Fallbeispiele ermöglichen es, Partizipation und Demokratie real zu beobachten und zu üben. Die Konzeption des Seminars basiert auf der Zusammenarbeit mit engagierten Studierenden und studentischen Gremien sowie Lehrenden aller drei Fakultäten.

Selected Readings: will be announced during the course/ wird in der Veranstaltung bekannt gegeben

Requirements for Participation: The seminar is open to anyone interested in Viadrina ERUA, democratic processes, public and non-profit organisations, governance and (local international) participation. For students who are already involved with Viadrina University or who are interested in getting involved, the seminar serves as an introduction and training opportunity. Das Seminar ist offen für alle, die sich für die Viadrina ERUA, demokratische Prozesse, öffentliche und gemeinnützige Organisationen, (lokale internationale) Governance und Partizipation interessieren. Studierenden, die sich bereits an der Viadrina engagieren oder Interesse daran haben, dient das Seminar als Orientierung und Schulung.

Remarks: Registration/ Anmeldung via Moodle. For accessibility matters/ Bei Anliegen zur Barrierefreiheit des Kurses: kasis@europa-uni.de +49 335 5534 2345. Acknowledged as/anerkannt als Peer-Tutoring-Training.

Forms of Assessment: Research tasks, independent attendance at committee meetings outside of seminar sessions (with writing minutes), reading and reflection, and analysis of case studies / Rechercheaufgaben, eigenständige Gremienbesuche außerhalb der Seminarsitzungen mit Protokoll, Lektüre, Reflexionen, Analyse und von Fallbeispielen.

Course Start (in-person): Fri 06 Nov 2026, 10–15 (GD 05) | Fri 27 Nov 2026, 10–15 (GD 05) | Fri 11 Dec 2026, 10–15 (GD 05) | Fri 15 Jan 2027, 10–15 (GD 05) | Fri 05 Feb 2027, 10–15 (GD 05)

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Subjektive Phänomenologie der Digitalisierung: Das Smartphone

3/6/9 ECTS

Block course (In-Person Course): Philosophy and Arts in Times of Crisis
Course Start: 15 Jan 2027 Fri, 10:00–17:00 Location: AM 202

Medienphilosophie hat zum einen die Aufgabe, die den Medien zugrunde liegende Technik als kulturelle Praxis zu verstehen und zu deuten. Diese Seite kann man als objektive Phänomenologie beschreiben. Sie hat zum anderen die Aufgabe, in genaueren phänomenologischen Analysen die Eigenarten der Verwendung solcher Medien zu beschreiben und so die Veränderung der subjektiven Welt, die die Kultur durch die Implementierung dieser Medien erfährt, zu beschreiben – subjektive Phänomenologie. In dem Seminar wollen wir eine solche subjektive Phänomenologie des Smartphones in Ansätzen erarbeiten. Wie verändert die Verwendung des Smartphones unsere Erfahrung von Sprache, von Raum und Zeit, von Kommunikation, von uns selbst und von anderen? Dazu werden wir im ersten Block gemeinsam Texte aus dem Bereich der phänomenologischen Philosophie und der Medienphilosophie lesen. Im zweiten Block werden wir dann versuchen, gemeinsam solche subjektiven Phänomenologien für die vielfältigen Aspekte des Umgangs mit dem Smartphone zu erarbeiten.

Selected Readings: Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phänomenologie der Wahrnehmung*, Berlin 1966. Edmund Husserl, *Zur Phänomenologie des inneren Zeitbewußtseins*, hrsg. Rudolf Bernet, Hamburg 2013. Robert Rosenberger, Peter Paul Verbeek, *Postphenomenological Investigations, Essays on human-technology-relations*, Lanham, Lexington Books, 2015. Werner Konitzer, *Medienphilosophie*, München 2006. Byung Chul Harm, *Im Schwarm*, Berlin 2013

Forms of Assessment: 3 ECTS: eine Arbeit (4 Seiten) | 6 ECTS: Hausarbeit (ca.15 Seiten) | 9 ECTS: Hausarbeit (25 Seiten)

Course Start (in-person): Fri 15 Jan 2027, 10–17 (AM 202) | Sat 16 Jan 2027, 10–17 (AM 202) | Fri 05 Feb 2027, 10–17 (AM 202) | Sat 06 Feb 2027, 10–17 (AM 202)

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Soviet Ukraine and the World: Cold War Cultural Diplomacy, Material Culture, and Fashion

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Central and East European Studies
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 14:15–15:45 Location: GD 07

How did clothing, consumer goods, visual media, and international exhibitions become instruments of Cold War politics? This course examines Soviet Ukraine as an active participant in global cultural politics and challenges narratives that reduce it to a passive Soviet periphery. It approaches the Ukrainian SSR as one of the Soviet Union's major centers of cultural production and representation, whose institutions, objects, and visual forms circulated across the Soviet Union and internationally. Students will explore consumption and scarcity, fashion institutions and women's creative labor, youth subcultures, and the politics of heritage and "national style." Case studies will range from fashion houses and women's magazines to cultural diplomacy, Expo 67 in Montreal, and Ukrainian diaspora activism in North America and Europe. Through discussion, film screenings, and hands-on work with photographs, periodicals, and audiovisual sources, students will learn how to analyze visual and material culture as historical evidence and examine how objects and images shaped ideas of modernity, national identity, and cultural difference during the Cold War.

Selected Readings: Graham H. Roberts, ed., *Material Culture in Russia and the USSR: Things, Values, Identities* (London and New York, 2017); Jukka Gronow and Sergey Zhuravlev, *Fashion Meets Socialism: Fashion Industry in the Soviet Union after the Second World War* (Helsinki, 2015); Natalia Khanenko-Friesen, *Ukrainian Otherlands: Diaspora, Homeland, and Folk Imagination in the Twentieth Century* (Madison, WI, 2015); Olha Kornienko, "Ukrainian Fashion Houses as Centers of Soviet Fashion Representation," *The Hungarian Historical Review* 10, no. 3 (2021): 495–528; Susan E. Reid and David Crowley, eds., *Style and Socialism: Modernity and Material Culture in Post-War Eastern Europe* (Oxford and New York, 2000).

Requirements for Participation: Good reading and discussion skills in English are required. No prior knowledge of Ukrainian or Soviet history is necessary. Knowledge of Ukrainian or Russian is an advantage but is not required.

Forms of Assessment: Oral presentation; written source-based research paper.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Racism and Sexuality

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Gender and Queer Studies
Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 11:15–12:45 Location: AM 205

In this seminar we examine the central role that sexuality and its gendered regulation hold in the ideologies and practices of racist domination. We will address sexuality as an element of racist Othering and phantasies of national decline, but also focus on the control and regulation of sexuality as an element of racist practices of governing. This focus will be examined through historical examples that include histories of European colonialism, through discourses of eugenics as an ideology and political programme that seeks to 'breed' qualitative traits of human populations, and through focusing on contemporary right-wing discourses on immigration in Germany and beyond.

Forms of Assessment: Students need to engage in **intensive reading** and contribute actively to class discussions. **Regular attendance** is mandatory. If you miss more than three sessions without valid excuse such as a doctor's certificate, you will not pass the course. For **3 or more ECTS**, you will also keep a **learning journal** and share your new steps each session with the class. The learning journal is a personal record where you document your study progress. In it, you write notes on the reading material and what you consider to be important for your learning progress from both the material and class sessions. You can also include thoughts questions on what you find challenging or particularly interesting. You should write between 200 and 400 words each week. For **6 or more ECTS**, you will take responsibility for the class discussion of a mandatory reading in one of the sessions, providing some initial **thoughts and questions** to stimulate discussion in the larger group, and moderating the discussion. For **9 ECTS**, you can additionally write a final paper of 2500-3000 words (usually around 10 pages), to be submitted by March 15, 2027.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Legal Aspects of Conflict and Democracy

MA CoDe: 6 ECTS / Erasmus: 4 ECTS

Lecture (In-Person Course): Introduction
Course Start: 12 Oct 2026 Mon, 14:00–16:00 Location: GD Hs2

As one of the three mandatory introductory courses in the Master's programme "Conflict and Democracy", this course complements the courses on *Politics of Conflict and Democracy* and *Methods of Conflict and Democracy: Practical Approaches to Conflicts Challenging Democracy*.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Zwischen ‚Selfservice-Urbanism‘ und ‚Departure City‘: Prishtina als postsozialistische und Postkonflikt-Stadt

3 ECTS

Project (In-Person Course): Politics of Domestic Conflict and Democracy
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 16:15–17:45 Location: HG 104

Als Hauptstadt des Kosovo, des jüngsten Staates in Europa, ist Prishtina eine hochgradig dynamische und von tiefgreifenden Transformationsprozessen geprägte Stadt. Zwischen dem sozialistischen Erbe Jugoslawiens, den Folgen von Krieg, internationalen Interventionen, neoliberalen Politiken, informellen Raumaneignungen und starken Migrationsbewegungen hat sich eine urbane Landschaft herausgebildet, die etablierte Vorstellungen der europäischen Stadt herausfordert. Prishtina bildet ein aufschlussreiches Labor, um neue urbane Lebensweisen zwischen irregulären Praktiken eines ‚Selfservice-Urbanismus‘, den durch Abwanderung und Diasporanetzwerke entstehenden Dynamiken einer ‚Departure City‘ und einer zivilgesellschaftlichen Stadtproduktion durch Gemeingüter zu erkunden. Das zweisemestrige Lehrforschungsprojekt untersucht die Wechselwirkungen von urbanen Alltagspraktiken, Migration und gemeinschaftlichen Initiativen gewöhnlicher Menschen angesichts der Defizite staatlicher Planung und infrastruktureller Versorgung. Welche Rolle etwa spielen Diaspora-Netzwerke für das urbane Leben? Welche urbanen Gemeingüter entstehen unter Bedingungen von Transformation und Prekarität? Im ersten Semester erarbeiten wir theoretische Zugänge, analysieren Literatur und entwickeln ein Forschungsdesign. Eine 10tägige Exkursion dient im zweiten Semester einer qualitativen empirischen Forschung in Prishtina. Als Ergebnis entwickeln die Studierenden ein eigenes öffentliches Format – etwa eine Publikation, einen Podcast, eine Ausstellung oder Veranstaltung –, um ihre Erkenntnisse über das Seminar hinaus sichtbar zu machen.

Requirements for Participation: Die Veranstaltung ist ein zweisemestriges Lehrforschungsprojekt mit 10-tägiger Exkursion, die im Frühjahr 2027 stattfindet. Die Teilnahme an nur einem Semester oder ohne aktive Beteiligung an der Forschung ist nicht möglich. Erforderlich ist eine Anmeldung mit Angabe einschlägig relevanter Vorkenntnisse per Email an lanz@europa.uni.de vor Beginn des Semesters.

Remarks: Im WS 26/27 findet die Veranstaltung als Blockseminar statt. Die Termine sind: 13.10., 16:00-18:00 sowie 30.10., 04.12. und 29.01., jeweils 10:00-18:00. Die auf April terminierte Exkursion findet im Rahmen des Programms Erasmus+ KA171 statt, das die für Studierende entstehenden Kosten übernimmt.

Forms of Assessment: Im Wintersemester 2026/27: 3 ECTS durch mündliche Beiträge, die Co-Produktion eines Forschungsdesigns in einer Arbeitsgruppe und die Vorbereitung der empirischen Forschung. Im Sommersemester 2027: 9 ECTS durch aktive Teilnahme an der in Kleingruppen organisierten Forschung und an der Produktion und Präsentation eines vereinbarten Ergebnisses.

Course Start (in-person): Tue 13 Oct 2026, 16:15–17:45 (HG 104) | Fri 30 Oct 2026, 10–18 (HG 104) | Fri 04 Dec 2026, 10–18 (HG 110) | Fri 29 Jan 2027, 10–18 (HG 104)

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Sorgende Städte

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Gender and Queer Studies
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 11:15–12:45 Location: GD 07

Der im Fokus des Seminars stehende stadtwissenschaftliche und stadtpolitische Ansatz der ‚sorgenden Städte‘ ist aus feministischen Debatten zu Sorgearbeit, sozialer Reproduktion und räumlicher Ungleichheit hervorgegangen und gewinnt in der Erforschung, Politik und Planung von Städten zunehmend an Bedeutung. Feministische Forschungen zeigen seit langem, dass für das soziale Miteinander essenzielle Care-Arbeiten im weiteren Sinne eines Füreinander-Sorge-Tragens und einer alltäglichen Organisation des Zusammenlebens überwiegend von Frauen geleistet werden. Die Stadtentwicklungspolitik wiederum blendet diese reproduktive Dimension der Stadt weitgehend aus. Die Ausgestaltung urbaner Räume spiegelt so die Ungleichheit gesellschaftlicher Geschlechterverhältnisse. Das Konzept der sorgenden Stadt fordert daher einen Perspektivwechsel, der reproduktive Fragen des gesellschaftlichen Lebens zum Ausgangspunkt der Stadtentwicklung macht. In seinem Zentrum stehen u.a. soziale Infrastrukturen, bezahlbares Wohnen, wohnortnahe Versorgung, öffentliche Gesundheit, barrierefreie Mobilität, nachbarschaftliche Solidarität, Stadtnatur. Zudem geht es darum, Sorgearbeit gesellschaftlich anzuerkennen und zu demokratisieren. Das Seminar verfolgt das Ziel, die politischen und sozialen Verflechtungen zwischen Sorgearbeit und Stadtentwicklung sowohl theoretisch zu erfassen als auch in der urbanen Praxis zu untersuchen. Im Fokus steht die Frage, wie Städte zu Orten werden können, die Vulnerabilität und wechselseitige Fürsorge nicht als Defizite, sondern als grundlegende Bedingungen menschlichen Zusammenlebens anerkennen.

Requirements for Participation: Erforderlich ist eine Anmeldung per Email an lanz@europa.uni.de vor Beginn des Semesters.

Forms of Assessment: Aktive Teilnahme, Referat, schriftliche Arbeit

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Ein immer noch geteilter Himmel? Verflechtungen und Asymmetrien entlang der ehemaligen innerdeutschen Grenze

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of Domestic Conflict and Democracy
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 11:15–12:45 Location: GD 201

Über 35 Jahre nach der deutschen Wiedervereinigung stellt sich die Frage, was ehemals getrennte Gemeinden und ihre Bewohner*innen verbindet und unterscheidet. Welche Gemeinsamkeiten haben sich entwickelt, und welche Trennlinien sind heute (noch) relevant? Welche Erfahrungen, Deutungen und Alltagspraktiken haben Menschen vor Ort und wie gestalten sich Formen des Zusammenlebens und der Kooperation entlang der ehemaligen innerdeutschen Grenze? Im Seminar folgen wir einem Ansatz der Ko-Transformation und richten den Blick auf die ehemalige innerdeutsche Grenzregion. Als besonderer Untersuchungsraum ermöglicht diese Region Einblicke in zum Teil asymmetrischen Transformations- und Verflechtungsprozesse seit 1990. Ausgehend von einem historischen Blick auf das DDR-Sperrgebiet und das westdeutsche Zonenrandgebiet beschäftigen wir uns mit sozialen, wirtschaftlichen und politischen Veränderungen nach der Wiedervereinigung. Zudem betrachten wir Mobilitäts- und Migrationsprozesse, darunter Binnenmigrationen, Stadt-Land-Wanderungen und Rückkehrbewegungen, und setzen diese mit den Veränderungen in Beziehung.

Forms of Assessment: 3 ECTS: mindestens 75% Anwesenheit, aktive Mitarbeit, Einzel- oder Gruppenarbeit mit Vorstellung im Seminar | 6 ECTS: mindestens 75% Anwesenheit, aktive Mitarbeit, Einzel- oder Gruppenarbeit mit Vorstellung im Seminar; Ausarbeitung eines seminarbezogenen Themas (10-15 Seiten, eventuell auch als Gruppenarbeit) | 9 ECTS: mindestens 75% Anwesenheit, aktive Mitarbeit, Einzel- oder Gruppenarbeit mit Vorstellung im Seminar; Ausarbeitung eines seminarbezogenen Themas (20-25 Seiten)

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Münnich, S.

Professur für Soziologie der Wirtschaft/Wirtschaftssoziologie

KUL-14929

Crisis and Critique in Capitalist Societies

6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of Domestic Conflict and Democracy
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 9:15–10:45 Location: LH 101/102

In this seminar, we will explore different perspectives on the question of how the sociological analysis of capitalism and the critique of capitalist society are interconnected. Building on the idea, first raised by Karl Marx and Max Weber, that it is impossible to completely separate analysis from evaluation, we will then address the question—raised among others by philosophers Michel Foucault, Axel Honneth or Robin Celikates - of the inevitable entanglement of social criticism in the dynamics of modern societies. A special focus of the seminar will be the origins, dynamics and effects of recurring crises in capitalist societies and how they relate to criticism and social protest and political regulation, as they have been raised, among others, by Jürgen Habermas, Wolfgang Streeck or Jason Moore in recent, on-going ecological, financial and political crises of European societies. We will then examine various areas of the sociology of criticism, in which criticism of capitalism is analyzed historically as an important factor that continuously shapes the configuration of contemporary capitalist economies and societies. Important contributions by Albert Hirschman, Eve Chiapello, Luc Boltanski Nancy Fraser, Thomas Piketty, Rahel Jaeggi and Achille Mbembe will round off the seminar here.

Selected Readings: Streeck, Wolfgang (2016): How will capitalism end? Essays on a failing system. First published. London, New York: Verso.

Requirements for Participation: "Pen and Paper" – course, no electronic devices allowed during class, students have to be willing to get and work with paper copies of the text.

Forms of Assessment: Written assignments from week to week, term paper or written exam at the end of the semester.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Neyer, J.

Professur für Europäische und Internationale Politik

KUL-14934

Politics of Conflict and Democracy

6 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Introduction
Course Start: 12 Oct 2026 Mon, 11:15–12:45 Location: GD Hs4

The course examines theoretical approaches to understanding peace and conflict, and their relationship to democracy and authoritarianism. It explores different types of political regimes and international systems and their likelihood to foster peace and conflict. The class covers theoretical reflections on conflicts in the international system and in domestic regimes, and discusses the conflicts between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Iran and China and Taiwan. Students will collaborate on producing written reflections on selected topics and submit individual research papers. Full attendance is compulsory. Students are required to prepare reading material before attending lectures and classes.

Requirements for Participation: None.

Forms of Assessment: Individual research papers.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

European Governance in the Polycrisis

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of International Conflict and Democracy
Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 14:15–15:45 Location: LH 101/102

The European Union has faced a series of exogenous and endogenous crises over the past fifteen years, including the financial and sovereign debt crisis, the refugee crisis, Brexit, the rule of law crisis, COVID-19, and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Former Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker described these overlapping and mutually reinforcing crises as a "polycrisis." This master's course explores how the EU has responded to these crises and how European governance has changed as a result of these responses. Drawing on theories of European integration, it examines the EU's crisis responses, the emergence of new governance instruments, and possible inter-institutional shifts in power. While we will examine the different crises separately, we will compare them in terms of their characteristics, the responses adopted, and the ways in which these responses have strengthened or weakened particular actors and institutions. We will also discuss whether the EU has become more resilient in the face of crises. The seminar aims to strengthen students' ability to critically assess contemporary political developments in Europe and to develop their own assessments of European governance in times of polycrisis. It is designed for students with a solid background in European Union studies.

Selected Readings: Rhinard, Mark/ Nugent, Neill/ Paterson, William (Eds.): Crises and challenges for the European Union. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2023.

Requirements for Participation: Sufficient knowledge of the functioning of the European Union.

Forms of Assessment: For all participants regular attendance, active participation, and preparation, i.e. reading mandatory texts is required. For 3 ECTS: presentation. For 6 ECTS: presentation AND oral exam at the end of the term. For 9 ECTS: presentation AND term paper

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Der Sowjetische Sicherheitsdienst: Gestern und Heute

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of Domestic Conflict and Democracy // Cultural History
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 9:15–10:45 Location: GD 204

Das Seminar beschäftigt sich mit der Geschichte des sowjetischen Sicherheitsdienstes, der mehrmals umbenannt und umstrukturiert wurde. Seine Hauptaufgaben waren: Bekämpfung von Staatsverbrechen, darunter Vaterlandsverrat, Spionage, Konterrevolution, Terrorismus, Sabotage und Vandalismus; Schutz von Staatsgeheimnissen; Unterbindung von Staatsverbrechen; Erfüllung spezieller Aufgaben der Regierung der UdSSR zur Gewährleistung der staatlichen Sicherheit und der öffentlichen Ordnung. Der Sicherheitsdienst im Rahmen des Innenministeriums (rus. NKWD 1934–1941) spielte eine dominierende Rolle beim Terror der 1930er Jahre, in dessen Verlauf er unzählige Verhaftungen, Verhöre und Hinrichtungen durchführte. Die Geheimpolizei wurde zur wichtigsten Stütze der persönlichen Diktatur Stalins: Sie wurde nicht nur gegen die Bevölkerung und die Intelligenz eingesetzt, sondern auch gegen die Partei, das Militär und die Regierung. Nach der kurzzeitigen (1941) und erneuten (1943) Herauslösung der politischen Geheimpolizei als NKGB wurde dieses 1946 mit der 1943 gegründeten Spionageabwehrorganisation SMERSch (für: „Tod den Spionen“) zum Ministerium für Staatssicherheit (MGB) zusammengefasst, aus dem 1954 das KGB (Komitee für Staatssicherheit) hervorging. Das KGB spielte eine wichtige Rolle im Kalten Krieg. Große Teile der KGB-Strukturen gingen nach dem Zerfall der Sowjetunion 1991 in die heutigen russischen Dienste FSB (Föderaler Sicherheitsdienst) und dem SWR (Auslandsnachrichtendienst) auf. Das Seminar findet in Präsenz statt. Die regelmäßige Teilnahme und Bereitschaft zu Lektüreleistungen werden vorausgesetzt.

Selected Readings: Alfred Eisfeld, Andrij Kohut, Iryna Ljabach (Hg.). Der "Große Terror" in der Ukraine: die "Deutsche Operation" 1937-1938. Berlin - Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2021. Otto Günsche, Heinz Linge, Henrik Eberle, Matthias Uhl (Hg.). Das Buch Hitler. Geheimdossier des NKWD für Josef W. Stalin, zusammengestellt aufgrund der Verhörprotokolle des Persönlichen Adjutanten Hitlers, Otto Günsche, und des Kammerdieners Heinz Linge, Moskau 1948/49. Bergisch Gladbach, Lübbe, 2005. Ksenya Kiebusinski, Alexander Motyl [Hg.]. The great West Ukrainian prison massacre of 1941. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2017. Viola Lynne, Marc Junge. Laboratories of terror: the final act of Stalin's great purge in Soviet Ukraine. New York: Oxford University Press, 2023.

Forms of Assessment: Essay, Hausarbeit, mündliche Prüfung

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Dark Tourism: Der Schwarze Tourismus

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Cultural History
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 11:15–12:45 Location: GD 204

Das Seminar beschäftigt sich mit Dark Tourism – das Reisen zu verschiedenen touristischen Sehenswürdigkeiten, die menschliches Leiden und Sterben infolge von Krieg, Gewalt, Terror oder Katastrophen symbolisieren. Zu einem werden Motivationen und Erfahrungen von Touristen diskutiert, zum anderen werden Kulturerbe, touristische Infrastruktur und Marketing behandelt. Einen weiteren Schwerpunkt bilden die Analyse und die Interpretation der ausgewählten Texte, die multidisziplinäre Diskurse präsentieren, in denen der Tod mit dem zeitgenössischen touristischen Konsum kollidiert. Inhaltlich bietet das Seminar einen breiten Blick auf Formen und Praktiken des Dark Tourism. Gemeinsam werden wir u.a. folgende Fragen beantworten: Wie spiegeln Friedhofs- und Gefängnis-Touren ausgewählte Narrative wider? Warum sind Gedenkstätten beliebte Ausflugsziele für Touristen? Warum teilen Touristen Selfies von Orten der Tragödie? Das Seminar findet in Präsenz statt. Die regelmäßige Teilnahme und Bereitschaft zu Lektüreleistungen und zu thematisch gebundenem Recherchieren im Internet werden vorausgesetzt.

Selected Readings: Frank Bajohr, Axel Drecol, John Lennon (Hrsg.). Dark tourism: Reisen zu Stätten von Krieg, Massengewalt und NS-Verfolgung. Berlin: Metropol, 2020. Maximiliano E. Karstanje. The Rise of Thana-Kapitalism and Tourism. London & New York: Routledge, 2017. Olga Radchenko, Memorials of the Great Patriotic War in Soviet Ukraine as a Resource of Tourism, Narodopisna revue, 2020, 2, 142–150. Mary Margaret Kerr, Philip R Stone, Rebecca H. Price (eds.). Children, Young People and Dark Tourism. London: Routledge, 2022.

Forms of Assessment: Essay, Hausarbeit, mündliche Prüfung

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

From Automatism to Algorithm: Surrealism and its Critical Legacies

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Philosophy and Arts in Times of Crisis
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 11:15–12:45 Location: AM 204

Officially founded in 1924, with the publication of André Breton's manifesto, Surrealism has been exerting a lasting influence in art, culture and theory and continues to prompt a host of responses in our anxiety-ridden present. Influenced by communism and psychoanalysis alike, the movement's aesthetics and aspirations were mainly grounded in the notion of "pure psychic automatism" as a method of representing, in both literature and the visual arts, the desires, dreams and drives of the human "unconscious" as revolutionary forces to challenge the bourgeois order of an industrial modernity deemed repressive (if not worse). Practices of écriture automatique, i.e. modes of writing or drawing performed without conscious control and intent, aimed at liberating rational Western subjectivity through access to a projected Other and primordial past. On the one hand the seminar will revisit the history of Surrealism in the works and words of, among others, Breton and Georges Bataille, Max Ernst, Man Ray, Yves Tanguy, André Masson, Salvador Dalí, Meret Oppenheim, Claude Cahun and Raoul Ubac, to critically engage with the politics (and aporias) of automatism and its multi-faceted manifestations. On the other hand, this course will take a more experimental approach by focusing on legacies of Surrealism in contemporary art and digital media culture, asking how its historical quest for both the marvelous and the uncanny with recourse to the unconscious is transformed by automatism becoming algorithmic. To this end, readings by philosophers and scholars like N. Katherine Hayles and Marie-Luise Angerer relative to the "digital unconscious" as a terrain where bodies and computation meet will be discussed in light of recent works by artists like Pierre Huyghe, Adrian Villar Rojas, Hito Steyerl and Annika Yi that arguably gauge and exacerbate the vicissitudes of imagining the "the world through AI".

Selected Readings: Rosalind Krauss and Janet Livingston: Amour Fou: Surrealism and Photography, New York: Abbeville Press, 1986; Hal Foster: Compulsive Beauty, Cambridge, MA / London: The MIT Press, 1993; Ralph Ubl, Prehistoric Future. Max Ernst and the Return of Painting between the Wars, transl. by Elizabeth Tucker, Chicago, IL / London: The University of Chicago Press, 2013; Surrealism and Anti-fascism: Anthology, ed. by Karin Althaus, Adrian Djukić, Ara H. Merjian, Matthias Mühling, Stephanie Weber, Berlin: Hatja Cantz, 2025; Antonio Melechi: The Unconscious: A Cultural History from Hippocrates to Philip K. Dick and Beyond, Cambridge, MA / London: The MIT Press, 2026; N. Katherine Hayles: Unthought. The Power of the Cognitive Nonconscious, Chicago IL / London: The University of Chicago Press, 2017; The World Through AI: Exploring Latent Spaces, ed. by Antonio Somaini, Paris: JBE – Jean Boitte Editions, 2025.

Forms of Assessment: 3 ECTS: presentation | 6 ECTS: term paper (3,000–3,500 words) | 9 ECTS: term paper (6,000 words).

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Krise, Krise, Krise

6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Philosophy and Arts in Times of Crisis
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 11:15–12:45 Location: GD 311

Krisendiagnosen sind allgegenwärtig: zuletzt heißt es, dass sie sich so sehr häufen, dass man sich langsam wirklich Sorgen machen muss. Krise ist ein Kritikbegriff, der Analyse und Bewertung verbindet. Etwas ist so und so und das ist nicht gut so – und am Horizont steht: das kann sich ändern. Häufig ist dem Begriff der Krise ein utopisches Moment eingeschrieben: Es muss und kann besser werden. Aber gilt das auch dann, wenn der Begriff so häufig verwendet wird wie in der Gegenwart? Wenn die vielen Krisen zusammengehören, wenn die Gegenwart zur auf Dauer gestellten Polykrise wird? Diese und vielen andere Perspektiven sollen zusammengeführt werden: Soziologische und philosophische Krisenbegriffe und das mit ihnen verbundene Therapiepotential.

Selected Readings: Andreas Reckwitz, Hartmut Rosa: Spätmoderne in der Krise. Was leistet die Gesellschaftstheorie?, Frankfurt a. M. 2021.

Forms of Assessment: Hausarbeit

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Sienknecht, M.
Professur für Europäische und Internationale Politik

KUL-14949

Democracies, International Conflict, and Peace

6 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of International Conflict and Democracy
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 11:15–12:45 Location: AM 03

The relationship between democracy, international conflict, and peace constitutes one of the most influential and contested debates in political science and International Relations (IR). This seminar examines the relationship between democracy and international conflict with a special focus on the Democratic Peace Theory (DPT). Since the late twentieth century, the claim that democracies rarely, if ever, wage war against one another has become one of IR's most influential propositions. The course critically explores the empirical foundations, theoretical explanations, normative assumptions, and political implications of democratic peace arguments. Students will engage with classical and contemporary scholarship on war, peace, democratization, liberal peacebuilding and authoritarian resilience. The seminar will pay particular attention to methodological debates and critiques from realism, constructivism, postcolonial theory, feminist IR, and security studies, as well as contemporary challenges such as democratic backsliding, populism, and great power rivalry. The seminar combines theoretical analysis with empirical case studies and aims to strengthen students' abilities in theory-guided analysis, critical reading, and research design.

Remarks: Course Dates: 13.10. 11–13 c.t. (AM 03) | 3.11. 11–13 c.t. (AM 03) | 10.11. 11–13 c.t. (AM 03) | 17.11. 11–13 c.t. (AM 03) | 24.11. 11–13 c.t. and 14–16 c.t. (AM 03) | 1.12. 11–13 c.t. and 14–16 c.t. (AM 03) | 8.12. 11–13 c.t. (AM 03) | 15.12. 11–13 c.t. (AM 03) | 5.01. 11–13 c.t. (AM 104) | 12.01. 11–13 c.t. (AM 104) | 19.01. 11–13 c.t. (AM 104) | 26.01. 11–13 c.t. (AM 104) | 2.02. 11–13 c.t. (AM 104)

Forms of Assessment: Students are expected to prepare (1) each session by reading the weekly literature; (2) a seminar presentation and discussion leadership (30%); and (3) an individual research paper (Option A) or oral exam (Option B) (70%). Students are expected to engage critically with the seminar readings and to contribute actively to discussions. The final paper (Option A) should demonstrate the ability to apply theoretical perspectives, evaluate empirical evidence, and formulate a coherent academic argument. In the oral exam (Option B), students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge of central theories and concepts of the seminar.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Slavko, A.

KIU-00019

Human Rights in Times of Crisis

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar: Politics of International Conflict and Democracy // Central and East European Studies
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 14:00–16:00 Location: GD 302

This course examines the complex legal, political, and operational challenges of protecting human rights during state emergencies, armed conflicts, public health crises, and environmental disasters. Designed for Master's students, the course explores how international human rights law (IHRL) adapts to conditions of severe societal stress, where states are forced to balance national security and public order against their international human rights obligations. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development of human rights institutions, legislation and practices in connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as on human rights issues and specific case studies in Ukraine. Students will critically analyze the mechanism of derogation from human rights treaties (Article 15 ECHR, Article 4 ICCPR), the boundary between non-derogable rights and permissible limitations, and the interplay between IHRL, International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and emergency domestic legislation. Special focus is given to modern crisis scenarios, including hybrid warfare, informational threats, digital surveillance under emergency powers, forced displacement, and the protection of vulnerable populations during ongoing crises.

Selected Readings: Guide on Article 15 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Derogation in time of emergency. European Court of Human Rights, 2025. Report Respect for Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law During States of Emergency : Reflections / European Commission for Democracy through Law. CDL-AD(2020)014. 2020. Christina Binder and others. Human Rights in Times of Emergency Assessment of State practice in respect to times of emergency. Oslo Law Review. 2025. Volume 12. Janelle M. Diller. Handbook on Human Rights in Situations of Conflict. Minnesota Advocates for Human Right. 1997.

Remarks: Students interested in participating and obtaining ECTS please register via email to kiu@europa-uni.de until October 9th.

Forms of Assessment: Active Seminar Participation incl. one presentation: 3 ECTS credits | Case study Discussions & Presentations: 6 ECTS credits | Final Reflection Paper / Essay (9,000 words): 9 ECTS credits

The Right to Truth

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of International Conflict and Democracy // Central and East European Studies
Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 9:00–11:00 Location: AM 202

This course offers an in-depth, interdisciplinary exploration of the emergence, normative evolution, and practical enforcement of the Right to Truth (droit à la vérité) in modern international law and global politics. Originally developed to address enforced disappearances and gross human rights violations in Latin America, the Right to Truth has transformed into an autonomous human right and a cornerstone of democratic accountability, transitional justice, and informational security. Ukraine is used as a case study throughout this course. Students will examine both the individual dimension (the right of victims and their families to know the fate of missing persons and the circumstances of atrocities) and the collective dimension (the right of society to an accurate historical record, protection against state-sponsored disinformation, and access to archives) of the right to truth. The course critically addresses modern challenges, including memory politics, the criminalization of historical denialism, the role of digital evidence/open-source intelligence (OSINT), and the protection of cognitive security during ongoing conflicts and post-conflict transitions.

Selected Readings: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff / United Nations General Assembly. 2012. A/HRC/21/46, ([PDF online](#)). Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: Transitional Justice: A Strategic Tool for People-Centred Peace and Development / United Nations. 2020, ([PDF online](#)). Transitional Justice and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. United Nations. 2014, ([PDF online](#)). Updated Set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity / United Nations Commission on Human Rights. 2005, ([Online](#)). E/CN.4/2005/102/Add.1. Rule-Of-Law Tools for Post-Conflict States. Truth commissions / United Nations. 2006, ([PDF online](#)). Guiding Principles / Model Law on the Missing / International Committee of the Red Cross. Geneva : ICRC, 2009, ([PDF online](#)). Melanie Klinkner and Howard Davis. The Right to the Truth in International Law Victims' Rights in Human Rights and International Criminal Law. Routledge. 2020. The Right to Truth in the Americas / Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. 2014. Priscilla B. Hayner. Unspeakable Truths Transitional Justice and the Challenge of Truth Commissions. Routledge. 2011.

Remarks: Students interested in participating and obtaining ECTS please register via email to kiu@europa-uni.de until October 9th.

Forms of Assessment: Active Seminar Participation: 3 ECTS credits | Case study Discussions & Presentations: 6 ECTS credits | Final Reflection Paper / Essay (9,000 words): 9 ECTS credits

Teaching Language: Englisch

Transitional Justice in Ukraine: Law and Politics during and after war

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar: Politics of Domestic Conflict and Democracy // Central and East European Studies
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 16:00–18:00 Location: GD 311

This course provides a comprehensive, interdisciplinary introduction to the theory, legal frameworks, and practical mechanisms of Transitional Justice (TJ), that will be discussed on the example and in-depth case studies on Ukraine. Designed for Master's students, the course explores how societies emerging from armed conflicts, mass human rights atrocities, or authoritarian regimes confront legacies of past abuses. Students will critically examine the four pillars of Transitional Justice: criminal prosecutions, truth-seeking mechanisms, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence (institutional reform and vetting). The course places special emphasis on contemporary challenges, including the interplay between international and domestic law, the right to truth, informational security, memory politics, and the application of TJ frameworks to ongoing conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction. MODULE 1: Conceptual Foundations and the Legal Duty to Remember: Topic 1: Introduction to Transitional Justice: Origins, Evolution, and Dilemmas | Topic 2: The International Legal Framework of Transitional Justice | Topic 3: Derogations, Limitations, and Human Rights Compliance in Times of Crisis. MODULE 2: The Four Pillars of Transitional Justice: Topic 4: Pillar I: Criminal Justice and Accountability for Atrocities | Topic 5: Pillar II: Truth-Seeking, Truth Commissions, and the Right to Truth | Topic 6: Pillar III: Reparations and Victims' Rights | Topic 7: Pillar IV: Guarantees of Non-Recurrence, Lustration, and Vetting. MODULE 3: Modern Frontiers and Contemporary Case Studies: Topic 8: Memory Politics, Cognitive Security, and the "Uncomfortable Past" | Topic 9: Transitional Justice in Ukraine and the Future of the Discipline

Selected Readings: The Rule of Law and Transitional Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies : Report of the Secretary-General / United Nations Security Council. 2004. S/2004/616. ([PDF online](#)). Rule-of-Law Tools for Post-Conflict States: Vetting / Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. New York and Geneva : United Nations, 2006, ([PDF online](#)). Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff / United Nations General Assembly. 2012. A/HRC/21/46, ([PDF online](#)). Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: Transitional Justice: A Strategic Tool for People-Centred Peace and Development / United Nations. 2020, ([PDF online](#)). Transitional Justice and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. United Nations. 2014, ([PDF online](#)). Duthie R. Transitional Justice and Prevention: A Framework for Action / International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). New York, 2021. 40 p. URL: Duthie R. Transitional Justice and Prevention: A Framework for Action / International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). New York, 2020. Transitional Justice Handbook / Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR) and the Transitional Justice Asia Network (TJAN). 2023, ([PDF online](#)).

Remarks: Students interested in participating and obtaining ECTS please register via email to kiu@europa-uni.de until October 9th.

Forms of Assessment: Active Seminar Participation: 3 ECTS credits | Case study Discussions & Presentations: 6 ECTS credits | Final Reflection Paper / Essay (9,000 words): 9 ECTS credits

Family, Economy and the State: Materialist Feminist Perspectives

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Gender and Queer Studies
Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 11:15–12:45 Location: GD 04

In this theory-oriented course, we will discuss key texts by theorists who work within a materialist-feminist—and thus also social theory—tradition, such as Silvia Federici, Melinda Cooper, Verónica Gago, Angela Davis, and Nancy Fraser. Gender is discussed here primarily in the context of (the division) work; the role of the family, as well as that of violence within the capitalist economic order, is explored; more recent approaches also examine private and public debt from a feminist perspective in this context. The aim of the course is to foster a deeper understanding of current theoretical debates in gender studies and to deepen the analysis of the interconnection between the economic and gendered orders.

Forms of Assessment: 3 ECTS: In addition to active participation, students are expected to read all required texts and, if possible and of interest, additional reading. 6 ECTS: Oral exam in pairs at the end of the semester. 9 ECTS: Term paper, due at the end of the semester

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Feminismus: Geschichte - Biographien - Bewegungen. Ein Oral-History Seminar

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Gender and Queer Studies
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 11:15–12:45 Location: GD 05

Im Rahmen dieser Lehrveranstaltung wollen wir uns feministischen Bewegungen aus einer sozialwissenschaftlichen und zugleich zeithistorischen Forschungsperspektive nähern. Gemeinsam erarbeitet wird zunächst ein Verständnis dessen, was oftmals als feministische ‚Wellen‘ bezeichnet wird und wie dies bewegungsgeschichtlich zu verstehen ist. Der Schwerpunkt der Veranstaltung liegt dabei auf dem deutsch-deutschen Kontext und auch dem Unterschied der beiden deutschen Staaten in der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts, die bis in die Gegenwart Auswirkungen zeitigen. Die als Forschungsseminar konzipierte Veranstaltung soll ist zugleich eine Einführung in die sozial- und kulturwissenschaftliche Methode der Oral History, die sich zur Erforschung der Vergangenheit auf mündliche Erinnerungen und Zeitzeugengespräche stützt und auf subjektive Erfahrungen, die in traditionellen, schriftlichen Dokumenten oft keinen Niederschlag finden fokussiert. Die Studierenden werden im Rahmen des Seminars selbst Zeitzeug:innengespräche führen und auswerten. Teil des Seminars wird es auch sein, die feministische Geschichte Frankfurts (an der Oder) zu beleuchten.

Forms of Assessment: 3 ECTS: Neben der aktiven Teilnahme wird die Lektüre aller Pflichttexte und nach Möglichkeit und Interesse weiterführender Literatur erwartet. Alle Studierenden sollen zudem Interviews lesen und transkribieren. 6 ECTS: Mündliche Prüfung zu zweit nach Abschluss der Vorlesungszeit oder eine schriftliche Arbeit im Umfang von 15 Seiten. 9 ECTS: Hausarbeit, Abgabe am Ende der Vorlesungszeit im Umfang von 25 Seiten

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Memes, Meanings, and Blind Spots: How internet culture shapes European values

6 ECTS

Practical Seminar (In-Person Course): Practice
Course Start: 14 Oct 2026 Wed, 14:15–15:45 Location: GD 06

In times of information overload and populist narratives, traditional institutional communication is failing to reach younger audiences. Meanwhile, European values like democracy and solidarity are being actively debated, dismantled, and redefined through internet culture. In this seminar, we will dive into the internet's critical blind spots. We will explore digital shibboleths, the “irony gap” (where online humour masks political intent), and “algorithmic westplaining” (how global tech platforms misread local cultural nuances in European borderlands). Focusing on digital narratives and visual vernaculars surrounding migration debates and the integration of Ukrainian refugees, we will use the unique border context of Frankfurt (Oder)/Střebice to decode the hidden mechanics of digital crisis communication. You won't just analyse the digital world – you will influence it with your own media project. After conducting a strategic audit of Viadrina's communication platforms, you will design, build, and launch a public-facing media project, such as a studio podcast or a digital platform takeover.

Forms of Assessment: For Practical Skills modules: Development, presentation and implementation of a media project, e.g. studio podcast or Instagram carousel post. For other modules: additional written elaboration or transcript including academic references.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Introduction to Digital Political Communication: Key Trends and Debates

BA CuSo/BA KuG: 3/6 ECTS // MADS/MoDE: 3/6 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of Domestic Conflict and Democracy

Course Start: 13 Oct 2026 Tue, 16:15–17:45 Location: CP 102

This seminar introduces students to some of the key concepts, trends, and issues related to digital media and the transformation of political communication in contemporary societies. Through individual presentations, as well as by collective reflections on reading materials and case studies, students will critically engage with diverse theoretical and empirical perspectives on topics such as polarization, populism/illiberalism, mis- and disinformation, "post-truth", hate speech, echo chambers and filter bubbles, the political impact of AI, and other themes that feature prominently in current public and scholarly discourse on digital media. In doing so, the course equips students with the conceptual tools needed to critically assess ongoing developments in digital communication and politics, enabling them to better understand and analyze how power, information and technology interact in shaping contemporary democracies.

Selected Readings: Arguedas, A. R., Robertson, C. T., Fletcher, R., & Nielsen, R. K. (2022). Echo Chambers, Filter Bubbles, and Polarisation: a Literature Review. Oxford: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. Gerbaudo, P. (2024). Digital populism. In Research handbook on populism (pp. 506-515). Edward Elgar Publishing. Jungherr, A., & Schroeder, R. (2023). Artificial intelligence and the public arena. Communication Theory, 33(2-3), 164-173. Klinger, U., Kreiss, D., & Mutsavairo, B. (2023). Platforms, power, and politics: An introduction to political communication in the digital age. Polity. Knüpfer, C., Jackson, S. J., & Kreiss, D. (2024). Political communication research is unprepared for the far right. Political Communication, 41(6), 1009-1016. Lecheler, S., & Egelhofer, J. L. (2022). Disinformation, misinformation, and fake news: Understanding the supply side. In J. Strömbäck et al. (eds.) Knowledge resistance in high-choice information environments. Routledge, 69-87.

Remarks: Mandatory attendance of 75%.

Forms of Assessment: For 3 ECTS credits, students will do an oral presentation (20 minutes) on a topic of their choice (a case study). For 6 ECTS credits, in addition to the oral presentation, students will write a 3,000-word essay on a topic related to one of the themes explored during the seminar.

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Ullrich, V.

Masterstudiengang „Europa Studien“

KUL-14887

Kämpfe um Kunst in Europa: Protestbewegungen und ihre Ästhetik

3/6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Philosophy and Arts in Times of Crisis

Course Start: 12 Oct 2026 Mon, 11:15–12:45 Location: GD 07

Tanzperformances im Rahmen feministischer Streiks, Kartoffelbreiwürfe auf berühmte Gemälde durch Klimaaktivist*innen, Auseinandersetzungen um die Berlinale im Kontext der Palästina-Proteste oder die Instrumentalisierung von KI-generierten Bildern und Videos durch rechte Bewegungen: Kunst ist längst wieder zu einem politischen Kampffeld in Europa geworden. Rechte wie linke Bewegungen nutzen ästhetische Mittel, um Aufmerksamkeit zu erzeugen und politische Deutungsmacht zu erringen. Das Seminar geht der Frage nach, ob Kunst heute ein emanzipatorisches Mittel politischen Protests sein kann, oder ob sie regressiv zu werden droht. Wir nähern uns dieser Frage zunächst über die philosophische Debatte, ob Kunst einem politischen Zweck dienen sollte, oder ob gerade ihre Autonomie ihre politische Kraft ausmacht (Block 1). In einem zweiten Schritt, analysieren wir, unter welchen Bedingungen Kunst progressiv sein kann, und wann sie in kapitalistischen Verhältnissen in Ideologie abgeleitet (Block 2). Schließlich richten wir unseren analytischen Fokus auf soziale Bewegungen in Europa, ihre Aneignung von Kunst sowie ihre eigenen ästhetischen Praktiken. Wir analysieren konkrete Beispiele aus progressiven Bewegungen im Bereich Klima und Migration (Block 3) sowie aus heutigen rechten Bewegungen mit Fokus auf deren Nutzung von KI und digitalen Plattformen (Block 4). Neben der Lektüre zentraler Texte arbeiten wir mit aktuellen Fallstudien, diskutieren Kunstwerke und Performances und erproben kreative Formate wie die gemeinsame Analyse von Bildern, Videos oder Ausstellungen.

Selected Readings: Die Literatur wird auf Moodle hochgeladen.

Forms of Assessment: Referat, Hausarbeit

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Die Außenpolitik der ostmitteleuropäischen Staaten: 1919-2014

6/9 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Politics of Domestic Conflict and Democracy // Central and East European Studies // Cultural History
Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 11:15–12:45 Location: GD 07

Die Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik der ostmitteleuropäischen Staaten haben durch verschiedene historische Zeiten stätig verändert. Mal waren die Staaten unabhängig, wie in der Zwischenkriegszeit (1919-1939), mal wieder angegriffen, besetzt und in Krieg (1939-1945), mal von politischen Ideologien und Verbundpolitik geleitet, wie in der kommunistischen, bzw. sowjetischen Zeit (1945-1989/1991). Inwieweit stellen der Fall der Berliner Mauer und des Eisernen Vorhangs in der Zeit von 1989-1991 eine Umbruchsituation für eine Neuformulierung der Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik der ostmitteleuropäischen Staaten dar, die seit 2004 und 2007 Mitglied der Europäischen Union, der NATO und weiterer internationalen Organisationen sind, die in der Weltordnung nach 1945 entstanden sind? Inwieweit wird seit einigen Jahren eine neue Weltordnung gestaltet, in der die ostmitteleuropäischen Staaten, teilweise von populistischen Parteien regiert, ihren eigenen Platz finden bzw. neu verhandeln müssen?

Selected Readings: Šabič Zlatko, Drulák Petr (eds.) (2012), *Regional and International Relations of Central Europe*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Tulumets Elsa (eds.) (2012), *Identities and Solidarity in Foreign Policy: East Central Europe and the Eastern Neighbourhood*, Prague: Institute of International Relations. https://www.dokumenty-iiir.cz/knihy/identities_and_solidarity_tulumets.pdf

Forms of Assessment: Klausur, schriftliche oder mündliche Arbeit

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Weber, C.
Professur für Europäische Zeitgeschichte

KUL-15005

Grundlagen der Kulturgeschichte – Theorien und Methoden transkultureller Studien

3/6/9 ECTS

Lecture (In-Person Course): Cultural History
Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 9:15–10:45 Location: GD 07

Das Einführungsseminar vermittelt die methodischen Fundamente einer transkulturell und transdisziplinär orientierten Geschichtswissenschaft. ‚Kultur‘ wird dabei nicht als homogene und abgrenzbare Einheit, sondern als immer schon durchmischte Konstellation gedacht, die sich in Diskursen und kulturellen Praktiken, in historischen Deutungen und symbolischen Repräsentationen von Wirklichkeit manifestiert. Anhand von theoretischen Grundagentexten und exemplarischen Quellenanalysen führt der Kurs in die Geschichte einer Moderne ein, die sich in der Grenzziehung und Grenzüberschreitung zwischen europäischen und außereuropäischen Kulturen, zwischen kulturellen Formationen und Regionen innerhalb Europas, im Bewusstsein von Zeit und Geschichte sowie zwischen verschiedenen Wissens- und Wissenschaftskulturen konstituiert.

Selected Readings: Wolfgang Welsch: Was ist eigentlich Transkulturalität?, in: Lucyna Darowska / Thomas Lüttenberg / Claudia Machold (Hg.): Hochschule als transkultureller Raum? Kultur, Bildung und Differenz in der Universität, Bielefeld 2010, S. 39–66; Jürgen Erfurt: Transkulturalität – Prozesse und Perspektiven, Tübingen 2021.

Forms of Assessment: Hausarbeit, Essay, Referat, mündliche Prüfung

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

Werberger, A.
Professur für Literaturwissenschaft, Osteuropäische Literaturen

KUL-14974

Paul Celans poetische Anthropologie

3/6/9 ECTS

Lecture (In-Person Course): Central and East European Studies
Course Start: 12 Oct 2026 Mon, 11:15–12:45 Location: GD 201

Im Seminar sollen ausgewählte Gedichte (Die Niemandsrose, Sprachgitter, Fadensonnen) die Reden (Büchner Preis Rede von 1960), Essays, Briefe und Interviews von Paul Celan im Mittelpunkt stehen. Der thematische Fokus liegt dabei auf Celans Poetik der Anthropologie, mit der er immer wieder über Topoi wie „Atem“, „Mund“, „Körper“, „Hand“ Parallelen zwischen Mensch und Gedicht zieht. Diese Re-Anthropologisierung soll auch in Relation zu Hinweisen auf geologische, geographische, biologische und andere naturwissenschaftliche Lexik analysiert werden. Celan möchte mit seinen Gedichten in komprimierter Form die Grenzen von Wissen neu bestimmen: Was kann bzw. kann nicht gesagt werden, wie entstehen Aussagen, auf welche semantische Felder rekurrieren sie etc. In einem zweiten Teil werden wir seine Lyrik auch international kontextualisieren und seinen Lebensweg als deutschsprachiger Dichter aus der Bukowina von Czernowitz, Bukarest über Wien bis nach Paris nachzeichnen.

Forms of Assessment: Mündliche Prüfung, Referat oder Hausarbeit

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Deutsch

KIU Ukraine Lecture Series: Transitional Justice in Ukraine: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accountability, Memory, Democratic Renewal and Reconstruction

3/6/9 ECTS

Lecture/Exercise: Politics of Domestic Conflict and Democracy
 Course Start: 12 Oct 2026 Mon, 16:00–18:00 Location: GD 102

Since its independence in 1991, Ukraine has been undergoing a process of transformation, involving both democratisation and democratic backsliding. The Revolution of Dignity in 2014 initiated a far-reaching reform process aimed at EU accession and the institutionalisation of democracy and the rule of law. At the same time, with the annexation of Crimea in violation of international law and the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in 2014, the occupation of Ukrainian territory by Russia, and even more so since the start of the full-scale invasion, urgent questions have arisen regarding the legal handling and resolution of this injustice. Violations of international law, human rights abuses, and acts of terror committed during the occupation – as well as collaboration with the occupying power, including within the education system – require legal reckoning at both the international and national level. Added to this is the necessary social and political engagement with war, violence and destruction, but also with resistance and reconstruction. How can justice be restored and peace and democracy secured following such a collective experience of violence, and what steps can already be taken in Ukraine today to punish the injustice and come to terms with the collective trauma? Transitional justice has therefore become a key concept for Ukraine's present and future, as there can be no peace without justice. The KIU lecture series refers to a broad range of judicial and non-judicial mechanisms – including criminal prosecution, truth-seeking, reparations, institutional reform, and memorialisation – through which the Ukrainian society confronts legacies of mass violence and serious human rights violations, with the aim of achieving accountability, recognition for victims, and the foundations for sustainable peace and democratic renewal. The lecture series brings together both researchers and practitioners to explain and discuss legal foundations and institutions for prosecuting war crimes and mass atrocities, political and sociological perspectives on coming to terms with a history of violence, the significance of remembrance culture and policy, and social and political reconstruction.

Remarks: Please register via Moodle and via email to kiu@europa-uni.de.

Forms of Assessment: Research papers of 2000 / 5000 / 8000 words

Zalewski, P.
 Professur für Denkmalkunde

KUL-14948

Theories and Themes of the Contemporary Heritage Studies

6 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Central and East European Studies // Cultural History
 Course Start: 16 Oct 2026 Fri, 14:15–15:45 Location: AM 205

The last thirty years have brought several significant changes into the way the heritage is understood, researched and practiced. On the one hand, according to the development of global tourism, the rise of the great museums and the extension of the world heritage list have introduced the globalization within the heritage sector. The inclusion of non-European cultures has opened some new perspectives (for instant on the immaterial heritage) but made also the understanding and analysing of heritage more complex. Mainly because of the mass tourism and increasing participation the heritage became a subject to economy and to political representation. All these practices are more and more critically reflected within political, social and cultural studies. For getting an overview of several aspects in this spectrum we are going to use a particular handbook. It develops through its various sections and chapters an accessible and clearly presented vision of heritage as a cultural process designed for use by students, advance scholars and practitioners alike. The participants of the seminary will be supplied with a core text and obliged to find out some appropriate cases on their own. The both should serve as a material for a presentation and discussion during the seminary and as a basis for the final essay.

Selected Readings: Emma Waterton, Steve Watson (Eds.), The Palgrave Handbook of Contemporary Heritage Research. Basingstoke 2015

Forms of Assessment: Präsentation/Diskussion der Lektüre im Seminar und die schriftliche Ausarbeitung

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch

Zalewski, P. / Burlot, D.
 Professur für Denkmalkunde

KUL-14950

The Box with Special Contents: Architecture and Museography Inside and Outside the Museum

6 ECTS

Seminar (In-Person Course): Cultural History
 Course Start: 15 Oct 2026 Thu, 12:30–14:00 Location: GD 04

This seminar will explore a range of issues related to the museum as both an architectural and curatorial space, with particular attention to the development of architectural staging, display strategies, conservation practices, and museography during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The principal case studies will be Berlin's oldest and most renowned museums, including the Altes Museum, Neues Museum, Alte Nationalgalerie, and Bode-Museum. A series of introductory lectures will examine the ideological premises underlying these institutions and the ways in which such ideas were translated into contemporary aesthetic forms. Building on this foundation, we will investigate on site the design strategies employed in architectural expression and decoration, as well as the functional and technical dimensions of museum spaces. Particular emphasis will be placed on the relationship between museum interiors, key objects, and decorative programs, which will be discussed from an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective.

Remarks: Dozenten: Prof. Zalewski, Professur für Denkmalkunde / Dr. Delphine Morana Burlot – Professur « Pensées françaises contemporaines »

Forms of Assessment: Präsentation/Diskussion der Lektüre im Seminar und die schriftliche Ausarbeitung

Moodle: Further information can be found at [Moodle](#).

Teaching Language: Englisch