

universität freiburg



Course Catalog

BA/BSc Program
Liberal Arts and Sciences
Summer Semester 2025



UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
FREIBURG

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I General Information

Due to the limited places in Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) courses, all courses listed in the LAS Course Catalog are open to LAS students and students of the official exchange partners and partner degree programs of UCF only.

Exchange students of other programs may join the courses only if there are open places after the official [LAS registration period](#).

1 Teaching Periods and Dates

Teaching Period	Dates
Pre Block	17 – 28 March
Block III	7 April – 30 May
Block IV	2 June – 25 July
University Semester	22 April – 25 July (semester-long courses correspond to the university semester)
Resit Period	1 – 24 October (re-sit examinations that require students' presence only)

The university is closed on public holidays! Dates for individual courses may slightly vary from these dates (see course descriptions).

2 EPICUR – The European University

Uni Freiburg and UCF are part of the [EPICUR European University Alliance](#).

Find out more about the **EPICUR LAS courses** in the [summer 2025 course catalog!](#)

Course registration is open until 10 March. Due to the international schedule and staggered semester dates at EPICUR partners, **EPICUR courses and the LAS semester dates may not align.**

More information on upcoming courses and on course registration is available in the course catalog and on [EPICampus](#), the EPICUR Virtual Campus Learning Platform. Credit recognition at UCF follows the procedure for courses taken outside the University of Freiburg during LAS.

- EPICUR courses taught by [UCF EPICUR staff](#) are organized as regular UCF courses and listed in the LAS Course Catalog. Reserved EPICUR slots not taken by students from EPICUR partners will be assigned to UCF students on the waiting list during the post-registration period 2 and in registration period 3.
- EPICUR courses offered at the EPICUR partners can be taken by UCF students. These courses adhere to the individual partner's academic calendar and course organization. In some cases, these courses may map to UCF requirements or they may simply be taken as elective credits.

3 LAS Academic Calendar

Date		Important Dates and Deadlines
March 2025		
Starting 06.03.		LAS Course Registration with consecutive registration periods for courses of the upcoming summer semester (see Course Registration)
Mon	31.03.	Application for SLI Language Courses begins (individual courses paid by UCF) Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board)
17.03. - 04.04.		Pre-Block Courses
April 2025		
Mon	07.04.	Block III begins
07. – 20.04.		Exam Registration and withdrawal for courses of Block III in HISinOne
18. – 21.04.		Public Holidays: Easter (no teaching)
Fri	11.04.	Deadline: Application for Courses of other Degree Programs at the University of Freiburg - Confirmation from Major/Core Coordinators
Tue	22.04.	University semester begins
22.04. – 04.05.		Exam Registration for semester-long courses in HISinOne
Sun	04.05.	Deadline: Application for Courses of other Degree Programs at the University of Freiburg (for <u>all</u> graded examinations). Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board .
05. – 11.05.		Withdrawal from examination for semester-long courses in HISinOne
May 2025		
Thu	01.05.	Public Holiday: May / Labour Day
Fri	02.05.	Deadline: Application for Admission of Bachelor Thesis. Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board .
		Publication of the Bachelor Thesis Timeline 2026
Thu	29.05.	Public Holiday: Ascension Day (no teaching)
Tue	13.05.	Event: Study Abroad Fair
Fri	30.05.	Block III ends
June 2025		
Mon	02.04.	Block IV begins
09.06 – 14.06.		Pentecost Holidays (no teaching, but examinations of Block III possible)
Thu	19.06.	Public Holiday: Corpus Christi
02. – 22.06.		Exam Registration and withdrawal for courses of Block IV in HISinOne
Sat	15.06.	Deadline: Application Credit Recognition for Study Abroad and Previous Studies Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board .
July 2025		
Wed	23.07.	Event: Major Information (tbc)

Date		Important Dates and Deadlines
Fri	25.07.	University semester and Block IV end
Wed	31.07.	Deadline: Major Declaration
		Deadline: Application for Graduation SS 2023
August/September/October 2025		
Fri	08.08.	Publication of the LAS Course Catalog WS 2025 on the UCF website
Mon	02.09.	Deadline: Application for Admission of Bachelor Thesis
Starting	13.09.	LAS Course Registration for courses of the Winter Semester 2025 with consecutive registration periods (details tba)
	15.09. – 02.10.	October Intensive Courses (details tba)
	06.10 – 10.10	LAS Welcome Week
Mon	13.10	University semester and Block I begin

4 Course Registration

The outlined course registration procedure ensures that Liberal Arts and Sciences students and LAS exchange students can register for a sufficient number of courses to keep up with their studies and that they get priority for compulsory courses they require in order to graduate.

The LAS course registration procedure **applies to all courses offered by UCF that appear in the LAS Course Catalog (unless stated differently in the remarks section of the individual course descriptions)**. Information on taking [courses of other degree programs](#) and by the [Sprachlehrinstitut \(SLI\)](#) of the University of Freiburg is available on the LAS Info Board on ILIAS.

4.1 When to Register for Courses?

LAS students register during the three consecutive registration periods as outlined below. Please note that students may have to register for different courses at different times.

LAS exchange students can register for courses during Registration Period II and III.

Students of partner degree programs at the University of Freiburg can register for courses during Registration Period II. Please additionally contact UCF (las.consultation@ucf.uni-freiburg.de) well in advance.

Registration Period I Thursday, 06.03. – Monday, 10.03. (14h)		
Who can register	For what	Comment
Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) students who have <u>formally</u> declared their major by 31 st of January	LAS courses to be recognized as Major courses only (<u>not</u> as Electives, Core or Language courses!)	LAS students are allowed to register for a maximum of 5 courses in total (including language courses paid by UCF, excluding pre-block courses). If students register for more than 5 courses they will be removed from the most popular courses. No exceptions to this rule will be made. LAS Students who have <u>not</u> formally declared their major by 31 st of January can only register for courses in Registration Period II.
<p>Places will be assigned after the registration period. Higher year students will get priority on places unless otherwise noted in the course description.</p> <p>You can check your registration status on Tuesday evening. Your registration request may have been declined or you may have been moved to a different workgroup. Students whose registration requests have been declined will have the opportunity to register for alternative courses on Wednesday, 13.3., 14-18h in HIS-inOne.</p> <p>Please, de-register from courses that you do not want to take immediately.</p>		

Registration Period II Thursday, 13.03. – Monday, 17.03. (14h)		
Who can register	For what	Comment
LAS students (who have not yet achieved all credits in the respective area) and LAS exchange students	All courses listed in the LAS Course Catalog.	LAS and Exchange Students are allowed to register for a maximum of 5 courses in total (including language courses paid by UCF, excluding pre-block courses). No exceptions to this rule will be made.
<p>Places will be assigned after the registration period. Higher year students will get priority on places unless otherwise noted in the course description. Whether or not a student has declared their major will not be considered anymore.</p> <p>You can check your registration status on Tuesday evening. Your registration request may have been declined or you may have been moved to a different workgroup. Students whose registration requests have been declined will have the opportunity to register for alternative courses on Wednesday, 20.3., 14-18h in HIS-inOne.</p> <p>Please, de-register from courses that you do not want to take immediately.</p>		

Registration Period III Thursday, 20.03. – Monday, 24.03. (14h)		
Who can register	For what	Comment
LAS students, LAS Exchange students, and Students of partner degree programs at the University Freiburg	All courses listed in the LAS Course Catalog	Students can register for courses that still have places available. Students are allowed to register for a maximum of 6 courses in total .
<p>Places will be assigned throughout the registration period. Regularly check your registration status in HISinOne. Your registration request may have been declined. In some cases, priority on places will be given to students of partner degree programs.</p> <p>Please, de-register from courses that you do not want to take immediately.</p>		

4.2 How to Register for Courses?

Course registration takes place in the campus management system HISinOne. For a description of the registration process, please consult the [LAS Info Board](#) on ILIAS.

4.3 Participant Lists

Course participant lists will be finalized **on Wednesday, 26.03.2025** and passed on to the instructors. Later admissions to courses by the LAS program coordination will not be possible.

The final decision about participation in a course is always with the course instructor. Students may be excluded from a course at a later stage, e.g. if they do not fulfill the prerequisites or have not reached the required year of studies. It is also up to the instructors whether or not they admit students once the participant lists are finalized.

Courses with will less than five participants may be canceled.

4.4 Course Cancellation Period

Students can withdraw from courses before the semester start. The cancellation period will be from **07.-14.04. (noon)**. Students from the waiting list may be assigned to courses during that week.

4.5 Problems with Course Registration?

If for some reason course registration does not work for you, please **contact the LAS program coordination** (las.consultation@ucf.uni-freiburg.de) **immediately**. **Requests after the deadline specified will not be considered.**

Always provide

- your name, matriculation number and major (if declared formally),
- your study and examination regulations (2015, 2020, Exchange student),
- the exact course and module title that you wish to register for,
- and information about your problem. Please provide a screenshot of your problem whenever possible.

5 Exam Registration

All students who wish to get credits for courses need to register for examinations.

5.1 When to Register for Examination?

Registration Period	Dates	Exam Registration and Withdrawal
1a	Various dates; tba in class	Registration Pre-Block
1b	07.04. – 20.04.2025	Registration and withdrawal Block III
2	22.04. – 04.05.2025	Registration semester long courses
	05.05. – 11.05.2025	Withdrawal semester long courses
3	02.06. – 22.06.2025	Registration and withdrawal Block IV

The registration periods apply to all courses offered by UCF (unless otherwise noted in the course details). Courses of other degree programs have different registration periods.

Please register right at the beginning of the registration period in case any problems arise. Please remember: **You are not allowed to take part in the exam or will not be given a grade for any written work if you have not registered by the deadline specified.**

5.2 How to Register for Examination?

All LAS students (including first year students) and LAS exchange students (on [UCF programs](#) only) register their examinations in the campus management system HISinOne as outline on the [LAS Info Board](#) on ILIAS.

5.3 Students of other degree programs and other exchange programs

UCF does not organize exam registration for students of other degree programs and for international exchange students from other departments. Here exam registration is organized at the relevant faculty or by the international office for students on international office exchange programs. Students should contact their faculty or the International Office.

5.4 Has the exam registration been successful?

Pass/fail assessments (Studienleistungen) will appear as REG (Registriert) and graded assessments (Prüfungsleistungen) as ZU (zugelassen) in HISinOne. Please always double check on HISinOne: *My enrollments and registrations* or your transcript of records.

5.5 Problems with Exam Registration

See [Problems with Course Registration](#).

Foundational Year Schedule

Foundational Year - Schedule Summer Semester 2025						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8-10h				C+H WG 1	LS WG 1	DNI T 1+2
10-12h	DNI Lecture	ESS Lecture	ESS WG 2+3	C+H WG 2	LS WG 2+3	GOV WG 2
	C+H Lecture	ESS WG 1				DNI T 3+4
12-14h			DNI WG 1+2	GOV WG 1		GOV WG 3
14-16h	LS Q+A	GOV Plenary	DNI WG 3+4	C+H WG 3	LS WG 4+5	
16-18h	GOV Plenary					
18-20h						

Be aware of overlapping groups and avoid clashes in your course registration.

II Course Descriptions

1 Pre-Block Courses

1.1 Study Area: Core

Resilient by Music			
Core		Pre-Block	
Prof. Dr. Veronika Lipphardt (veronika.lipphardt@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Fiona Combosch (fionac@posteo.de), Nico Hutter (nicohutter@web.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0090
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Responsibility and Leadership 2		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 17.3. - 21.3., 24.3., 9-17h, AU Co-Creation Room 17.3., 19.3., 20.3., 24.3. & 25.3 14-17h, AU 01065; 25.03., 9-14h, AU 01036a		
Course Description	Making music can help humans to cope with stress. The block course engages with this amazing capacity of music in two ways: in a theoretical and in a practical course component. The mornings are reserved for a thorough academic examination of topics such as positive effects of music on health, resilience, stress and relaxation, self-efficacy and presence. In the afternoons, students will practise music with an experienced musician and choir leader. The students will sing and improvise together, and, in small groups, engage in song writing and all the steps necessary to bring that song to the stage. Creative working as a group is the main focus of this course. And yet, experience in singing or practising music is not a prerequisite! It rather aims at encouraging and inspiring our inner musician, no matter how little say they had in the past. Guest lecture by Dorothea Gädeke.		
Examination	Attendance and active participation, group presentation, and reflection paper		

1.2 Study Area: Electives

Beer Brewing: Craft and Taste			
Electives		Pre-Block	
Dr. Ryan Plumley (ryan.plumley@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Dr. Simon Büchner (buechnes@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Dr. Christoph Howe (c.howe@gmx.net)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s)	2	12	00LE62S-LAS-CHEE0001
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Elective Joker (SL)		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar and Excursion Fri, March 7, 10-14h Mon, March 10, 10-19h Tue, March 11, 11-13h, Excursion Wed, March 12, 10-14h Tue, March 25, 10-12h		
Course Description	<p>Beer brewing is a craft in which humans interact with other organisms (yeast, hops, and grains) to create an appealing taste.</p> <p>We will focus on the knowledge and practices involved in the production of beer in ways that draw on both explicit and implicit forms of knowledge. In addition, we will also approach the consumption of beer through the physiology and phenomenology of taste.</p> <p>For that purpose, we will engage in craft by making our own beer, practicing the gestures and timing, and learning how natural organisms can be utilized to make beer. And we will practice tasting beer to explore how our bodies and senses interact with the product.</p> <p>Questions we will consider include: What is a craft? What makes craftwork distinct from other kinds of work? How is scientific expertise related to craftsmanship? How do human beings create reciprocal relationships to other organisms and to the wider environment? How does participating in craft production affect your perception (taste) of the product?</p>		
Remarks	To cover the costs, participants must pay 10 EUR as cash to Dr. Simon Buechner by Feb. 18.		
Examination	<p>In order to receive credit, participants must be present and active for all sessions on March 7-12.</p> <p>You do not need to drink alcohol in order to participate in the course.</p> <p>The pass/fail assessment includes attendance and active participation and a short reflective essay (max. 1000 words) due March 31.</p>		

2 Courses Offered in Block III

2.1 Study Area: Core

Inter- and Transcultural Communication			
Core		Block III	
Dr. Simone Kraiss (simone.kraiss@slu.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0097
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Responsibility and Leadership 2		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 9-12h, HH9 HS 01.009 Thu, 9-12h, HH9 HS 01.020C		
Course Description	<p>As humans, we have so much in common. And yet, we are all different and shaped by our cultural experiences. In our globalized world, we are enriched and inspired every day by our differences - and at the same time, these can be challenging and lead to misunderstandings and conflicts. This course is a mixture of knowledge input and self-awareness training. It consists of four components that help us to develop a understanding, nonjudgmental and open-minded attitude and to shape our intercultural relationships successfully and positively.</p> <p>Cultural self-awareness: First, we explore what culture is and how we ourselves have been shaped by all our cultural influences. How do my own backgrounds influence myself - my identity, perception, expectations and communication style etc?</p> <p>Cultural variability: We then explore cultural variations in thinking, communicating and feeling. Knowing about such differences helps us to deal with unknown and unexpected behaviors in a more nonjudgmental and relaxed manner.</p> <p>Emotion management: We learn to perceive, analyze and regulate our own emotions in intercultural encounters.</p> <p>Culturally sensitive (conflict) communication: Finally, we examine how differently people deal with conflicts depending on their cultural influences and learn some effective cultural-sensitive communication techniques.</p> <p>In intercultural teams we work on these topics, exchange our experiences and perspectives and learn with each other, from each other and about ourselves. We look forward to seeing you!</p>		
Examination	SL: Learning Diary and short in-class presentations. PL: Written assignment of 2,500 words, due 25.07.2025		

2.2 Study Area: Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

Science and Practice of Sustainable Gardening			
ESS		Block III	
Alexander Vergara (alexandervc@web.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	16	00LE62S-LAS-EE0033
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Methods of Observing Nature		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 8-12h, HH9 HS 01.011 Thu, 8-12h, HH9 HS 01.011		
Course Description	<p>Did you ever want to experience what it means to “go sustainable” in the context of food supply? Are you interested in the scientific basis underlying different aspects of gardening? Do you want to grow your own organic fruit, herbs and vegetables?</p> <p>In this course, we will view gardening through a scientific lens. Thereto, we will study the taxonomy, morphology, ecology and ecosystems of garden plants. What features do plants in this family share?</p> <p>Why should I grow potatoes in sunny spots and peas next to carrots? Equipped with scientific background and practical advice, we will explore together what it means to create our own sustainable garden.</p> <p>In a group with your peers, you will be provided with a small garden patch in which you are allowed to create and experiment with your own sustainable vegetable garden. Our main target is to achieve a high biodiversity and yield in our sustainable garden. We will investigate how different gardening practices influence the use of water and energy, and they affect the quality of the soil, biodiversity and yield. We want to avoid the use of artificial fertilizers, pesticides and chemicals.</p>		
Examination	tba		

2.3 Study Area: Multiple

Till Crime Do Us Part: International Law, Justice and Media			
Governance, Culture & History		Block III	
Dr. Stoyan Panov (stoyan.panov@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Dr. Richard Legay (richard.legay@abi.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0006
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Research in an Area of Governance Specialization Option Governance Culture: Arts, Culture and History I, II, or III		Prerequisites for senior courses apply for Governance modules.	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 8-12h, BT 105 Thu, 10-12h, Peterhof R 3		
Course Description	<p>The course "Till Crime Do Us Part: International Law, Justice and Media" examines the intricate interplay of media representation of various international trials and selected human rights judgments. The essence of the course aims to offer a transdisciplinary exploration of differing angles of international criminal law/international human rights law in media and cinematography. Methodologically, an overview of the coverage of the time of the trials and the current portrayal of past events will offer the students a unique opportunity to reflect and analyze complex international and domestic dynamics with respect to justice and reconciliation. In this sense, we will try to assess how cinematography and media utilize and appeal to public fascination to draw and portray important developments in international law. The scope of the course will primarily turn our attention to the post WW-II period with focus on international conflicts such as former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Cambodia while also looking at contemporary domestic developments, related to discrimination and human rights violations.</p> <p>The transdisciplinary aspect of the course tries to mix a methodological approach to cinematography and media representation of international crimes and human rights violations and recourse to original legal and academic sources. The sessions led by Dr. Legay include a historical overview of representations of Law and Justice in various media throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, and methodological approaches on how to analyse film and audiovisual media.</p>		
Remarks	Note that block courses begin earlier than the semester and plan accordingly.		
Examination	Final component of the graded assignment is due on 25.06.2025.		

3 Courses Offered in Block IV

3.1 Study Area: Core

Editing and Peer Review			
Core		Block IV	
Anna Opanasenko, M.A. (opanasenkoanna98@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	2	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0094
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Academic Skills		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 12-14h, AU 01.036a Thu, 10-12h, HH9 01.020C		
Course Description	<p>Writing is re-writing. Although we spend most of our time on formulating text when writing an assignment, the more important part for the quality of a(ny) paper is the final part, the revision. Editing and re-writing is an intricate cognitive process that involves not only a revision of a text by its author but also by reviewers. In academia, peer review is an integral part of publishing and should therefore be learned and nurtured from the beginning of a writing career.</p> <p>In this course, we will look at the processes that place during the revision of a text with a focus on reviewing other people's writing.</p>		
Remarks	This seminar is ideal for students who already wrote a couple of term papers and/or essays.		
Examination	SL only		

3.2 Study Area: Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

Ecology in Practice			
ESS		Block IV	
Denicia Kassie (denicia.kassie@nature.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s)	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-EE0041
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Methods I or II, Specialization ESS I or II		Recommended: Quantitative Research Methods	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 9-12h, BT 105 Thu, 8-10h, BT 101		
Course Description	<p>This course is designed to provide a hands-on introduction to ecology through the lens of urban environments and their impact on biodiversity. Urbanization has transformed natural landscapes, creating new challenges for species and ecosystems. In this course, we will explore how urbanization affects bird and plant communities in cities and compare them to more natural environments. Students will learn to collect field data on bird diversity OR plant species abundance in various habitats to address one of four topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The influence of habitat type on bird species presence: Assessing bird diversity in cityscapes as compared to forest habitats. ▪ Can cityscapes increase bird diversity?: Assessing bird abundance in heterogeneous habitats in city areas. ▪ The presence of native and non-native species in urban landscapes: Using the case study of managed and unmanaged tree pockets in the city. ▪ The impacts of the invasive species, on plant species richness. <p>As an integral part of this course, skills in data analysis using RStudio will be gained. These skills are particularly valuable when analysing data in environmental science research. RStudio is a powerful tool for analyzing and visualizing ecological data, and throughout this course, students will be guided through the basics of R programming. Please have RStudio downloaded on your laptop. Students will use R to clean, manipulate, analyze, and visualize the data collected in the field, providing students with the tools to answer meaningful ecological questions. Previous knowledge in programming is recommended but not required.</p> <p>By the end of the course, students will:</p> <p>Have a deeper understanding of how urbanization affects the biodiversity of cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be able to define and design a field experiment ▪ Gain practical skills in field ecology ▪ Become familiar with the basics of RStudio ▪ Analyze real-world ecological data through the use of RStudio 		
Examination	Group presentation on 17.07.25. -- Individual written report on 22.07.25.		
Recommended Reading	<p>Buchholz, S., Kowarik, I. (2019). Urbanisation modulates plant-pollinator interactions in invasive vs. native plant species. <i>Sci Rep</i> 9, 6375.</p> <p>Isaksson, C. (2018). Impact of Urbanization on Birds. In: Tietze, D. (eds) <i>Bird Species. Fascinating Life Sciences</i>. Springer, Cham.</p> <p>Lavoie, C. (2017). The impact of invasive knotweed species (<i>Reynoutria</i> spp.) on the environment: review and research perspectives. <i>Biol Invasions</i> 19, 2319–2337.</p> <p>Sidemo-Holm, et al. (2022). Urbanization causes biotic homogenization of woodland bird communities at multiple spatial scales. <i>Global Change Biology</i>.</p>		

Geosciences: A Crash Course in Theory and Practice			
ESS		Block IV	
Dr. Felix Martin Hofmann (felix.martin.hofmann@geologie.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-EE0043
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Earth System		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, BT 105 Wed, 14-16h, HS 1142 Fri, 12-14h, BT 105		
Course Description	<p>How did the Earth form? Which processes shape its appearance? How can our planet harm us on the one hand, and how can we learn and benefit from it on the other? And, finally, how do we treat it sustainably? These are some of the core questions that we will address during this course.</p> <p>Students will acquire a basic understanding of the system Earth, familiarize with its origin, its history and structure. They will get to know its landscapes, rocks, and sediments, and will learn how to read them and understand the underlying processes. Following this fundamental overview, we will shift our focus more and more towards applied aspects such as geohazards, geogenic resources, and waste management.</p> <p>The course is divided into a series of interactive introductory lectures combined with students' presentations, and field trips in the near surroundings (e.g. Schauinsland and Kaiserstuhl). The latter will allow us to experience and discuss different geoscientific topics hands-on.</p>		
Examination	Pass/fail (SL): Submission of handouts after field trips. Graded assignments (PL): Written Exam on 23.07. (60 min, 70%), written assignment by 31.08. (30%).		
Recommended Reading	Erickson, J. 2000: Making of the Earth Geologic Forces That Shape Our Planet. Huggett, R. J. 2007: Fundamentals of Geomorphology. 2nd edition.		

People, Landscape, Management: Planning for Ecosystem Services			
ESS		Block IV	
Joachim Schmerbeck (jschmerbeck@jschmerbeck.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s)	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-EE0029
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Human and the Environment I and II Specialization Option ESS I and II		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 16-20h, HH9, R 00.003C Thu, 16-20h, Ph HS 2 Field excursion: 26.06.2025		
Course Description	<p>For more than two decades we have become increasingly aware of the benefits that we derive from our living environment. We call these benefits ecosystem services. But it still seems that the sustainable utilisation of these services does not materialise in most land use systems systems. At the same time the importance of well-functioning management systems for our living environment is increasing in the face of a rising demand for ecosystem services, decreasing resources and profound changes in climatic conditions ahead of us.</p> <p>In this course we will develop the principal context in which land use systems and their planning happen. We will learn how landscapes are dynamic, and which factors drive these dynamics. We will focus on the role humans play in landscape dynamics and how this influences the quantity and quality of ecosystem services. We will also understand the factors and methods that are essential for and the limitations of adaptive management systems for the sustainable use of ecosystem services.</p> <p>Based on this we work on cases of landscape management for ecosystem services taken from a real life GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) project. We will do our own assessment and planning for cases in the landscape of the Western Himalayas after we become familiar with the natural settings and socioeconomic background of this region.</p> <p>We will primarily work together in student led group work, while the topics will be introduced during the course. The group work will be presented by the groups at the end of the course.</p>		
Examination	Project work submission on 08.07.25 & Presentation of cases on 15.07.25		
Recommended Reading	<p>Costanza R. et al. (1997): The value of the world´s ecosystem services and natural capital. In: Nature. 387, Mai 1997, S. 253-260</p> <p>MA 2005: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis. World Resources Institute, Washington, DC</p> <p>Naudiyal, N. and Schmerbeck J. (2018). Linking forest successional dynamics to community dependence on provisioning ecosystem services from the Central Himalayan forests of Uttarakhand. Environmental Management 62 (5): 915–928</p> <p>TEEB: http://teebweb.org/</p> <p>ValuES: http://aboutvalues.net/about_values/</p> <p>Wunder S.: Payments for environmental services: Some nuts and bolts, CIFOR Occasional Paper No. 42</p>		

3.3 Study Area: Governance

Governance: Oral Exam			
Governance		Block IV	
Dr. Mila Mikalay (mikalay@ucf.uni-freiburg.de) and Dr. Stoyan Panov (stoyan.panov@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 4	4	10	00LE62S-LAS-GO0086
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
---		Senior Profile Governance	
Prerequisites	STUPO prerequisites for Senior modules apply.		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	This is a graded assignment-only format. The oral examination is a 1-hour commitment and will be scheduled for July 18.		
Course Description	<p>This examination is offered as part of the Senior Profile to Governance students. It covers Governance topics, which students learn about in foundational Governance modules, such as the Introduction, Political Theory, Principles of Law, Comparative Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>The examination is based on a list of topics, announced on the Governance Wiki, and consists of a 40-minute preparation time followed by a 30-minute oral examination, in presence or online.</p> <p>Topics cover central concepts, questions and debates across Governance disciplines, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ balance of power as a mechanism of avoiding oppression domestically and internationally, ▪ legitimacy of authority and processes of legitimation (different types of rules, civil disobedience and uprisings), ▪ influence of institutional setups on political processes (strong judicial branch as an agenda-setter, majoritarian election systems as a factor of social divisions). <p>Preparing to the examination allows students to review and integrate their learning within the Major and enhance their ability to apply skills and knowledge to complex problems and current cases. The detailed procedure of the examination, list of topics, preparation suggestions and grading rubrics will be announced on the Governance Wiki.</p> <p>Students are assessed on how well they are able to demonstrate the following abilities (Senior Profile learning goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ identify, describe, illustrate, compare and assess the ways to integrate knowledge about social, political and economic reality across disciplines and contexts; ▪ choose, adapt and assess the use of disciplinary and interdisciplinary vocabulary, and ways of presenting and communicating knowledge about social, political and economic reality. 		
Remarks	This is a PL only offering. There are no meetings associated with it, apart from the examination itself.		
Examination	Re-sit date in the re-sit period of the WS 25.		
Recommended Reading	See the exam brochure on the Governance Wiki for revision suggestions (all readings come from standard Governance courses).		

3.4. Study Area: Multiple

Ecology			
ESS, Life Sciences		Block IV	
Joachim Schmerbeck (jschmerbeck@jschmerbeck.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s)	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LSEE0014
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Ecology and Biodiversity Advanced Life Sciences, I, II or III		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 8-12h, FMF HS 01.009 Thu, 8-12h, Wilhelmstr. 26, HS 00.016 Field excursion: 27.06.2025		
Course Description	<p>This course aims to capacitate you to understand the ecological background of the main environmental topics that you will be confronted with in your future professional environment. In the first part we will create the basis for an understanding of ecological principles. This will cover the main environmental factors and their impact on the development, abundance, and distributions of organisms. As part of the basics in ecology we also have a closer look on the emergence and drivers of biodiversity and in the main pattern of landscape ecology.</p> <p>In the second part of the course, you will work in small groups on relevant environmental topics of today. These projects will allow you to deepen your understanding of the ecological background of today's environmental concerns and will enable you to take part in the ongoing discussions from an ecology science angle.</p> <p>We will work together on information and explanations that I give you. We will discuss key papers and fit them in an ecological framework. You will work in groups on the topics of the second part and present them to all course members at the end of the course.</p>		
Examination	Written assignment on 24.06.25. Presentation of project work on 15.07 & 17.07.25.		
Recommended Reading	Begon M., Townsend C.R., Harper J.L (2006): Ecology, from Individuals to Ecosystems, Blackwell Publishing, Carlton Odum E. and Gary W. Barrett (2004): Fundamentals of Ecology, Cengage Learning. Monica Turner, R H Gardner. Landscape Ecology in Theory and Practice: Pattern and Process. Springer. Thompson, K. (2014): Where do camels belong, Greystone Books Pörtner et al. (2021): IPBES-IPCC co-sponsored workshop report on biodiversity and climate change; IPBES and IPCC.		

The Development Encounter			
Culture & History, Governance		Block IV	
Dr. John Friedman (j.friedman@ucr.nl)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0020
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option Culture & History I or II Senior Profile Culture & History Specialization Option Governance Research in an Area of Governance		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16, BT 206 Wed 14-16h, BT 106 Fri 12-14h, BT 206		
Course Description	<p>For some scholars (such as the Nobel prize winning economist Amartya Sen), international development offers the promise of freedom for the world's poor; while for others, 'development' represents nothing short of a new form of Western domination over the Global South. During this course, we aim to explore this controversial subject from two complementary viewpoints. On the one hand, we consider the development process from the perspective of Development Studies, a relatively new academic discipline that emerged during the post-war period. With its foundations in the field of economics, Development Studies applies an interdisciplinary approach to global poverty, inequality and social justice. Simultaneously, though, the course also addresses the dynamics of development from an anthropological perspective. With its focus on long-term fieldwork and participant observation, anthropology offers unique insight into the development encounter. Through our close consideration of international development we aim to balance the practice of development with theories of development, and the applications of development with its critiques. In the end, 'development' emerges as a proactive attempt to confront the challenges of global poverty, but it is also revealed as an international problematic of great significance and (possibly negative) influence.</p>		
Examination	25.07.2025		

4 Semester Long Courses

4.1 Study Area: Core

Dealing with Numerical Information			
Core		Semester	
Dr. Sebastian Gehart (sebastian.gehart@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Dr. Jörg Sahlmann (joerg.sahlmann@uniklinik-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1 (-2)	6	90	00LE62V-LAS-CO0005
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Dealing with Numerical Information		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture Mon, 9-11h, AU HS 1 Workgroups WG1: Wed, 12-14h, AU 01.036a WG2: Wed, 12-14h, AU 01.065 WG3: Wed, 14-16h, AU 01.036a WG4: Wed, 14-16h, AU 01.065 Tutorials WG1: Fri, 8-10h, BT 201 WG2: Fri, 8-10h, BT 205 WG3: Fri, 10-12h, BT 201 WG4: Fri, 10-12h, BT 205		
Course Description	The course introduces students to working with numerical data in a scientific and non-scientific context. Students procure basic theoretical and practical knowledge of probability theory, descriptive and inferential statistics, and learn about collecting and visualizing data. Basic theoretical knowledge of probability theory and descriptive and inferential statistics are presented during lectures and practiced in exercise tutorials. The acquired knowledge is then placed in context, discussed and applied in workgroups and software tutorials using the R software for statistical computing and graphics.		
Remarks	The lecture and the workgroups are setup as two courses in HISinOne. Please register for the workgroup only.		
Examination	Group presentation of a quantitative survey and analysis (30%). Final written exam (70%) on 21.07.2025.		

Service Learning			
Core		Semester	
Anette Bender and Jessica Stihl (sl@zfs.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	n.a.	00LE62S-LAS-CO0086
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Responsibility and Leadership 2		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Project Fri, 25.04., 9-13h, Wilhelmstr. 26, 01.014		
Course Description	<p>Service learning is a format that combines the service to the common good with cognitive learning processes for students, teaching staff and cooperation partners from the public or non-profit sector. It gives students the opportunity to expand their social and democratic skills and grow as responsible individuals in civil society. At the same time, however, it is also about applying knowledge in practice and linking educational content with life experience.</p> <p>The Centre for Key Skills (ZfS) offers a module that allows students to volunteer in organizations and NGOs – either from a range of partners in and around Freiburg or self-directed – , prepare and reflect on their service in workshops and benefit from supervision during their engagement. If you are an active member of the UCF Student Council or the StuRa, you can have this count as your voluntary work.</p>		
Remarks	Please register for the course and the examination in HISinOne both at UCF (see course/module no.) and at ZfS.		
Examination	Written assignment and final conference		

4.2 Study Area: Culture and History

Introduction to Culture and History			
Culture & History		Semester	
Dr. Ryan Plumley (ryan.plumley@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1-(2)	8	70	00LE62S-LAS20-CH0001
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Introduction to Culture and History		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Plenary Mon 11-13h AU HS1 Workgroups WG1: Thu, 8-10h, AU 01.036a WG2: Thu, 10-12h, AU 01.036a WG3: Thu, 14-16h, AU 01 036a		
Course Description	<p>“Culture and History” is an interdisciplinary approach to the humanities, the disciplines which produce systematic knowledge about human beings and their artifacts and practices. In this introduction, we will approach the humanities as fundamentally interpretive sciences whose task is to describe, analyze, and interpret human-made things in the world.</p> <p>In the first part, we explore Literature, Art History, and Cultural Studies. Students practice the skills and methods that humanities scholars use to produce argument-based interpretations of typical objects of study: texts, images, and films. In the second part, we explore Anthropology and History. Students build on their analytical and interpretive skills while also adding another level of interpretation: evaluating other scholars’ interpretations of cultures and histories.</p> <p>Along the way, we regularly pause to theorize our work, asking questions like “What is art?” or “What is culture?” by reading and discussing a classic theoretical work. By maintaining dialogue between the practice and the theory of the humanities, students practice producing compelling interpretations of culture and history.</p> <p>The course is designed to encourage both individual effort (preparation before class, assignments) and collaborative effort (discussion and teamwork during the lectures and WGs).</p>		
Remarks	The lecture and the workgroups are setup as two courses in HISinOne. Please register for the workgroup only.		
Examination	24.07.2025		

Political Pedagogues: German Enlightenment and Romanticism			
Culture & History		Semester	
Dr. Ryan Plumley (ryan.plumley@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CH0003
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
History: Modern or Contemporary Culture & History I, II, or III Specialization Option Culture & History I or II Senior Profile Culture & History		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, AU 01.065 Wed, 14-16h, KG 1236		
Course Description	<p>Can philosophy and art change the world?</p> <p>In the final decades of the 18th century many intellectuals and artists in Germany believed the answer was yes. In philosophy, literature, theater, painting, and music, German intellectuals actively tried to transform their society, convinced that they had to take responsibility as an educated elite by becoming the educators, the teachers, the political pedagogues of mankind.</p> <p>For instance, J.G. Fichte tried to guide mankind toward their destiny as free beings by giving lectures in which students learned to think for themselves. Friedrich Schiller argued that art should prepare mankind for a more democratic society. And Friedrich Schlegel sought to merge philosophy and art in experimental genres intended for future readers. These are just three positions in the urgent debate about modern intellectual culture that emerged as older forms of social, cultural, and political life eroded around 1800.</p> <p>In this seminar, we will explore the range of positions taken by these activist artists and intellectuals in their often zany and quirky works.</p> <p>Readings centered around German Enlightenment and Romanticism and will include works from Kant, Schiller, Fichte, Schleiermacher, Schlegel, Novalis, and E.T.A. Hoffmann. We will also spend some time with music and visual art, and work with relevant secondary literature.</p> <p>Methodologically, students will practice relating close reading of primary sources in their socio-political and biographical contexts.</p>		
Remarks	Students taking this course as a "Specialization Option" Module have different graded work, additional reading, and an additional class session.		
Examination	28.07.2025		

Suicide in Ancient and Pre-Modern Cultures			
Culture & History		Semester	
Dr. Kathrin Leese-Messing (kathrin.leese-messing@geschichte.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CH0078
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
History: Ancient, Medieval, or Early Modern Culture & History I, II, or III		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, BT R101 Wed, 10-12h, BT R106		
Course Description	<p>Why do people kill themselves? Today, most people would probably refer to potential mental disorders of the person in question. For in modern societies, suicide is typically conceptualized as an individual and pathological act. But when we look at how people in different ancient and pre-modern societies practised and discussed suicide, we realise that thinking about suicide in these terms is a fairly recent phenomenon. In texts from ancient and pre-modern cultures, suicides are often conceptualised as profoundly social acts, carried out by perfectly sane people. Frequently associated with matters of loyalty, honour, or protest, and in some contexts (e.g., Japan) highly ritualised and institutionalised, suicides are presented as resulting from clear-headed, rational contemplation, often evoking other people's praise rather than a search for underlying mental conditions.</p> <p>While the subject of suicide may not seem like the most cheerful gateway to history, it is in fact a very enlightening one. As an object of critical historical inquiry, it provides a unique focal point of normative demarcations, including tensions between group and individual, duty and freedom, good and bad, normal and abnormal, healthy and sick, or meaningful and nonsensical. With the help of targeted questions, it also promises to tell us a lot about different social roles and statuses that characterized particular societies. For example: Did suicide practices, ideals, and motives differ between women and men, between elites and non-elites, and between different religions or ideologies? And what similarities and differences can we see between different historical and cultural settings?</p> <p>We will explore these and other questions together by reading and discussing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English translations of relevant passages of ancient and later pre-modern texts (e.g., from ancient China, Rome, Greece, Japan, the Near East, Medieval Europe, etc.) ▪ Selections of secondary literature (from the fields of history, cultural studies, sociology, anthropology, etc.) that highlight and theorise different perspectives on suicide and its socio-historical significance. <p>The subject, however specific, thus also offers excellent opportunities to develop general historical skills, such as source criticism, awareness of source biases, consideration of plurality and change, and identification of distinctively modern patterns of thought that shape our own views and prejudices.</p>		
Examination	01.08.2025		
Recommended Reading	<p>Barbagli, Marzio (2015): Farewell to the World. A History of Suicide. Cambridge/Malden: Polity Press.</p> <p>Battin, Margaret Pabst (ed.). 2015. The Ethics of Suicide: Historical Sources. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Macho, Thomas (2017). Das Leben nehmen. Suizid in der Moderne. Berlin: Suhrkamp</p>		

Theory of Culture			
Culture & History		Semester	
Dr. Melanie Altanian (melanie.altanian@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CH0011
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Theory of Culture		For C&H: Introduction to Culture & History	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 14-16h, AU 01.065 Thu, 14-16h, KG 1231		
Course Description	<p>Culture wars, pop culture, corporate culture, cultural appropriation – culture is central to human life, and references to it are ubiquitous, while the concept is notoriously vague. Thus, it should come as no surprise that culture is also central to the academic study of human life. Disciplinary questions in the humanities often build upon how culture is understood, debated, and questioned. This course will help you to develop multiple understandings of the concept of culture through encounters with the texts, arguments, and perspectives that have shaped its study. Learning about such theoretical debates—e.g., those surrounding power, knowledge, identity, postcolonialism, gender, and their intertwinements—will help you to identify and apply them in other courses and contexts. Rather than seeking to reify some theoretical canon, the structure of the course and its readings is problem-based and aims at fostering curiosity and critical thinking in relation to some of the pressing issues of our times as they relate to “culture” and its theorization.</p>		
Remarks	Classes start in the second week, from 29.04.2025		
Examination	Non-graded assessment: Regular attendance, compulsory reading, active participation and select written reading responses. Graded assessment: two short essays (each 50% of the final grade)		

4.3 Study Area: Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

For more ESS courses, please consult section 4.6 Multiple.

Introduction to Environmental and Sustainability Sciences			
ESS		Semester	
Maiara Gonçalves (maiara.goncalves@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1-(2)	8	70	00LE62VS-LAS20-EE0001
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Introduction to Environmental and Sustainability Sciences		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture Tue, 9-10:30h, AU HS1 Workgroups WG1: Tue, 11-14h, AU 01.065 WG2: Wed, 9-12h, AU 01.065 WG3: Wed, 9-12h AU 01.036a		
Course Description	<p>In times of accelerating environmental changes, understanding the interconnectedness of systems that shape our planet is essential to foster sustainable transformations. This course provides a comprehensive overview on Earth Systems, Ecological Systems, and Socioecological Systems, equipping students with the foundational knowledge to understand and analyze environmental challenges, and sustainable solutions.</p> <p>Through an interdisciplinary lens, we will explore the biophysical processes that govern the Earth, ecosystems functioning and resilience, and the role of human societies as a driver of changes. Key topics include planetary boundaries, biodiversity loss, climate governance, and sustainable transformations.</p> <p>Lectures will introduce theoretical basis for the topics, while discussions and activities will foster critical thinking and hands-on basic scientific research practices. Students will engage with case studies and current research to examine how science, policies, and societal choices intersect in addressing today's most pressing environmental issues.</p>		
Remarks	The lecture and the workgroups are setup as two courses in HISinOne. Please register for the workgroup only.		
Examination	Graded assessments consist of a Poster submission (40% of the final grade) on the 29th June and a Policy Brief submission (60% of the final grade) on the 25th of July . Pass/Fail assessments consist of reports and presentations.		
Recommended Reading	Katherine Richardson et al., Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries. <i>Science Advances</i> Vol 9, Issue 37 (2023). IPCC, 2023: Sections. In: <i>Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</i> [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, pp. 35-115. Sneddon, C., Howarth, R. B., & Norgaard, R. B. (2006). Sustainable Development in a post-Brundtland World. <i>Ecological Economics</i> , 57(2), 253–268.		

4.4 Study Area: Governance

Introduction to Governance			
Governance		Semester	
Dr. Mila Mikalay (mikalay@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1-(2)	8	70	00LE62V-LAS20-GO0001
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Introduction to Governance		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Plenaries Mon 15-17h AU HS1 Tue 14-16h AU HS1 Workgroups WG1: Thu, 12-14h, AU 01 036a WG2: Fri, 10-12h, AU 01065 WG3: Fri, 12-14h AU 01065		
Course Description	<p>This course will acquaint you with central topics in the study of the governance processes – processes through which human communities of different kinds govern themselves. It will ask you to read influential and thought-provoking texts by political theorists, economists, comparativists, political analysts to help you build up the appropriate vocabulary to discuss social and political issues, and prepare you to understand what ways of explanation, argumentation and presentation that are used and accepted by governance scholars.</p> <p>The content of the course is organized around six major topics in governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social contract: Why do you live in a state? When should you rebel against it? ▪ Collective action: How do people behave in groups? Why do big groups often fail to reach their goals? ▪ Democracy: How does democracy work? What are the types of democracy and which type is realized today? Why can we never have a perfect, full democracy? ▪ Politics and administration: What is the role of professional state officials in a political system based on elections? ▪ Agenda-setting: How and why do politicians and public act on some issues while other important topics are neglected? Why do you feel more responsible and competent about climate change than about war in Europe? ▪ Forecasting: How do you know about the future of society and economies? Can you predict it? Can you change it? <p>In this course, the learning takes place in three formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plenary sessions on the course readings (I expect you to do the readings before class), ▪ Workgroup sessions for, well, work in groups on exercises or for discussion, ▪ and a small group project. <p>You will learn analytical skills, such as interpreting the visuals, working with definitions, or understanding political humor. The work in small groups will ask you to apply skills to the analysis and interpretation of governance topics.</p>		
Remarks	Extra date: Plenary on April 23 (Wednesday), 16-18h, KG 3219.		
Examination	Short written assignments during the semester. Note tha quizzes take place during plenary sessions: 29.04., 27.05., 24.06.. The written exam is on 07.07.2025.		

AI Economics and Governance			
Governance, Elective		semester	
Olivier Schunck (olivier_schunck@hotmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0097
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Governance I and II		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon 12-14h AU 01.036a (only on 26.5. and 02.6.) Wed 12-14h online and at Ph HS 1 Thu 12-14h online and at KG 1032		
Course Description	<p>"The rise of powerful AI will be either the best or the worst thing ever to happen to humanity. We do not yet know which." This quote, attributed to Professor Stephen Hawking, underscores both the immense opportunities and profound challenges of artificial intelligence (AI).</p> <p>As we are entering the "Age of AI", this course offers LAS students a multi-faceted exploration of AI's business, economic, and societal implications. Designed for students with a strong interest in AI, it requires no prior technical background.</p> <p>The course begins with a historical perspective, tracing AI's evolution from early research to recent breakthroughs like generative AI, equipping students with a foundational understanding of its capabilities and limitations. Through real-world examples and case studies, students will then analyse AI's impact on competitiveness, industry transformation, innovation, labour markets, economic growth, inequality, climate change, and societal foundations.</p> <p>A key component of the course is critical engagement with AI governance and ethics. Students will debate issues such as algorithmic bias, privacy, fairness, and public trust, while exploring regulatory frameworks and corporate responsibility practices.</p> <p>The course will mostly take place online, with several weeks of in-person classrooms during the semester, and will combine readings-based seminar discussions, individual or group work, including presentations and, possibly, guest talks. For selected parts, the intentional use of generative AI tools to explore its capabilities and limitations is covered.</p> <p>Olivier Schunck is an academic lecturer and thought leader with professional business expertise in research and advice on economic, technological, and societal change.</p> <p>Upon completing the course, students will be equipped to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effectively understand the economic, business, and societal implications of AI, assessing both its transformative potential and associated risks; ▪ Develop informed perspectives on AI-related societal debates, integrating insights from economics, business, and policy making; ▪ Critically analyse AI dilemmas, recognizing the interdisciplinary nature of AI governance and its role in shaping policies and corporate practices; ▪ Improve awareness of the pervasiveness of technological innovation and its deep implications on today's world while strengthening critical judgment. 		
Remarks	The course will mainly take place online, with some sessions happening in presence (attendance of these sessions is mandatory). It is not possible to take the whole course online.		
Examination	The graded examination includes written assignments (70%) and presentations (30%). All examination components will be completed by 11.07.2025.		

Comparing Governments of the Global South			
Governance		Semester	
Dr. Hugo Fanton (hfanton@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0028
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Comparative Politics		Introduction to Governance	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 16-18h online and at Ph HS 3 Wed, 16-18h online and at Ph HS 1		
Course Description	<p>The political scenario in the post-2008 crisis has mobilized a broad academic debate on democracy and authoritarianism in the center and periphery of capitalism. In this course, the proposal is to discuss these themes adopting a comparative perspective between countries and concepts from the Global South (Latin America, Africa and Asia).</p> <p>The course will discuss the historical processes of shaping democracies and authoritarianisms in the periphery of capitalism, the different contemporary expressions of the legitimation crisis of democracy and authoritarian rise, and their relationship with neoliberalism. It begins with a theoretical discussion on democracy, authoritarianism and the nation state, based on topics such as dependency theory.</p> <p>The theme of transition will also be addressed, with emphasis on Latin America and the theoretical debate on Military Dictatorships and democratization. This will be followed by a discussion of neoliberalism and democratic processes in the 1990-2000s. In the contemporary debate, we will discuss terms such as populism, authoritarian populism, neo-fascism and different ways of conceptualizing far-right phenomena in the Global South.</p> <p>The course addresses the composition and recruitment of elites, methods of governance (participation, communication, co-optation, repression), political regimes and how they evolve in terms of the separation of powers, systems of government, parties, political movements and the distribution of power. It covers the main conceptual and methodological approaches to comparative politics, using databases and creating simple comparative studies.</p> <p>The course will consist of lectures, group activities and response to prior readings. Classes will be divided into different sections: (i) the lecturer will present the main concepts of that week; (ii) small groups formed to discuss the content and do case studies; (iii) collective discussions between all; (iv) guest lecturer/researcher seminars; and v) collective discussion of videos and other multimedia content.</p>		
Remarks	This course is held fully online. Some framing sessions and guest talks may take place in presence. It is possible to take the course online.		
Examination	Short written assignments during the semester (1,500 words in total 25% of the final grade), a mid-term assignment (1,500 words 25%) and a final paper (5,000 words 50%).		
Recommended Reading	International Research Group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies (ed.). <i>Global Authoritarianism: Perspectives and Contestations from the South</i> . Transcript Verlag, Berlin (the digital version is open access).		

Diplomacy			
Governance, Elective (only PL)		Semester	
Sigurd Rothe (sigurd.rothe@politik.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	22	00LE62S-LAS-GO0099
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Governance I or II		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar : Mon, 14-16h, Ph HS 1 (room tbc) Extra dates (presence mandatory): Wed, June 18, 18-21, KG 3043 (role-play preparation) Fri, June 20, 9-16, Liefmann Haus (role-play conference) Fri, June 27, 14-16 (no Mon meeting this week), KG 3043		
Course Description	<p>This course examines diplomacy as a socially and politically situated professional practice. Our journey spans from the diplomatic practices of ancient Middle Eastern civilizations to the complexities of 21st-century international relations, with particular focus on historical cases such as the Ancient Near East, the Byzantine Empire, Renaissance Italy, and modern and contemporary Europe.</p> <p>A highlight of the course is a role-play simulation of the 1906 international conference at Algeciras, designed to provide first-hand experience in diplomatic strategizing and negotiation. In preparation, you will research historical figures relevant to the conference, examine their backgrounds, positions, and the interests of their respective states. Each participant will receive a reading package tailored to their assigned role. For this simulation, proficiency in German, French, or Spanish is recommended - and may be required for lead roles.</p> <p>The course is organized as a weekly reading-based seminar, culminating in an intensive workshop held on June 18th and June 20th, centred on the conference simulation.</p> <p>This course aims to develop your critical understanding of diplomacy both as a practice and as a professional career. Readings and class discussions will lay the groundwork for exploring broader questions in political theory, comparative politics, and the sociology of occupations, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the ultimate task of a diplomat: to serve their ruler, uphold professional standards, or work toward broader goals like the peaceful coexistence of states? How are these goals balanced when they conflict? • How are diplomatic practices influenced by socio-political and ideological contexts? In what ways do diplomats navigate the “two-level game” between national and international arenas? • What is and can be expected of diplomats, and what are their routines and specialized tasks? What are popular representations of diplomacy in films, books, media, etc., and how do they shape public perceptions of diplomats’ roles? • What is the importance of face-saving in diplomacy? How does the need to preserve national honor, personal reputation, and diplomatic relationships shape the strategies and actions of diplomats? • How do subnational and non-state entities influence the practice of diplomacy (paradiplomacy)? 		
Remarks	Participation in the role-play is mandatory and cannot be skipped, so please plan your semester accordingly (evening of June 18 th and the whole day of June 20 th).		
Examination	Role description, a reflection paper on the conference simulation, a final paper on a topic related to the diplomatic profession. The final submission deadline is August 8.		

International Relations and Institutions			
Governance		Semester	
Dr. Mila Mikalay (mikalay@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), TAs: Lydia Böning and Fabian Stock			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2 (3, 4)	8	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0034
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
International Relations		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 8.30-12h, KG 1134 Thu, 8.30-12h, KG 1032 Extra sessions due to holidays: 28.05. and 18.06., 18-21h, Ph HS 4		
Course Description	<p>This course focuses on different conceptual approaches to the understanding and analysis of international relations (IR) and institutions. The focus is not on the “facts” of the international relations, but on the ideological foundations of IR theories, seen as worldviews. We explore and compare powerful “mythologies” behind IR theories, such as realism, idealism, constructivism, neo-marxism, gender perspective and postmodernism. We contextualize and situate each approach, with its key texts, concepts and logic, and apply it to processes, events and institutions in international relations.</p> <p>The course is based on the textbook by Cynthia Weber “International Relations Theory. A Critical Introduction”. We use the method of artistic illustration to grasp the powerful beliefs about man, nature, society, politics, and the relationships between them undergirding IR theories. For each theory considered in the course, we will watch a popular fiction film, which illustrates these fundamental beliefs behind theories.</p> <p>By the end of the course you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand the post-positivist approach to social theory, namely, international relations theory; ▪ Understand classical authors in their interpretation of international politics and learn how to compare and apply major IR theories; ▪ Develop the vocabulary and analytical skills to be able to read, summarize, synthesize and debate academic texts on international relations and global politics; ▪ Move towards a reflective individual position on international issues and the role of international institutions and learn how to relate personal views with concepts and arguments from academic debates; ▪ Further develop presentation, argumentation and debating skills as well as the skills necessary for giving feedback on academic contributions; ▪ Further develop learning and working methods conducive to long-term reflective learning (working with sources, taking notes, planning workload). ▪ The course will provide space for and encourage you to connect theory, concepts, working methods and ideas across Governance courses to achieve a deeper and more varied understanding of the course material, in a personally meaningful way. 		
Remarks	No senior priority for this course, second-year students have priority and should take it. It is a 8 ECTS course and has an appropriately high workload and contact hour count.		
Examination	Examination consists of written assignments and a debate presentation. Final submission deadline: 10.8.2025.		

Principles of Law			
Governance only (no Elective Joker)		Semester	
Dr. Stoyan Panov (stoyan.panov@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2 (3, 4)	8	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0004
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Law		Introduction to Governance	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon 10-12h, AU 01036a Wed 10-12h, Ph HS 1		
Course Description	<p>The course introduces fundamental legal approaches and concepts. It looks at the interplay between law, society, governance and politics. It is not focused on narrow examination and analysis of domestic legal systems, but aims to provide an overview of legal principles that are applicable nationally and internationally.</p> <p>The course introduces most prominent theoretical and jurisprudential approaches: Natural Law, Legal Positivism, Feminism and modern Critical Theories. Students will critically reflect on the logic, structure, applicability, and language of law and topics such as rights, obligations, responsibility, and immunities. In the second part of the course, the focus is on the institutions and principles of law such as non-discrimination, the rule of law, equality, reasonable expectations, legal certainty, and legal interpretation techniques common among various legal orders. Finally, we will discover the practical applicability of the legal principles and theory in reality by examining the relationship between law and policy-making in the realms of human rights law, civil law, and criminal law, and by comparing diverse forms of law, systems of law, legality, and legal orders.</p> <p>The course readings include various legal cases dealing with freedom of expression, freedom of political association, the right to life, the prohibition of torture, marriage equality and nondiscrimination, criminal liability, data privacy, among others.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ paraphrase, summarize, compare and produce academic texts on the topics of the module with appropriate use of legal terminology; ▪ analyze and interpret main principles of law and jurisprudential approaches in legal orders; ▪ improve awareness about contemporary issues, debates, and controversies in legal studies; ▪ become aware of theoretical and practical problems in understanding the law and its main principles and improve interdisciplinary thinking with integrity about their position as a scholar of law. 		
Remarks	Priority to second-year students! Senior students do not have priority in this course.		
Examination	Submission of the final part of the examined material or the final exam will take place in the week of 21-25.07.25.		
Recommended Reading	Introductory reading on jurisprudence: Raymond Wacks, <i>Understanding Jurisprudence</i> (4th ed, OUP 2016).		

4.5 Study Area: Life Sciences

Introduction to Life Sciences			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Simon J. Büchner (buechner@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1-(2)	8	70	00LE62VS-LAS20-LS0001
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Introduction to Life Sciences		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	<p>Lecture and Q&A First meeting: We, Apr 23, 18-20h, AU HS2 (Max-Kade-Auditorium 2) Regular Q&A: Mo, 14-15h, AU HS1 (Max-Kade-Auditorium 1)</p> <p>Workgroups</p> <p>WG1: Thu, 8-10h, AU 01.065 WG2: Thu, 10-12h, AU 01.065 WG3: Thu, 10-12h, BT 104 WG4: Thu, 14-16h, AU 01.065 WG5: Thu, 14-16h, PH 1</p>		
Course Description	<p>In this course, students will learn about basic concepts in the Life Sciences. In particular, the course will focus on the systems that are used to describe physiological and psychological process in humans and which allow humans to interact with a complex environment. This includes the structure and functioning of cells, the endocrine system, the immune system, the nervous system, and perception and cognition. Besides the structures and processes that make up these systems, students will learn about selected research methods from the Life Sciences.</p> <p>The course is an introduction to the major and thus covers a broad range of fields. It is designed to provide an overview of topics and problems related to the field of Life Sciences. It emphasizes breadth over depth. In Work Groups, students will discover and discuss challenges from the fields of Cell Biology, Physiology, Neurobiology and Psychology. We will employ the problem-based learning (PBL) approach to encounter different challenges from the Life Sciences. In class, students work on problems or cases from the Life Sciences. In the pre-discussion the group discusses the problem; students share their knowledge they already have with respect to the topic in question and agree on what they still need to find out in order to assess the problem. In the post-discussion during the next meeting students bring together what they have researched and discuss the problem again in the context of the knowledge they have collected. More information on PBL will be provided during the first work group meeting.</p>		
Remarks	First lecture meeting on XYZ takes place in-class 13-15h c.t. The following lectures will be delivered as recorded screencasts. "Q&A and Discussion" on Mondays is an optional in-class meeting open to all class participants. Mid term and final exam take pl		
Examination	Midterm Exam (50% of final grade): June 2 (in HS 1010) Final Exam (50% of final grade): July 21 (in HS 1010)		
Recommended Reading	<p>Fox (2011) Human Physiology, 12th ed., McGraw-Hill, New York (UCF: NT/Fox/1) Silverthorn (2016) Human Physiology, 7th edition, global edition, Pearson (UB: FX 2015/574; UCF: NT/Sil/1) Betts, J. G., Young, K. A., Wise, J. A., Johnson, E., Poe, B., Kruse, D. H., ... & DeSaix, P. (2022). Anatomy and Physiology 2e. OpenStax. Houston, Texas. https://openstax.org/details/books/anatomy-and-physiology-2e</p>		

Cell Biology			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Christoph Howe (C.Howe@gmx.net)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0004
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Cell Biology		Introduction to Life Sciences (required)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 10-12h, KG 1234 Thu, 10-12h, HH9 HS 01.020B July 15 and 17, 9-13h, AU Co-Creation Room (participation mandatory)		
Course Description	<p>This course provides a basic understanding of the structure and the molecular functions of the different components within human cells. Lectures will provide knowledge on the following questions on a molecular level: Of which essential biobricks are our cells made of, how do we digest our food and what does oxygen have to do with all of this? Moreover, basic knowledge about the compartments of our immune system will be gained and how a variety of viruses infect our cells. Another focus is cell-cell communication, in specific, how do neurons transmit signals within our body, and how does this eventually lead to eye vision?</p> <p>Classes also include a practical introduction to microscopy and theoretically expands on other microscopical methods. Additionally, each student is given the opportunity to actively work on a self-chosen topic and present it in class. As a guideline for the written exam preparation, several exercise questions are entailed to each lecture. Upon completion of this course, students will have gained a basic understanding of molecular mechanisms within eukaryotes to confidently navigate in the field of cellular biology.</p>		
Examination	Midterm exam (60 min) on 05.06. (50% of final grade) and final exam (60 min) on 22.07. (50%) and an ungraded presentation during the class.		
Recommended Reading	Bruce Alberts et al. (2015) Molecular Biology of the Cell, 6th edition (or later), Garland Science. Reading room: NT/Alb/1		

Epigenetics and Disease			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Ipek Akol and colleagues (ipek.akol@anat.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	10	00LE62S-LAS-LS0042
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II		Cell Biology and Human Physiology (required); Genetics and Epigenetics (recommended)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Times and rooms will be determined in the first session with all participants.		
Course Description	<p>This course explores the fundamental principles of epigenetics and their role in disease development. Students will gain a theoretical foundation in epigenetic mechanisms and learn how these processes contribute to various diseases. The course is divided into three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basics: Students will engage with selected review articles and supplementary digital lectures to understand core epigenetic concepts. Class discussions will encourage critical thinking and deeper exploration of the subject. ▪ Clinical Applications: Students will research a specific disease with a known epigenetic basis/component and present their findings in a short seminar. Presentations will focus on key epigenetic mechanisms involved in disease pathology and will be followed by class discussions. ▪ Experimental & Bioinformatics Workshop: A short lab rotation and a bioinformatics workshop will introduce students to experimental techniques used in epigenetics research, providing hands-on experience with data analysis and interpretation. ▪ This course combines independent study, interactive learning, and practical applications to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of epigenetics in health and disease. 		
Remarks	This is a joint class with medical students. Meeting times will be determined in the first session with the goal to accommodate the schedule of all participants. Thus, it is important that you join the first session. Time and location (probably Albertstr. 23) for the first session will be announced by email to the participants shortly before the semester starts.		
Examination	Several short (5-10min) presentations throughout the class and a final report. Submission date will be announced in the first session.		

Human Cognition and Artificial Intelligence			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Simon J. Büchner (buechner@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	22	00LE62S-LAS-LS0034
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mo, 16-18h, KG 1140 We, 16-18h, Ph HS 3 Extra date: Tu, June 3, 14-16h, Hermann-Herder-Str. 9, room 00 019/20 (joint session with the "Journalism" class)		
Course Description	<p>In this seminar, we will explore concepts of 'cognition' and 'intelligence' in humans and non-human computing systems including computers and robots. We will do this by looking at commonalities and differences between cognitive processes of humans and so-called 'Artificial Intelligence' (AI) by covering findings from psychology, cognitive neuroscience, computer science, and philosophy as well as cognitive science. After an introduction, we will address different cognitive processes including perception, memory and learning, reasoning and decision-making, language processing, and planning and problem solving by looking at the findings of classical experiments in these fields. We will then discuss to what extent it is justified to apply these concepts to processes that computers carry out. For example, we will approach questions like "How does human visual perception compare to image processing in machines?" or "How does human learning compare to machine learning?" In addition, we will consider distinctions between weak and strong AI, symbolic and sub-symbolic approaches as well as embodied and disembodied forms of AI. We may also touch upon knowledge representation, external cognition, spatial cognition, and social cognition. In the last part of the course, we will discuss how AI is currently transforming many processes in society and we will dare to have a glance at potential future developments. Teaching will be a mix of instructor presentations, student presentations, readings, and in-class exercises.</p>		
Remarks	Special class on June 3, jointly with the "Journalism" class (see above)		
Examination	Final grade: 30% presentation during the seminar + 70% persuasive essay due on 10.08.2025		
Recommended Reading	Anderson (2015): Cognitive Psychology and Its Implications. (Reading room: NT/And/1)		

Introduction to Immunology			
Life Sciences		Semester	
JunProf. Priscilla Briquez (priscilla.briquez@uniklinik-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0036
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III		Introduction to Life Sciences	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 16-18h, Ph HS 4 Thu, 16-18h, Ph HS 4		
Course Description	<p>In this class, students will start to discover how the human immune system functions in health and disease. We will discuss the different immune components, their development and functions, including the various immune cell types and the immune complement system. We will explore how the immune system can discriminate between the self and the non-self to initiate immune reactions, and will describe some of the key mechanisms involved in the regulation of immune surveillance, activation, suppression and tolerance. We will additionally provide an overview of the innate and adaptive immune responses upon infection by pathogens, in wounding, allergies, cancer, transplantation, auto-immune diseases and immunodeficiencies. These examples aim at illustrating the complexity of immune responses while providing general knowledge in these topics. Importantly, these selected topics will highlight important current health challenges and ongoing research strategies to address them. In addition to ex-cathedra lectures, the students will meet a few researchers in immunology seminars and discuss scientific papers, to sharpen their critical scientific thinking. At the end of the course, the students will present a project (1-3 students/group) proposing a strategy or a technology that modulate the immune system, as a potential therapy to a particular current health challenge of their choice.</p>		
Remarks	Introduction to Life Sciences		
Examination	Project presentation (60%) during the class and formal written exam (40%) in the last week of the semester.		
Recommended Reading	Murphy, K., & Weaver, C. (2016). Janeway's Immunobiology (9th edition). Garland Science/Taylor & Francis Group, LLC. (reading room: NT/Mur/1)		

Neuroscience: From Brain to Behaviour			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Wilf Gardner (w.gardner@tuta.io)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0037
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III		Required: Introduction to Life Sciences Recommended: Anatomy and Functions of the Brain	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, KG 1142 Wed, 10-12h, KG 1142		
Course Description	<p>The brain is one of the most complex, interesting and poorly understood objects in the universe; and perhaps the only one capable of considering itself. Little more than a kilogram of grey and white matter, the brain contains an estimated 86 billion interconnected neuronal cells and a similar number of non-neuronal cells, along with the everything that makes up an individual: their sensation and perception of the external world; their thoughts, motivations and emotions which guide the response to that perception; and the planning and execution of that response. Although references to the brain date as far back as 1600BC, and advances in technology now allow us to collect a previously unimaginable quantity of data, we still face an enormous challenge in truly understanding the nervous system and its functions.</p> <p>This course will introduce what we do know: from the cellular and molecular basis of neuronal transmission, via sensory input and motor output, to complex functions of the brain and big questions such as emotion, consciousness, and thought. From the level of individual neurons upwards, students will develop an understanding of how the form and function of the nervous system provides the biological basis of the phenomena which make us human. Students will familiarise themselves with the techniques of modern neuroscience which have brought us to our current level of understanding, and be encouraged to think about the many challenges which remain - and how we can solve them.</p> <p>The course will provide students with a foundation in the fundamentals of modern neuroscience. While rooted in biology, the course will encompass elements of varied disciplines such as psychology and philosophy, to provide students with a perspective of how neuroscience relates to the wider world. The course aims to equip students with a broad knowledge base and skills for further study, research projects or progression into related areas such as science communication.</p> <p>Classes will be in a blended format consisting of online lectures, exercises for guided individual research and in-presence seminars. The syllabus will cover neuroscience research methods, cellular and molecular neuroscience, anatomy, sensory and motor systems, and complex brain phenomena such as sleep, memory, motivation and emotion.</p>		
Examination	Exercise sheets throughout the class (30%), Presentation during class (30%), Essay due 11.08.2025 (40%).		
Recommended Reading	Purves, Dale (2017) Neuroscience (6th Edition). Fifth edition is available at the UB: TX 2020/566		

Software Development for Medical Applications			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr.-Ing. Ilias Sachpazidis (ilias.sachpazidis@uniklinik-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	15	00LE62S-LAS-LS0040
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Methods I or II (quantitative) Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic programming knowledge (preferred in Python or C#) • Recommended but not mandatory: some understanding of mathematics and physics related to medical imaging 	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Wed, 16-18h, KG 1231 Fri, 16-18h, KG 1231		
Course Description	<p>This course provides a comprehensive introduction to software development for medical applications, focusing on practical skills and theoretical knowledge essential for designing and implementing innovative medical software. Students will learn to work with C# and Python, analyse medical imaging protocols, process DICOM files, and develop software solutions for medical imaging and treatment planning. Additionally, the course will cover essential software design principles, methodologies, and best practices for building robust and scalable applications.</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop applications using C# and Python tailored for medical purposes. ▪ Understand medical imaging protocols, including DICOM standards. ▪ Read and process medical imaging data, such as CT and MRI scans, and treatment plans. ▪ Design software systems that handle dose distribution and other treatment data. ▪ Apply software design principles and methodologies to create scalable and maintainable applications. ▪ - Comprehend the ethical and regulatory considerations in medical software development. 		
Remarks	<p>Students will need to use their own computer (not tablet) or make use of the computers in the IT department (Rechenzentrum).</p> <p>Needed software (to be installed in advance):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Python 3.x with pyCharm: https://www.jetbrains.com/pycharm/ ▪ .NET Core with Vis 		
Examination	Project report, due on 25.08.2025		
Recommended Reading	<p>“Introduction to Computation and Programming Using Python, third edition: With Application to Computational Modeling and Understanding Data”, by John V. Guttag</p> <p>“The Art of Readable Code: Simple and Practical Techniques for Writing Better Code”, by Dustin Boswell</p> <p>“Adaptive Code: Agile coding with design patterns and SOLID principles”, by Gary McLean Hall</p> <p>“.NET 7 Design Patterns In-Depth: Enhance code efficiency and maintainability with .NET Design Patterns”, by Vahid Farahmandian</p> <p>- “The Pragmatic Programmer”, by David Thomas, Andrew Hunt</p>		

4.6 Study Area: Multiple

Advanced Mathematics			
ESS, Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Benoit Louvel (benoit.louvel@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LSEE0013
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Methods I or II (quantitative)		Maths and Physics (required)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 8-10h, AU 01.036a Wed 8-10h, KG 1021		
Course Description	<p>The first and main part of this course concentrates on modeling in sciences. We will for instance look at models that aim to understand and predict some thermal energy-related phenomena. Thereto, you will explore some basics in thermodynamics with a specific focus on the concept of efficiency. This is especially relevant to understand all forms of energy conversion such as the conversion of solar and biochemical energy into electricity. We will furthermore investigate and deepen scientific modeling with examples from the neurosciences.</p> <p>After the exploration of scientific modeling we will learn essential tools to create models which include approximations of functions, simple differential equations, and principles in electricity and classical mechanics.</p> <p>The second and minor part of this course expands on cryptography, building upon themes introduced in the basic course on Maths and Physics. Additionally, we will study the concept of proof illustrated through examples and paradoxes to deepen our understanding of mathematical reasoning.</p> <p>This course builds upon some groundwork laid in the basic course Maths and Physics.</p>		
Examination	Pass/fail (SL): 02.07.2025 Graded assignments (PL): oral presentation during the class and a report due on 31.07.2025		

Biotechnology			
Life Sciences, ESS		Semester	
Dr. Christoph Howe (C.Howe@gmx.net)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LSEE0008
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III, Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II, Specialization Option: ESS I or II,		"Foundational Chemistry" or "Environmental Chemistry" (one required)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, KG 1234 Wed 10-12h, KG 1234 and several excursions (cf. section "Remarks" below)		
Course Description	<p>Within the field of Biotechnology researchers as well as engineers find biological solutions for a wide variety of processes, products or challenges that human mankind faces. The subfields of Biotechnology are often categorized by a specific colour code in which red refers to medical or pharmaceutical products that often are produced by genetically engineered yeast or bacterial cells; green biotechnology utilizes photosynthetic cells such as plants, algae or even cyanobacteria to generate a range of products such as colorants or feedstock; brown biotechnology is dedicated to environmental protection and the restoration of habitats that suffer from chemical disasters or pollution; etc.</p> <p>Many biotechnological successes such as large-scale production of citric acid as a food preservative, insulin for diabetes treatment or the taste flavour glutamate originate from the expanding knowledge in genetic engineering, thorough biological observation and technical innovation. Undoubtedly, our nowadays life is strongly impacted by biotechnological advances whenever we are washing our clothes, buying groceries or go to see a doctor.</p> <p>The course contains a short repetition of microbiological and biochemical knowledge, an in-depth overview of red (pharmaceutical), blue (marine), brown (environmental), green (photosynthetic organisms) and white (industrial, enzyme-based) biotechnology as well as multiple excursions to a biotechnological sites in and around Freiburg (planned is sewage plant, brewery and eleva gmbH, biogas facility, p3 Werkstatt).</p>		
Remarks	<p>Excursions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 02.05: Ganter Brauerei, 15:00-16:00 ▪ 07.05: Forchheim sewage plant, 07:45-13:00 ▪ 16.05: Reterra biogas facility, 14:00-16:00 ▪ 23.05: P3 Hydroponics (tbc) ▪ 30.05: Eleva GmbH, 14:00-16:00 <p>Note, participation in all excursions is mandatory. Make sure you have no other obligations during these dates.</p>		
Examination	Oral presentation (30% of final grade) during the class (06.-16.07.) and written report (70% of final grade) on a biotechnological process due on 15.08.2025.		
Recommended Reading	Renneberg, Berkling, Loroach & Sussbier (2017) Biotechnology for Beginners (2nd ed.) Electronically available through the UB: https://www.redi-bw.de/start/unifr/EBooks-elsevier/9780128012246		

Creating a Sustainable Organization			
ESS, Governance		Semester	
Dr. Christopher Wills (christopherallenwills@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0021
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Human and the Environment I and II Specialization ESS I and II Specialization Option Governance		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 15-19h, BT 105		
Course Description	<p>Should businesses be concerned with climate change? You probably think, yes they should! Indeed, many organisations are not only responsible on a large scale for climate change but they will also be affected negatively by a changing climate. Why is the transformation to more sustainable organisations so problematic then? In this course you will learn how to introduce sustainable development goals into institutions of any type, so that they create long term value for stakeholders. The ambition discussed will be based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals framework and we also will cover current EU and US legislation. By breaking down organisations into linked components, you will learn how to take action to protect economic, natural and social capital, overcome common barriers to change and to anchor success. The course concludes with each of you producing a blueprint to structure an organisation of your choice to meet the demands of the circular economy. Thus, the primary aim of the course is that you will be able to structure and enact lasting changes in environmental, social and governance policy within any organisation.</p> <p>After the completing the course, you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply the concepts of financial, natural and human/social capital to an organisation of your choice ▪ Evaluate the United Nations 17 'Sustainable Development Goals' designed to address the threats to capital and identify appropriate goals for organisations ▪ Understand the United Nations (UNFCCC), EU and US climate goals and how to embed and evaluate sustainability in an organisation through governance and integrated reporting ▪ Analyse, link and sustainably improve the constituent elements of organisations to describe how they function, using the concept of 'Business Models' ▪ Evaluate and apply established techniques for overcoming common human and structural barriers to change in organisations ▪ Present a final written proposal to make your chosen organisation more sustainable 		
Examination	<p>Week 5: 30% Discuss the use of economic, natural and social capital of your chosen organisation and explain why the organisation has obligations to stakeholders (guideline 1,000 words, due 23.05.)</p> <p>Week 10: 70% Written business model proposal per student</p>		
Recommended Reading	<p>Usha Iyer-Raniga 2019 Using the ReSOLVE framework for circularity in the building and construction industry in emerging markets IOP Conf. Ser.: Earth Environ. Sci. 294 012002</p> <p>Lüdeke-Freund F. Sustainable entrepreneurship, innovation, and business models: Integrative framework and propositions for future research. Bus Strat Env. 2020;29:665–681. https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.239</p>		

Emancipation through Theory? Early Frankfurt School Critical Theory			
Culture & History, Governance		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Frieder Vogelmann (frieder.vogelmann@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0019
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Philosophy Culture and History I, II, or III Specialization Option Governance		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 10-12h, AU 01.036a Thu, 10-12h, Ph HS 2		
Course Description	<p>This seminar will introduce students to early Frankfurt School Critical Theory and its subsequent developments. While a comprehensive overview is impossible in just one semester, we will cover a mixture of canonical and less well-known topics relevant for the contemporary debates in critical theory. The seminar will focus four core aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) We will begin with the most famous inaugural texts by Max Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno in which they set out the shape and ambition of critical theory in the 1930s and 1940s. (2) Since critical theory aims to intertwine philosophy and the social sciences, we will investigate a few topics and concepts particularly important to critical theory's interdisciplinary social theory and the resulting critical diagnosis, especially authority, ideology, and emancipation. (3) We will discuss more recent developments of Frankfurt School Critical Theory since the 1970s, in particular the communicative turn advanced by Jürgen Habermas and the theory of recognition put forward by Axel Honneth. In addition, we will briefly look at the work of some contemporary representatives of Frankfurt School critical theory like Rahel Jaeggi, Robin Celikates or Nancy Fraser. (4) In the last weeks of the seminar, we will turn to the topics of authoritarianism, right-wing extremism and fascism to explore the relevance of critical theory for today. 		
Remarks	Although the seminar is aimed at beginners, reading and comprehending the texts will require patience and effort. While quick success is not guaranteed, a lasting loss of naiveté certainly is—enlightenment and partial emancipation by theory might follow.		
Examination	<p><i>Pass/Fail Exam:</i> Regular and active attendance. Furthermore, students must participate in the moderation of two sessions, prepared in small groups.</p> <p><i>Graded Exam:</i> The final assessment is a term paper (3,000–4,000 words) due by 15.09.2025 (as an electronic copy only). Students must discuss the topic with the instructor before they start writing. – For philosophy students who need more than 6 ECTS, the term paper becomes 1,000 words longer for every ECTS point (e.g. 5,000–6,000 words for 8 ECTS).</p>		
Recommended Reading	<p>Adorno, Theodor W. (2020 [1967]): Aspects of the New Right-Wing Extremism. Translated by Wieland Hoban. Cambridge: Polity.</p> <p>Bronner, Stephen Eric (2017): Critical Theory: A Very Short Introduction. 2nd ed. OUP</p> <p>Fraser, Nancy and Rahel Jaeggi (2018): Capitalism. A Conversation in Critical Theory. Ed. by Brian Milstein. Cambridge/Medford, MA: Polity.</p> <p>Habermas, Jürgen (2024): »Es musste etwas besser werden ...« Gespräche mit Stefan Müller-Doohm und Roman Yos. Berlin: Suhrkamp.</p> <p>Horkheimer, Max (2002 [1937]): Traditional and Critical Theory. In: idem., Critical Theory. Selected Essays. New York: The Continuum Publishing Company, 188–243.</p>		

Energy & Climate Policy			
ESS, Governance		Semester	
Dr. Sibylle Braungardt (s.braungardt@oeko.de) Dr. Veit Bürger (v.buerger@oeko.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS20-EEGO0014
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Human and the Environment I or II Specialization ESS I or II Specialization Option Governance		Introduction to Earth and Environmental Sciences / Introduction to Governance	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 8-10h, AU 01.065 Wed, 8-10h, Ph HS 1		
Course Description	The transition towards an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system is one of the key challenges the world is facing today. The course focuses on the dynamics of energy transitions and the role of public policy in shaping such processes. The content of the course is inherently interdisciplinary, focusing on the economic, social, technological and environmental challenges related to energy transitions. The students get familiar with the basic concepts and tools of energy analysis, focusing on the needs of energy policy decision-makers. The course covers a diverse set of policy instruments and strategies to support energy transition processes and discusses their effectiveness, efficiency and equitability.		
Remarks	EES/ESS students have priority		

Environmental Footprint Accounting: Theory, Tools and Methods			
ESS, Governance		Semester	
Dr. Hanna Helander (hanna.helander@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0023
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Methods I or II Specialization ESS I or II Specialization Option Governance		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, AU 01036a Wed, 14-16h, KG 1019		
Course Description	<p>Research, industry, and policy stakeholders frequently present various claims regarding the environmental footprints of products, sectors, and other entities. This course aims to illuminate the concept of consumption footprints by examining their implications, the methodologies behind their calculation, and their relevance to sustainability. Adopting a systems perspective, we will analyze and evaluate the resource extraction, emissions, and environmental impacts linked to the production and consumption of goods and services. Specifically, students will explore and apply consumption-based accounting methods—commonly referred to as footprints—across both micro and macro scales, and we will discuss how these methods relate to diverse aspects of sustainability. The course will introduce two practical tools: (1) Life Cycle Assessment (for micro-scale assessments) and (2) Multi-Regional Input-Output Assessment (for macro-scale assessments). Additionally, students will conduct a minor footprint analysis using Excel or R, which allows for hands-on experience in applying these methodologies.</p> <p>Guest lectures by Robert Gundlach (City of Freiburg) and Dr. Arthur Jakobs (Paul Scherrer Institut PSI, Switzerland).</p>		
Examination	Pass/Fail assignments: Submission of mandatory exercises. Graded assignments: Presentation of study design in class, June 30th or July 2nd (30%) and written report (70%) due 15.08. or 04.08. (early deadline for students graduating in the summer).		
Recommended Reading	<p>Hoekstra, Arjen Y.; Wiedmann, Thomas O. (2014): Humanity's unsustainable environmental footprint. In <i>Science</i> (New York, N.Y.) 344 (6188), pp. 1114–1117. DOI: 10.1126/science.1248365.</p> <p>Liu, Jianguo; Mooney, Harold; Hull, Vanessa; Davis, Steven J.; Gaskell, Joanne; Hertel, Thomas et al. (2015): Sustainability. Systems integration for global sustainability. In <i>Science</i> (New York, N.Y.) 347 (6225), p. 1258832. DOI: 10.1126/science.1258832.</p>		

Ethnography: Exploring Worlds Within Worlds			
Culture & History, ESS		Semester	
Dr. Ana Clara Alves De Oliveira (ana.clara.alves@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHEE0008
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Culture: Peoples and Practices Culture & History I, II, or III Human and the Environment I or II Methods II (ESS)		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 10-12h, AU Reading Room Thu, 10-12h, Universitätsst. 5, HS 2		
Course Description	<p>Political crises, environmental challenges, and migration processes are transforming societies and shaping new forms of social engagement. Ethnography is a powerful method for understanding these social scenarios on both local and transnational scales. In this course, we will study the history of ethnography, explore various contexts where it can be applied, and learn different approaches to ethnographic practice. Classes are designed to be dynamic, incorporating readings, group discussions, ethnographic walks, and audiovisual resources. We will explore ethnographic studies from diverse global contexts—ranging from Indigenous communities in South America and industrial labor in Asia to everyday digital culture—learning how to apply these tools to analyze social situations close to us. The course objective is to introduce students to the ethnographic method, providing training to apply it in their projects and research. In parallel, students will develop their own ethnographic project and present it at the end of the course. Additionally, the course aims to guide students toward a deeper understanding of the concept of culture, and what it means to live in a world within worlds. The course content is valuable for students in any academic field and requires no prior knowledge of anthropology or ethnographic methods.</p>		
Examination	24.07.2025		

Journalism			
All Majors		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Sabine Rollberg (srollberg@t-online.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHEEGOLS0001
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile		Prerequisites for senior modules apply.	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	<p>Seminar and workshops: Mon, 14-16, Medienzentrum, Schulungsraum 2 (MÜR), 3rd floor Tue, 14-16, Medienzentrum, Schulungsraum 2 (MÜR), 3rd floor Extra dates (at Medienübungsraum 2 (MÜR 2), 3rd floor): 12.05. (Group 1) or 13.05. (Group 2), 14-18 26.05. (Group 1) or 27.05. (Group 2), 14-18 16.06. (Group 1) or 17.06. (Group 2), 14-18 07.07. (Group 1) or 08.07. (Group 2), 14-18</p>		
Course Description	<p>Independent investigative journalism has never been more important than today, when the world is more and more complex. Yet the threats against it are widespread. Many groups target “the media” as enemy, the slogan “fake news” has more and more entered the daily language and the erosion of traditional media business models makes it difficult to finance independent journalism. This course pushes back against these trends by introducing a new generation into journalistic thinking, working and writing. Students eager to test this professional world will learn to distinguish between academic and journalistic language, will examine journalistic principles, will explore journalistic genres (political, cultural, science, PR) and will practice production in different media (print, radio, TV, online) We start with basics like writing news and then explore other forms like reportage, portraits, etc. The final project will be a video “Magazine” as a group project, with contributions from each student drawn from their research interest in whatever field. This course includes training in camera and editing work in preparation for the final project. Experts from print, radio and television, working as investigative reporters, war journalists or cultural experts will be invited to share their theoretical knowledge and practical experiences. Students will help prepare these visits and evaluate what they learn from journalistic experts.</p>		
Remarks	<p>This course mixes seminar style learning with project based learning. Students will be encouraged to write their own blog. These articles can also be written in German. Some literature will be in German, so reading knowledge of German is recommended. However, no part of the grade will depend on German, and non-German-speakers are entirely welcome to participate. There will be an opportunity for individual and group consultations a few times in the semester. Students should plan significant time in January / February 2025 completing the final project, the “magazine.”</p>		

Memory, Violence and Justice. Comparative Perspectives from Europe & Latin America			
Governance, Culture & History, Elective		Semester	
Dr. Eric Heine (eric.heine@alumni.eui.eu), Dr. Julieta Mira (julieta.mira@yahoo.com.ar)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0018
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option Governance Specialization Option Culture & History Senior Profile Culture & History		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon 16-18h KG 1019 Wed 16-18h KG 1139		
Course Description	<p>Collective memories shape group identities and notions of justice. They also play a constitutive role in the formation of domestic cleavages and the political transformation of contemporary societies across the globe. This co-taught course will introduce you to current debates in the field of collective memory studies from a European and Latin American perspective. The course is divided into two parts. Please note that the second part will be offered online by Prof. Julieta Mira from Buenos Aires, Argentina.</p> <p>The first part will focus on developments, ruptures, and variations of European collective memories. Students will learn about central concepts and approaches in the field of collective memory studies and differentiate between social, political and cultural forms of collective memory. Case studies will include collective memories of (civil) war and colonial violence in selected European countries. Special emphasis will be put on transnational and postcolonial approaches and debates.</p> <p>The second part of the course will focus on the special expression of collective memories in the struggles and activism against serious human rights violations, such as the dictatorships in Latin America in the 1970s and 1980s. Case studies will include the disappearances and tortures that took place during the dictatorship in Argentina (1976-1983) and the social struggle for "Memoria, Verdad y Justicia", state crimes and massacres in Brazil, and the disappeared students from Ayotzinapa in Mexico (2014).</p> <p>Upon successful completion of the module, students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify and compare the main theoretical and methodological approaches used in the field of collective memory studies. ▪ Understand how collective memories shape current political conflicts. ▪ Analyze the interconnection between cultural memory and political identity. ▪ Compare research and cases studies across regions. ▪ Plan, organize and complete an independent research project of limited scale. ▪ Develop academic integrity and apply ethical guidelines in carrying out independent research. 		
Remarks	Sessions 11-20 are held online. It is possible to be fully online in the second part of the course.		
Examination	Oral presentation 20%, and two graded written assignments 80%. Two essays (2,500-3,500 words each: 1st essay due by 31.05.2025 and 2nd essay due by 08.08.2025.		
Recommended Reading	<p>Astrid Erll (2011) 'Travelling Memory', <i>Parallax</i> 17: 4, pp. 4-18.</p> <p>Francesca Lessa (2013) <i>Memory and Transitional Justice in Argentina and Uruguay: Against Impunity</i>, Chapter 1: Theoretical Framework. Critical Junctures, Transitional Justice, and Memory Narratives. Palgrave Macmillan, New York.</p>		

Social Media Marketing			
All Majors		Semester	
Dr. Israel Olusegun Ogundeji (olusegun.is@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	4	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHEEGOLS0006
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profiles (PL or SL only)		Senior Profile prerequisites apply.	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Online Seminar Tue, 18-20h		
Course Description	<p>The SMM course offers an engaging, seminar-style introduction to the principles and practices of social media marketing. The class is designed to explore key platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X, LinkedIn, TikTok, and YouTube, diving into platform-specific attributes, audience demographics, and effective campaign strategies. Students will learn to create comprehensive SMM plans, set SMART objectives, and define target audiences through persona creation and audience research. A significant focus will be placed on crafting engaging content, including text, images, videos, live streams, and user-generated content (UGC) while organizing content planning with social media calendars.</p> <p>Delivered through a combination of interactive lectures, discussions, brainstorming sessions, collaborative group projects, and peer feedback, the course fosters a dynamic learning environment. By actively engaging in these methods, students will develop critical skills to create and implement impactful SMM campaigns focusing on platform-specific strategies, clear objectives, and audience insights, and leverage analytics to optimize campaigns and measure success.</p> <p>Course structure: Each week of the course will focus on equipping students with the foundational knowledge and practical skills necessary to navigate the ever-evolving social media landscape and pursue professional opportunities in social media marketing.</p>		
Remarks	<p>The course is oriented toward senior students.</p> <p>Students can take the course in parallel to a course on <i>Journalism</i> or on its own. There is an option to take it with or without a grade (pass/fail).</p>		
Examination	<p>Students are required to attend class and actively participate in the discussion and group work.</p> <p>Each topical student group has to prepare a presentation on a specific topic during the semester, while individual students develop a full social media marketing campaign for a chosen brand as their final project. Submission deadline: 19.07.2025.</p>		
Recommended Reading	<p>Chapter One from <i>The Social media bible: tactics, tools, and strategies for business success</i> / by Lon Safko and David Brake (2009).</p>		

Storytelling: Methods and Applications			
Governance, Culture & History, ESS (no Electives)		Semester	
Dr. Israel Olusegun Ogundeji (olusegun.is@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHEEGO0005
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Methods II (ESS) Culture and History I, II, or III Advanced Governance I or II Methods (Governance)		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue 16-18h online and at Ph 1 Thu 16-18h online and at KG 1236		
Course Description	<p>This course explores the art and science of storytelling, emphasizing its pivotal role in forging emotional connections, shaping perceptions, influencing behavior, and driving strategic success. Students will learn essential storytelling techniques, develop the ability to craft compelling narratives that resonate with diverse audiences, and explore ways to apply these skills to real-world strategies in leadership, marketing, social advocacy, and organizational communication.</p> <p>The course covers foundational storytelling principles, practical skills for targeted messaging, and key narrative frameworks such as the three-act structure. Students will also explore how to align storytelling with SMART goals, create purpose-driven narratives rooted in identity and values, and develop visually engaging content tailored to specific organizational and individual objectives.</p> <p>Key areas of focus include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Storytelling for influence: How stories shape public perception and decision-making ▪ Speechwriting and public speaking: Crafting compelling speeches with narrative impact ▪ Data-driven and digital storytelling: Leveraging social media to engage audiences across platforms ▪ Cultural and ethical considerations: Ensuring credibility, transparency, and trust in an era of misinformation ▪ The course prioritizes active student participation through discussions, case studies, interactive exercises, collaborative learning, and peer feedback. By the end of the course, students will have the knowledge and skills to develop and execute storytelling-driven campaigns with measurable impact. 		
Remarks	<p>This course is offered online, with a few in-person meetings. Taking the course fully online is not possible.</p> <p>Governance students have priority.</p>		
Examination	<p>Students' attendance and active participation in discussions and group activities is mandatory. Students will work in groups on collaborative storytelling exercises.</p> <p>As a final project, each student will develop a comprehensive storytelling campaign, applying course concepts to a real-world scenario, submitted by 19.07.2025.</p>		

Studying Conflicts with Historical and Interpretive Research Methods			
Governance, Culture & History		Semester	
Dr. Eric Heine (eric.heine@alumni.eui.eu)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0015
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Research in an Area of Governance Specialization Option I or II Culture and History Senior Profile Culture and History		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 16-18h AU 01065 Thu 16-18h AU 01065		
Course Description	<p>The study of violent conflicts and civil wars have long been the purview of historians and political scientists. This course is designed for students whose research interests or intellectual curiosity incline them toward a non-naturalistic, that is, interpretive political science. The purpose is to enable students to present interpretive research findings to a general audience of political scientists with a sense of intellectual confidence. The course offers a methodologically pluralist introduction to interpretive and historical methods in the field of conflict studies.</p> <p>Debates in class and group projects will include systematic and critical discussion of the work of important scholars covering a wide range of disciplinary as well as theoretical backgrounds such as hermeneutics, discourse analysis, interpretive ethnography and reflexive historical analysis.</p> <p>If you are interested doing research that emphasises the centrality of context and meaning and that engages the past, this course will enable you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify and compare the main theoretical and methodological approaches used in the field of interpretive and historical social research. ▪ Situate your interest in interpretive and historical methods in the field of conflict studies. ▪ Apply a specific theoretical and methodological approach in an individual or group project. ▪ Articulate and justify key methodological assumptions of your own approach to interpretation and the past. ▪ Produce a research paper corresponding to disciplinary standards including the justification and evaluation of the applied theoretical and methodological approach. ▪ Increase the ability to integrate knowledge from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts. ▪ Develop academic integrity and apply ethical guidelines in carrying out independent research. 		
Examination	Written assignments (up to 6,000 words) - 80% and oral presentation (up to 25 minutes) - 20%. In class presentation and discussion of your research proposal; a research design focusing on a particular method that will provide the basis for your research paper to be submitted by 08.08.2025.		
Recommended Reading	<p>Carolyn Nordstrom (ed.) (2009) <i>Fieldwork Under Fire. Contemporary Studies of Violence and Survival</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press.</p> <p>Dvora Yanow and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea (ed.) (2015) <i>Interpretation and Method. Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn</i>, second edition. New York and London: Routledge.</p>		

Sustainable Mobilities – Theories and Policies of Mobilities' Transformations			
Governance, ESS		Semester	
Dr. Rafael Labanino (labaninorp@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0020
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Governance I or II Human and the Environment I or II Specialization ESS I or II		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Wed 12-14h online and at KG 1032 Thu 12-14h online and at AU 01065		
Course Description	<p>Transport emits 1/4 of all greenhouse gas emissions globally. In the EU, it is the biggest source of emissions. Whereas emissions are decreasing in every other sector, in transport they keep increasing.</p> <p>Transport also causes air pollution, noise pollution and habitat fragmentation. Highway-like roads in settlements lead to segregation, the disappearance of inner-city community and commercial spaces. Motorised transport severely constrains any other forms of mobility.</p> <p>A fundamental change in transport policy is needed. However, this task is not simply technological: technological change itself does little to address the fundamental societal problems of mobilities, such as unequal access, risk, mobility culture, or the demand for mobility. This seminar suggests to use the framework of sustainable mobilities instead of talking in terms of transport policy. Environmental, societal and cultural aspects of mobility are all integral parts of sustainable mobilities. Here, mobility is not an individual right for the fastest possible individual mobility, but as a societal good. Mobility is also seen in its social dimension.</p> <p>Indeed, a true sustainable transition in traffic can only be achieved through a complex web of intertwined policy-mix from investments in public transport, modal, infrastructural policies, urban design, and cultural change. Moreover, societal participation and deliberative processes involving citizens in urban, traffic and infrastructural policy decisions are necessary conditions too.</p> <p>The seminar will address the main theoretical frameworks of socio-technical transitions in general, and sustainable mobilities in particular, along with research papers. In the second half of the semester, we will concentrate on mobilities and practical applications.</p>		
Remarks	The course will mainly take place online, with some sessions happening in presence (attendance of these sessions is mandatory). It is not possible to take the whole course online.		
Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reading the required texts and active participation in the discussions; ▪ Presentation: 30% of the grade – presenters will formulate questions for the seminar and co-lead the discussion (the presentation topics distributed in the 1st week); ▪ Seminar paper: 70% of the final grade (between 4000-5000 words excluding references). Final deadline: 15.08.2025. 		

The Spatial Construction of Peace: Resource Conflicts, Resistance and Environmental Justice			
ESS, Governance		Semester	
Dr. Fabricio Rodriguez (fabricio.rodriguez@abi.uni-freiburg.de) Dr. Viviana García Pinzón (viviana.garcia.pinzon@politik.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0022
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Human and the Environment I or II Specialization ESS I or II Specialization Option Governance		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 16-18h, AU 01036a Wed, 16-18h, AU 01036a		
Course Description	<p>This course explores the urban-rural dimensions of resistance and protest emerging from resource conflicts, climate injustice, and social inequality. As cities drive the global transition to renewable energy, their reliance on critical minerals like copper, lithium, and cobalt creates spatial and social tensions with rural spaces. These minerals, essential for technologies such as solar panels, electric vehicles, and data infrastructures, are often extracted in rural or conflict-prone regions. This uneven geography of resource extraction and consumption exacerbates socio-economic disparities, linking urban demand and dynamics of protest to global injustices.</p> <p>Focusing on urban protest movements and their role in resisting the systemic inequalities of resource governance, the course examines how cities become central to struggles for environmental and social justice. From anti-mining demonstrations to urban climate marches, students will analyze the ways urban communities mobilize against extractivism, challenge policies, and demand equitable solutions to climate change. The course highlights the interplay between rural resource struggles and urban activism, illustrating how these dynamics shape global resistance networks.</p> <p>Drawing on environmental justice literature and case studies, students will critically assess how urban spaces can amplify or mitigate the conflicts tied to renewable energy transitions. The seminar adopts a research-oriented, collaborative approach, encouraging participants to engage with the complexities of building equitable and sustainable futures. By centering urban dynamics, the course seeks to uncover the potential of cities to serve as arenas for transformative resistance and pathways toward climate justice.</p>		
Remarks	This class includes a block seminar (workshop format) at Arnold Bergstraesser Institute (ABI) in Freiburg on 19-20 July 2025 (Saturday ad Sunday).		
Examination	<p>Studienleistung (SL, pass/fail assessment): Regular attendance, compulsory reading, active participation</p> <p>Prüfungsleistung (PL, graded assessment): 15 min presentation (25%), individual term paper (75%) due 30.09./08.08.2025 (early deadline for students graduating in the summer).</p>		

5 Courses of other Degree programs

5.1 Study Area: Wissenschaft, Technologie, Gesellschaft

The Bicycle			
WTG		Semester	
Dr. Nicholas Buchanan (nicholas.buchanan@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-WTG-002401
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile Culture & History		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Wed, 12-14h, KG 1234		
Course Description	<p>This course is an homage to and intensive engagement with a ubiquitous and deceptively simple technology: the bicycle. It offers students the opportunity to explore the bicycle in an interdisciplinary fashion by looking at the history and cultural symbolism of the bicycle, technological transformations of the bicycle over the past two centuries, social scientific works on bicycles, and the science and engineering involved in getting the wheels to turn and the rider to stay riding. In examining these points, we will also uncover how societies shape technologies and vice versa. Throughout this short course, we will be hosting a number of guest speakers; read, watch, and listen to bicycle-related content; and have a hands-on maintenance session for beginners. Several excursions are planned. Participants do not need to own a bicycle or be able to ride a bike.</p>		
Remarks	Course registration will be possible in periods 2 and 3.		
Examination	Final project and oral presentation, attendance.		

5.2 Study Area: Culture and History

Feministische Erkenntnistheorien			
Culture & History		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Frieder Vogelmann (frieder.vogelmann@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	0	06LE32HS-25195
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option Culture & History I or II Senior Profile Culture & History		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 14-16h, KG 1016		
Course Description	<p>Feministische Erkenntnistheorie benennt ein weites Feld von Epistemologien, die bei allen Unterschieden drei Gemeinsamkeiten haben: Erstens gehen sie davon aus, dass epistemische Phänomene – Überzeugungen, Wissen, Rechtfertigungen usw. – situiert sind, d.h. eingebettet in soziale Praktiken und nicht einfach von diesen ablösbar. Im Gegensatz zu traditionellen Erkenntnistheorien verbieten sich daher beispielsweise Definitionen von Wissen, die ein generisches, abstraktes Subjekt voraussetzen.</p> <p>Zweitens interessieren sich feministische Epistemologien insbesondere für die Rolle von Gendernormen auf epistemische Phänomene, also welchen Einfluss Geschlecht als Sozialkategorie auf Wissenspraktiken hat. Dabei sehen feministische Erkenntnistheorien Gender als intersektional.</p> <p>Drittens geht es feministischen Epistemologien sowohl um die Kritik androzentrischer Annahmen und sexistischer Diskriminierungen in der Wissensproduktion (und unserem Verständnis davon) als auch um Verbesserungen, weshalb viele feministische Epistemologien Vorschläge für alternative Wissenspraktiken unterbreiten.</p> <p>Im Seminar werden wir die Genese feministischer Erkenntnistheorien seit den 1980er Jahren nachvollziehen, und uns mittlerweile fest etablierte Grundlagenbegriffe sowie aktuelle Diskussionen im Feld erschließen.</p>		
Examination	<p>Ohne regelmäßiges Erscheinen ist keine zusammenhängende Diskussion über die Seminarsitzungen hinweg möglich, die gemeinsame Arbeit im Seminar hängt daher der regelmäßigen aktiven Mitarbeit aller Studierenden ab. Zur aktiven Teilnahme gehört erstens das gründliche Lesen der für die jeweilige Sitzung angegebenen Pflichtlektüre und die Beteiligung an der Diskussion im Seminar. Zweitens müssen Sie die Diskussionsleitung in zwei Sitzungen übernehmen, die in kleinen Gruppen vorbereitet wird.</p> <p>Darüber hinaus müssen Sie eine Hausarbeit von ca. 10–15 Seiten (für 8 ECTS bei SL oder PL) bzw. 15–20 Seiten (für 10 ECTS bei SL oder PL) schreiben (1½-zeilig, 12pt, reiner Textumfang). Das Thema muss vorab abgesprochen werden; Abgabetermin ist der 15.09.2025.</p>		
Recommended Reading	<p>Harding, Sandra (Hrsg.) (2004 [1996]): The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader. Intellectual and Political Controversies. New York, London: Routledge.</p> <p>Hausen, Karin und Helga Nowotny (Hrsg.) (1986): Wie männlich ist die Wissenschaft? Frankfurt a. M.: Suhrkamp.</p> <p>Hoppe, Katharina und Frieder Vogelmann (Hrsg.) (2024): Feministische Epistemologien. Ein Reader. Berlin: Suhrkamp.</p> <p>Scheich, Elvira (Hrsg.) (1996): Vermittelte Weiblichkeit. Feministische Wissenschafts- und Gesellschaftstheorie. Hamburg: Hamburger Edition.</p> <p>Tanesini, Alessandra (1999): An Introduction to Feminist Epistemologies. Oxford: Blackwell.</p>		

Gaze-Theorien. Inszenierungen des Blicks			
Culture & History			
Prof. Dr. Marcus Stiglegger (marcus.stiglegger@mkw.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
		30	05LE54S-397
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option I or II Senior Profile Culture and History		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar, Wed 10-12h HS 1108		
Course Description	<p>In den Medienwissenschaften und im Journalismus ist die Rede vom ‚Male Gaze‘ als einem kritischen Ansatz weit verbreitet. Doch gibt es wirklich nur diesen einen Blick in den Medien? Ist die Inszenierung audiovisueller Medieninhalte nicht sehr komplex und vielseitig? Müsste man daher nicht von zahlreichen Gazes ausgehen?</p> <p>Das Seminar wird ausgehend von einer Reevaluation des Gründungstextes von Laura Mulvey („Visual pleasure and narrative cinema“) zunächst an klassischen Beispielen diskutieren, wie der von ihr benannte und kritisierte ‚Male Gaze‘ tatsächlich inszeniert wird. Anschließend werden klassische und aktuelle Beispiele aus Film, Werbung und Musikvideo daraufhin untersucht, welche Blickstrategien hier zu finden sind.</p> <p>Spätestens mit der Diskussion um Céline Sciammas „Porträt einer jungen Frau in Flammen“ wird auch von einem ‚Female Gaze‘ gesprochen – auch wenn es dafür bislang keine klare Definition gibt. Auch dieser Ansatz soll im Seminar diskutiert werden, mit Blick auf weitere Gazes wie: Queer Gaze, Indigenous Gaze, Surveillance Gaze, Seductive Gaze usw.</p> <p>Nicht zu allen Aspekten gibt es bereits Forschungsliteratur. Daher ist dieses Seminar forschungsbasiert und erfordert ein großes Eigenengagement und Interesse von den Teilnehmenden.</p>		
Recommended Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mulvey, Laura: Visual pleasure and narrative cinema. In: Screen 16,3, 1975, S. 6-18; seitenidentisch auch unter http://www.bbk.ac.uk/hafvm/staff_research/visual1.html [mehrfach nachgedruckt, zuletzt in: The feminism and visual culture reader. Ed. by Amelia Jones, London: Routledge 2003, S. 44-52]; dt.: Visuelle Lust und narratives Kino. In: Texte zur Theorie des Films. Hrsg. v. Franz-Josef Albersmeier. Stuttgart: Reclam, 4. Aufl. 2001, S. 389-408 [u.a]. ▪ Kaplan, E. Ann: Women and Film: Both Sides of the Camera. New York: Methuen 1983. ▪ Mayne, Judith: Cinema and Spectatorship. London: Routledge 1993. ▪ Mulvey, Laura: Visual and Other Pleasures. Bloomington: Indiana University Press 1989. ▪ Neale, Steve: Masculinity as Spectacle. In: Cohan, Steven & Hark, Ina Rae (Hg.): Screening the male. Exploring masculinities in Hollywood Cinema. London. New York: Routledge 1993, S. 9-20. Zuerst in Screen 24,6, 1983. Zahlr. Nachdr. ▪ Stiglegger, Marcus: Film als Medium der Verführung, Wiesbaden 2022 		

Mediale Bilder indigener Kulturen			
Culture & History		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Marcus Stiglegger (marcus.stiglegger@mkw.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
		35	05LE54S-391
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Culture: Peoples and Practices Culture and History I, II, III		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon 16-18h c.t. HS 1016		
Course Description	<p>2022 kam es zu einer bundesweiten Diskussion, als der Ravensburger Kinderbuchverlag das Buch zum Film „Der junge Häuptling Winnetou“ aufgrund des Vorwurfs der „cultural appropriation“ freiwillig aus dem Programm nahm. Die Diskussion jedoch skandalisierte die Entscheidung, was zu populistischen Fragen führte wie: „Darf man noch Winnetou sehen?“ „Darf man noch Indianer sagen?“</p> <p>Diese Diskussion um „appropriation“ und „cancelling“ erfordert allerdings eine eingehende Beschäftigung mit den diskutierten Phänomenen: Wie wird das Bild indigener Kulturen in populären Medien wie Theater, Film, Literatur, Musikvideo, Games etc. letztlich konstruiert? Was hat sich seit dem Zeitalter des „Exotismus“ (dem 19. Jh.) verändert? Welche Paradigmenwechsel gab es?</p> <p>Das Seminar wird nah an Beispielen diese medienkulturwissenschaftlich relevanten Fragestellungen diskutieren, unterschiedliche Perspektiven aufzeigen und Schlüsselbegriffe klären. Mit unterschiedlichen ethnologischen, kulturwissenschaftlichen und medienanalytischen Ansätzen wird es möglich, einen solchen Diskurs kritisch zu differenzieren.</p>		

Plattform-Pop. Populäre Musik in algorithmisierten Medienumgebungen			
Culture & History		Semester	
PD Dr. Christofer Cornelius Jost (christofer.jost@zpkm.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
		30	05LE54S-390
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Culture: Arts Culture and History I, II, III		None	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Wed, 12-14h c.t., Rosastraße 17-19 Vortragsraum		
Course Description	<p>Digitale Plattformen wie YouTube, TikTok und Spotify gehören zu den dominanten Einflussgrößen des musikkulturellen Lebens im 21. Jahrhundert. Sie schaffen – wie Medien allgemein – Wahrnehmungsanlässe, steuern die Art und Weise, wie Menschen in Kontakt miteinander treten und sich austauschen, und formen damit spezifische Erfahrungsräume und Verhaltensbereiche aus. Angesichts ihrer spezifischen Beschaffenheit, die wesentlich durch Algorithmen und KI sowie durch eine multimodale Benutzeroberfläche bestimmt wird, heben sich Plattformen in erheblichem Maße von älteren Medien ab. Muskschaffende müssen sich in der einen oder anderen Form mit den für einzelne Plattformen charakteristischen Präsentationsformaten auseinandersetzen und versuchen, die Logik der algorithmischen Filterung zu verstehen, um die Sichtbarkeit ihrer Inhalte zu erhöhen; einschlägige Studien ordnen derlei Vorgänge einer „Optimierung“ musikalischer Produkte für den Plattformgebrauch zu. Rezeptionsseitig zeigt sich, dass die Musik selbst, die textlichen Äußerungen der/des Nutzenden über einzelne Musikstücke und das individuelle Nutzungsverhalten, insbesondere die Kontexte der Nutzung (Tageszeit, Ort, Anlass), in quantifizierbare Daten übertragen werden. Ziel ist es, personalisierte Datensätze zu produzieren und diese in die individuelle Musikknutzung insbesondere in Form von Empfehlungen zurückzuspiegeln.</p> <p>Das Seminar befasst sich mit der Produktion, Distribution und Rezeption populärer Musik im Kontext digitaler Plattformen und fragt in diesem Zusammenhang nach dem Zusammenspiel ökonomischer, technologischer, kultureller und ästhetischer Faktoren. Die Inhalte des Seminars werden literatur- und analysebasiert erarbeitet. Letzteres bedeutet, dass die Studierenden eigenständig in der Gruppe Teilaspekte der Musikkreation und Musikknutzung auf Plattformen untersuchen.</p>		

5.3 Study Area: Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

Design and Monitoring of Large Infrastructures			
EES/ESS		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Alexander Reiterer, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Mark Alexander Stolz			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	2	11LE68Ü-9020
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Specialization Option: EES I or II		Specialization Option: ESS I or II	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Wed, 10-12h, Lecture, G.-Köhler-Allee 101, SR 01-016/18 Wed, 14-16h, Exercise		
Course Description	<p>The growing world population, the ongoing urbanization, the ever-increasing size, height and complexity of large scale built infrastructure lead to higher risks with respect to natural and manmade threats. Therefore, smart designs and monitoring of large infrastructures are required.</p> <p>Within this context the lecture provides insights in the basic requirements for a safe, secure and resilient design of construction and monitoring of those large urban infrastructures.</p> <p>In detail students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key concepts and ideas to design and monitor a large urban infrastructure safe, secure and resilient ▪ Design concepts for sensor application and structural health monitoring ▪ Data analysis methods for interoperating and visualizing measurements ▪ Software aided assessment of infrastructures ▪ Smart and reinforced building elements, to measure the actual building condition combined with an increased bearing capacity and resistance. 		
Remarks	<p>This course is offered in cooperation with the Master of Sustainable Systems Engineering. Course and exam registration needs to be according to the regulations of the Technical Faculty. More information via email to hanna.helander@ucf.uni-freiburg.de. Course registration: date tba. Only advanced students can participate.</p>		
Examination	Written supervised examination at the end of the semester covering both the content of the lecture (50%) and the content of the exercises (50%), duration: 90 min.		

Energy in Buildings			
EES/ESS		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Henning, Dr. Manuel Lämmle, Beatrice Rodenbücher			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	3	2	11LE68V-4115
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Elective Joker		Elective Joker	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS, Solar Energy (!)		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture Mon, 14-16h, G.-Köhler-Allee 101, SR 00-010/14		
Course Description	<p>The course will cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Selected chapters of building physics regarding energy demand of buildings for heating and cooling ▪ Indoor comfort in buildings ▪ Ventilation demand and ventilation concepts ▪ The passive house concept ▪ Passive use of solar energy in buildings; physics of transparent building components ▪ Passive systems / concepts for cooling of buildings ▪ Exergetic evaluation of building systems ▪ Heat transfer systems to rooms for heating and cooling ▪ Efficient energy conversion chains, „low-ex“ systems <p>Exercises are included into the lecture.</p>		
Remarks	<p>This course is offered in cooperation with the Master of Sustainable Systems Engineering. Course and exam registration needs to be according to the regulations of the Technical Faculty. More information via email to hanna.helander@ucf.uni-freiburg.de.</p> <p>Course registration: date tba. Only advanced students can participate.</p>		
Examination	Written supervised exam, duration: 90 min.		
Recommended Reading	Energy Performance of Buildings - Energy Efficiency and Built Environment in Temperate Climates. Editors: Boemi, Sofia-Natalia, Irulegi, Olatz, Santamouris, Mattheos (Eds.). Springer. ISBN 978-3-319-20831-2		

Photovoltaic Lab			
EES/ESS		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Stefan Glunz, Dr. Wolfram Maximilian Kwapil			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	2	11LE68P-4108
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Specialization Option: EES I or II		Specialization Option: ESS I or II	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS, Solar Energy		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Fri, 9-12h, R 01 007 (G.-Köhler-Allee 106)		
Course Description	<p>The Photovoltaic Laboratory provides an opportunity for hands-on experience with the PV-related topics introduced in the Solar Energy course. Students will get to know solar cells from a practical view and gain experience in interconnection and operation of solar cells, including evaluation of their performance. Students will understand the electrical properties of solar cells e.g. the IV-curve and related parameters; they will experience the influence of environmental conditions such as temperature, intensity of the incoming light and the angle of incidence.</p> <p>The examination of solar cells as a component part in electrical circuits will enable students to solve typical problems, e.g. how to connect a couple of single cells reasonably to build up a module or how to avoid problems caused by shading. Knowledge about the behaviour and performance on load when used as power source is very important for the application of solar cells. Off-Grid systems will also be investigated as a practical application scenario for photovoltaic. This will bring students in contact with electrical components such as load-regulators, storage etc. These are elementary topics for solid knowledge of solar cells and crucial for ongoing research of a more application-oriented use of solar cells.</p> <p>A broad variety of laboratory experiments will address the operating characteristics of solar cells and photovoltaic modules. Different experiments will be performed each week.</p>		
Remarks	<p>This course is offered in cooperation with the Master of Sustainable Systems Engineering. Course and exam registration needs to be according to the regulations of the Technical Faculty. More information via email to hanna.helander@ucf.uni-freiburg.de.</p> <p>Course registration: date tba..</p> <p>Only advanced students can participate.</p>		
Examination	<p>Written protocols of performed laboratory experiments and an oral presentation of the experimental results within a poster conference. Approx. 10 min. presentation + 5 min. questions = 15 min in total. Students need to attend all laboratory sessions (100%) and to conduct the experiments.</p> <p>Important info for exchange students: the exam must be taken at official examination date.</p>		
Recommended Reading	<p>A. Smets, Solar Energy, UIT Cambridge 2016</p> <p>P. Würfel, Physik der Solarzelle, Spektrum - Akademischer Verlag 2000</p> <p>A. Goetzberger, B. Voß und J. Knobloch, Sonnenenergie: Photovoltaik, Teubner 1997</p> <p>M.A. Green, Solar Cells, University of New South Wales 1982</p> <p>K. Mertens, Photovoltaik, Hanser 2011</p> <p>J. Nelson, The physics of solar cells, Imperial College Press 2008</p>		

Resilienz und Kollaps ökologisch-ökonomischer Systeme			
EES/ESS		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Baumgärtner (stefan.baumgaertner@ere.uni-freiburg.de), Nora Felber, M.Sc. (nora.felber@ere.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	7 LAS	10LE07Ü-B.63106
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Specialization Option: EES I or II Human and the Environment		Specialization Option: ESS I or II Human and the Environment I or II	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar and individual self-study Thu, 18.4. and 25.4., 16-20h, R 211 (Herder-Gebäude) Tue, 14.05. and 11.06, 14-16h, R 211 (Herder-Gebäude) Thu, 18.07. 14h to Sat, 20.07., 13h, R 211 (Herder-Gebäude)		
Course Description	<p>Resilienz bezeichnet die Fähigkeit eines Systems, seine wesentlichen Strukturen und Funktionen auch unter Störungen und Stress aufrecht zu erhalten. Für die nachhaltige Entwicklung ökologisch-ökonomischer Systeme unter Bedingungen großer Unsicherheit und dynamischen Wandels ist die Erhaltung ihrer Resilienz eine Schlüsselvoraussetzung: Wie können wirtschaftlich genutzte Ökosysteme so gemanagt werden, dass die heutige Nutzung ihrer Funktionen und Leistungen nicht die Möglichkeit zukünftiger Nutzung gefährdet?</p> <p>In diesem Seminar wollen wir uns interdisziplinär – gestützt auf grundlegende Beiträge aus Ökologie, Ökonomie und Systemwissenschaften – mit der Frage auseinandersetzen, welche Erklärungskraft das wissenschaftliche Konzept der Resilienz für die Analyse und das Verständnis der Beständigkeit, oder umgekehrt des Kollapses, von Staaten und Gesellschaften hat, die ökologische Ressourcen (un)wirtschaftlich nutzen. Was genau kann man unter Resilienz verstehen? Von welchen determinierenden Faktoren hängt die Resilienz eines ökologisch-ökonomischen Systems ab? Wie kann man ökologisch-ökonomische Systeme auf ihre Resilienz hin analysieren, und welche Indikatoren für Resilienz gibt es? Wie gestaltet und managt man ein System so, dass es resilient ist?</p> <p>Kenntnisse: Studierende kennen das Konzept der Resilienz und wichtige einschlägige Literaturbeiträge</p> <p>Verständnis: Studierende können das Erklärungspotenzial, die Voraussetzungen und Begrenzungen des Resilienzkonzepts kritisch und auf grundlegendem fachlichen Niveau reflektieren und diskutieren.</p> <p>Anwendung: Studierende können das Resilienzkonzpt anwenden, um Umwelt-, Ressourcen- und Nachhaltigkeitsprobleme in verschiedenen Fallstudien zu erklären und zu lösen.</p> <p>Analyse: Studierende können die wechselseitigen Zusammenhänge zwischen ökonomischen und Umweltvariablen, die zur (Nicht-)Resilienz eines ökologisch-Ökonomischen Systems führen auf grundlegendem fachlichen Niveau analysieren.</p>		
Remarks	Please register via: hanna.helander@ucf.uni-freiburg.de with your matriculation number. EES/ESS students have priority.		
Examination / Recommended Reading	See HISinOne		

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