universität freiburg

Course Catalog

BA/BSc Program
Liberal Arts and Sciences
Winter Semester 2025-26

UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
FREIBURG

Contents

I General Information

For detailed information on all topics listed below, please consult the LAS Info Board on ILIAS.

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.

1 Teaching Periods and Dates

Teaching Period	Dates
Pre-Block	22.09- 10.10. 2025
Block I	13.10- 05.12. 2025
Block II	08.12- 13.12. 2025
University Semester	13.10.2025- 06.02.2026 (semester-long LAS courses run according the university semester)
Re-sit Period	06.-26.04.2026 (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 LAS Academic Calendar

Date		Important Dates and Deadlines
September 2025		
16.07. – 05.09.		**Pre-Block Course Registration**
Mon	02.09	**Deadline: Application for Admission of Bachelor Thesis.** Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board.
11.09- 29.09		**LAS Course Registration** with consecutive registration periods (see Course Registration)
22.09- 02.10		**Pre-Block** Courses
Mon	29.09	**Application for SLI Language Courses** begins (individual courses paid by UCF) Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board)
October 2025		
29.09 – 24.10		Resit Period
06.10 – 10.10.		LAS Welcome Week
Fri	10.10.	LAS Graduation Ceremony
		Deadline: Application for Courses of other Degree Programs at the University of Freiburg - Confirmation from Major/Core Coordinators
Mon	13.10.	**University Semester and Block I** begin

Date		Important Dates and Deadlines
		Event: Exam Registration Information
13.10-26.10		**Exam Registration: Block I and Semester long courses**
Tue	21.10.	**Event:** Bachelor Thesis Information (Max-Kade 2)
Sun	26.10.	**Deadline: Application for Courses of other Degree Programs** at the University of Freiburg (for all graded examinations). Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board.
November 2025		
27.10-02.11		**Withdrawal from Examination** for semester-long courses in HISinOne
Sat	01.11	Public Holiday: All Saint's Day (no teaching)
Sat	15.11	**Deadline: Round One Application UCF Exchange Programs** for the Academic Year 2024/25. Details on the Application procedure will be announced by Email.
		Deadline: Application credit recognition for study abroad (application forms and guidelines are available on the Info Board)
December 2025		
Thu	04.12.	**Deadline: Application for Admission of Bachelor Thesis.** Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board.
Mon	08.12.	**Block II** begins
08.12- 21.12		**Exam Registration and withdrawal: Block II courses**
tba		**Event:** UCF Director's Punch
23.12.-06.01.		University Christmas Break (no teaching)
January 2026		
Thu	15.01.	**Deadline: Round Two Application UCF Exchange Programs** for the Academic Year 2024/25. Details on the Application procedure will be announced by Email
tba		**Event:** Foundational Year: Second Semester Info
Fri	30.01	**Deadline: Declaration of Major** in HISinOne (to be taken into account for the upcoming course registration)
		Deadline: Application for Graduation WS 2024-25 on ILIAS
February 2026		
Tue	06.02.	**Deadline: Application for Admission of Bachelor Thesis** (4th year students) on ILIAS (recommended date for students graduating at the end of SS 2025)
March 2026		
Beginning of March		Publication of the LAS Course Catalog SS 2026 on the UCF website

3 EPICUR – The European University

Uni Freiburg and UCF are part of **EPICUR**, a pilot European University of the future. EPICUR offers LAS-based seminars and other teaching activities across the alliance:

- EPICUR courses taught by UCF EPICUR staff are organized as regular UCF courses and listed in the 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 II and in registration period III.
- 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.

Due to the international schedule, EPICUR courses and the LAS semester are not in sync. Please check the registration periods on the EPICUR website. 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.

4 Course Registration

The LAS course registration procedure ensures that LAS 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.

This procedure applies to all courses offered by UCF that appear in the LAS Course Catalog (unless stated otherwise in the remarks section of 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 you 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 III. Additionally, please contact UCF well in advance: las.consultation@ucf.uni-freiburg.de.

Registration Period I: Thu, 11.09. – Mon, 15.09. (12:00h, noon)		
Who can register	**For what**	**Comments**
▪ LAS students who have formally declared their Major by 31 July	LAS courses to be recognized as Major courses only (not as Elective or Core courses!)	LAS students can register for a maximum of 5 courses in total (pre-block or language courses not included). Students who register for more than 5 courses will be removed from the most popular courses.
Places are assigned after the registration period. Students from higher years will get priority unless otherwise noted in the course description. You can check your registration status on Tuesday afternoon. Students whose registration requests were declined or altered can register for alternative courses on **Wednesday, 17.09., 14:00h to 18:00h** in HISinOne. Please de-register from courses that you do not want to take immediately.		

Registration Period II: Thu, 18.09. – Mon, 22.09. (12:00h, noon)		
Who can register	**For what**	**Comments**
▪ LAS students ▪ LAS exchange students	All courses listed in the LAS Course Catalog.	LAS students and LAS exchange students can register for a maximum of 5 courses in total (pre-block or language courses not included).
Places are assigned after the registration period. Students from higher years will get priority unless otherwise noted in the course description. You can check your registration status on Tuesday afternoon. Students whose registration requests were declined or altered can register for alternative courses on **Wednesday, 24.09., 14:00h to 18:00h** in HISinOne. Please de-register from courses that you do not want to take immediately.		

Registration Period III: Thu, 25.09 – Mon, 29.09. (12:00h, noon)		
Who can register	**For what**	**Comments**
▪ All students of the University of 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.
Places will be assigned throughout the registration period. Regularly check your registration status in HISinOne. In some cases, priority will be given to students of partner degree programs. Please de-register from courses that you do not want to take immediately.		

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 Monday, 6 October, 2025** and passed on to the instructors. Later admissions to courses by the LAS program coordination are not possible.

The final decision about participation lies 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 cancelled.

4.4 Course Cancellation Period

Students can withdraw from courses before the semester start. The cancellation period will be from 06.-10.10. (noon). Students from the waiting list may be assigned to courses during that week.

4.5 Problems with Course Registration?

If course registration in HISinOne does not work, please immediately contact LAS program coordination: las.consultation@ucf.uni-freiburg.de. Requests after the given deadline are not considered.

Always provide

- your name, matriculation number, and Major (if declared formally),
- the exact course and module title that you wish to register for,
- and information about your problem. Please provide a screenshot whenever possible.

5 Exam Registration

5.1 Who Needs to Register for Examination?

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

5.2 When to Register for Examination?

Period	Dates	Exam Registration and Withdrawal
1	various dates	Registration Pre-Block
2	13.10. – 26.10.	Registration and withdrawal Block I and semester long courses
	27.10. – 02.11.	Withdrawal semester long courses
2	08.12. – 21.12.	Registration and withdrawal Block II

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.**

5.3 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 outlined on the LAS Info Board on ILIAS.

5.4 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. Rather, this 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.

5.5 Was the exam registration successful?

Pass/fail assessments (Studienleistungen) will appear as REG (Registriert) and graded assessments (Prüfungsleisungen) as ZU (zugelassen) in HSinOne. See *My enrollments and registrations* or your transcript of records.

5.6 Problems with Exam Registration

See Problems with Course Registration.

II Course Descriptions

1 Pre-Block Courses

1.1 Study Area: Core

Rhetoric and Techniques of Presentation			
Core		Pre-Block	
Holger Witzenleiter (kontakt@holger-witzenleiter.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	2	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0061
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Academic Skills			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 29.09., 9-17h, AU Co-Creation Room Tue, 30.09., 9-17h, AU Co-Creation Room		
Course Description	Powerful rhetoric and a precise, convincing argumentation will enhance your speeches or presentations. It is not only the way you structure your argument but also the different layers of delivery that can take your talks to another level. In this class we will focus on ▪ short speeches and brief addresses, ▪ body language, facial expressions and gestures, ▪ voice pitch, articulation, emphasizing through rhythmic speaking, ▪ dealing with nervousness and fears for public speaking, ▪ presenting: Standard phrases, five picture method, Pecha Kucha method, ▪ killer phrases and quick-wittedness, ▪ argumentation. In this course we will see, what we find impressive, exercise what we will have learnt and pattern drill what helps us the most. Even if we start with differing previous knowledge, each student will have the chance to build a stronger and broader competence in these core skills.		
Examination	SL only		

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BT Breisacher Tor

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1.2 Study Area: Culture & History

The Middle East in Film			
Culture & History		Pre-Block	
Dr. Ebru Akcasu (ebru.akcasu@aauni.edu)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CH0082
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Culture: Arts History: Modern or Contemporary Culture & History I, II or III		none	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 23.09. - Sat, 27.09. 9-12h (screenings), AU HS 1 13-17h (sessions), AU 01.065 or 01.036a		
Course Description	This course allows students to critically engage with representations of the Mddle East in classical and contemporary films. Students will actively build a foundation of knowledge that allows them to recognize and go beyond stereotypes of a region of great significance for our contemporary world. The course approaches the Middle East and its inhabitants from an intersectional perspective and has an expanded scope of study, including representations by Hollywood and the 'self,' and others. Themes touched upon include but are not limited to religion, gender and sexuality, migration and diaspora, tradition and modernity, conflict and resistance, and power. Students will anayze the cinematography of the films while situating them in historical context/s.		
Examination	tba		

1.3 Study Area: Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

Excursion to the Black Forest National Park			
ESS		Pre-Block	
Dr. Hanna Helander (hanna.helander@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	2	17	
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Electives		none	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Excursion on 30.09.		
Course Description	As part of the excursion, you'll join a 3-hour guided walk led by a ranger from the Black Forest National Park, exploring the park's diverse and evolving natural landscapes. The tour, titled Through Wild Forests and Grinden, highlights key environmental themes such as nature conservation, biodiversity and climate change. Grinden are unique, open heathland areas or mountaintop meadows typical of the Black Forest. Originally shaped by centuries of grazing, they now serve as rare and ecologically valuable habitats. While the national park generally follows a "let nature be nature" philosophy, Grinden are an exception, protected and maintained due to their ecological value. The excursion includes: ▪ Travel to and from the park ▪ A 3-hour ranger-led hike through wild forests and meadow landscapes (in English) ▪ • A 1.5-hour visit to the National Park Visitor Center, with interactive exhibits about local ecosystems and wilderness		
Remarks	Registration deadline is September 7th. Spots are given in the order they are received. Registration for the excursion is binding. If you need to withdraw your registration for any reason, please do so as early as possible. You may register to the excursion without taking the 2 ETCS.		
Examination	Preparation assignment due 28.9. and 1000 words reflection paper due 10.10.		

1.4 Study Area: Life Sciences

Drug Development and Regulation			
Life Sciences		Pre-Block	
Dr. Petra Lachmann (lachmannpge@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	7	00LE62S-LAS-LS0019
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Life Sciences I, II, or III Specialization I or II: Life Sciences		Introduction to Life Sciences, Cell Biology (required)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar and Laboratory Mon, Sep 22, 9-13h, Ph R3 Tue, Sep 23, 9-15h, lab Wed, Sep 24, 9-15h, lab Thu, Sep 25, 9-15h, lab Fri, Sep 26, 9-15h, lab **!** Sat, Sep 27, 9-15h, lab Wed, Oct 1, 9-13h, Ph R3 Thu, Oct 2, 9-11h, Ph R3 Lab sessions in the BIOSS Centre for Biological Signalling Studies, Schänzlestr. 18.		
Course Description	What is a drug? What is an active substance? What are biologics? What is an orphan drug? How are drugs discovered? What are the potential starting points? Who decides which drug /treatment/disease to follow up? What regulations have to be fulfilled to get pharmaceuticals approved? Who are the stakeholders involved? In this interdisciplinary course, we are going to investigate different areas of drug development. Starting point will be a disease and how it affects the body. The molecules – receptors, enzymes, genes – that might play a role in the disease will be discussed. Then we will talk about active substances, how to identify them and how they react with the target. The active substance - a chemical-synthetic substance or a biopharmaceutical - has to be produced in a larger scale and has to be tested in cell cultures, animals and finally in humans (GLP, GMP, GCP). We will take a closer look at preclinical development and at clinical trials. We will talk about the Committee of Animal Experimentation as well as the Ethics Commission and discuss the history behind it. Emphasis will also be put on legal requirements for drug approval in different countries - Europe, USA - and the agencies involved. We will spend five days in the lab to learn more about requirements and the importance of SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures): how to write them and why they are important; what they should include. At the end of the course students will... ▪ have a basic knowledge about the different steps in drug development ▪ understand the regulations for clinical trials including the history behind animal tests and clinical trials ▪ know about the legal requirements and the agencies involved in the approval of drugs ▪ have an understanding of the stakeholders involved ▪ write/discuss an SOP		
Remarks	Life Sciences students get priority.		
Examination	Write a Standard Operating Procedure for the experiments conducted. Due on Nov 3, 2025		

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Fundamentals of Programming with Python			
Life Sciences, ESS		Pre-Block	
Vittorio Lippi, PhD (vittorio_lippi@hotmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	15	00LE62S-LAS-LS0044
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Methods I or II (LS, ESS)			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Intensive Seminar Mon-Fri, 10-16h Week 1 (22.-26.09.), AU Co-Creation Room Week 2 (29.09.-02.10.), Ph HS 4		
Course Description	The course introduces the concept of algorithms and programming using the language Python 3.x. At the end of the course, the students can solve problems by writing programs, setting up an environment to develop and run Python programs, and learning how to use Python libraries. To complete this intensive course, students must complete a final project demonstrating their understanding and application of the concepts learned throughout the program. Content: Week #1. Introduction to programming concepts. Setting up a programming environment. Python basics: math, data structures, string operations, functions, and execution control. From zero to writing a program. Computing and manipulating text using Python. A definition of a practical project is required to complete the course. Week #2. Python Modules, using libraries. Accessing and writing files. Python for scientific work and data analysis using dedicated libraries. Overview of advanced concepts. Programming with the aid of AI.		
Remarks	Students need to bring their own computer, i.e. a laptop. A tablet will not suffice. Participants are requested to install the following software on their laptop before the class starts, if possible: Python 3.11.0 (Windows/macOS/Linux installers) Spyder IDE (standalone installer or via Anaconda) Anaconda Distribution (Windows/macOS/Linux) I propose a configuration that is usually used by scientists and data analysts.		
Examination	The final assessment consists of a project including a program written in Python to solve a given problem and a report describing the problem, the approach used, and the solution. Both are due on 19.10.2025.		

1.5 Study Area: Multiple

Defending Democracy			
Governance, C&H, Electives		Pre-Block	
Leon Hartmann (leon.hartmann@philosophie.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0021
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
For 2nd year students: Advanced Governance I or II For senior students: Specialization Governance Specialization Option C&H I and II Senior Profile C&H		Introduction to Governance	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 29.09.-02.10., 10-16h, KG 1132 06.10.-10.10., 9-14h, KG 1132		
Course Description	Which forms of the enemy of democracy escape its political and legal definitions and where lie the limits of democratic self-defence? The seminar examines the governmental and legal logic of “militant democracy” on the basis of three questions: 1) Against whom and which political techniques does democracy defend itself? We wil look atthe political techniques used by the National Socialists to seize power in Germany in the early 1930s and the legal and political theory developed at the time to legitimize this course of action. As more recent examples, we will look at Poland, which has developed in connection with the PiS party's rise to power in 2015, and at democratic backsliding in Bangladesh, Thailand and the Philippines. 2) How does democracy defend itself and which political and legal theory is formed within it? We will look athow the concept of “militant democracy” has developed historically, which political theories have played a role in this development, and which political goals have been pursued. In addition, the development of the German Basic Law (Grundgesetz). 3) To what extent does this democratic self-defence against the “enemies” of democracy succeed at all? We will examine how right-wing extremist parties (such as the AfD) evade constitutional enemy provisions. We will also discuss how the Constitutional Court can represent a weak point of “militant democracy”, as the example in Poland shows. Through a combination of political and legal theory as well as historical and contemporary materials, the seminar addresses one of the central problems of our - the rise of right-wing extremism in Europe and the United States.		
Remarks	The course takes place in the two weeks immediately prior to the semester start. The schedule is different in the second week so you can take Sustainable Mobilities in parallel.		
Examination	At the end of the first week, students submit a 2-4-page essay on a given topic. By 30.11.2025, students submit a 3-page critical review of one of the seminar texts. By 31.12.2025 students submit a 6-page paper on a conceptual question in the context of the seminar topic, agreed upon with the lecturer.		
Recommended Reading	To get started with this topic, check out this page of the Verfassungsblog: https://verfassungsblog.de/tag/militantdemocracy/		

Pre-Course Maths & Physics			
Life Sciences, Environmental and Sustainability Sciences		Pre-Block	
Dr. Benoit Louvel (benoit.louvel@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	0	40	00LE62S-LAS-LSEE0006
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
none		Introduction to Earth and Environmental Sciences or Introduction to Life Sciences (required)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 07.10., 10-12h, AU 01.065 Wed, 08.10., 10-12h, AU 01.036a Thu, 09.10., 10-12h, KG 1140		
Course Description	Optional preparatory course for the semester-long course Maths and Physics. There is an accompanying course for independent learning on the e-learning platform kosmic: https://kosmic.uni-freiburg.de/go/crs/3475 You can join the course directly by logging into the kosmic platform with your ILIAS account. The exercises allow students to refresh their Math knowledge and to prepare for the mandatory UCF “Maths and Physics” course. The exercises are designed to complement the lectures of the pre-block course. Although the exercises can be used for self-study alone, we recommend to participate in the lectures of the pre-block course as well.		
Examination	none		

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2 Block I Courses

2.1 Study Area: Core

<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">Foundational Year: Research and Presentation</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Core</td><td colspan="2">Block I</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Dr. Simon Büchner (buechner@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)
Maiara Gonçalves-Wintermantel, M.Sc. (maiara.goncalves@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)
Dr. Mila Mikalay (mikalay@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)
Dr. Ryan Plumley (ryan.plumley@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Open to Students</td><td>Credit Points</td><td>Max. Enrollment</td><td>Course Number</td></tr>
<tr><td>Year(s) 1 (-2)</td><td>6</td><td>84</td><td>00LE62S-LAS-CO0008</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Module(s) StuPo 2020</td><td colspan="2">Prerequisites</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Research and Presentation</td><td colspan="2">none</td></tr>
<tr><td>Format, Dates, Times and Rooms</td><td colspan="3">Lecture
Mon, 14-16h, AU HS 1
Seminars
(RP) Tue, 8-10h, AU 01.036a
Thu, 8-10h, AU 01.036a
(SB) Tue, 10-12h, AU 01.036a
Thu, 10-12h, AU 01.036a
(MG) Tue, 10-12h, AU 01.065
Thu, 10-12h, AU 01.065
(MM) Tue, 16-18h, Wilhemstr. 26, 00.016
Thu, 16-18h, Ph R 3
Final conference on Dec 4 (afternoon) and 5 (morning).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Course Description</td><td colspan="3">“The world has problems while universities have disciplines.”
Gordon Wilson (The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK)
Complex problems require profound thinking from different points of view, sometimes a combination of methods, and always educated sagacity. This course will introduce students to different approaches of dealing with complex problems, not only different scholarly disciplines, but also with respect to the methods used in and across these disciplines. It will face students with questions on different forms of knowledge and will discuss in particular what scholarly knowledge is and how it differs from other forms of knowledge.
At the same time students will acquire skills of scholarly work such as finding relevant literature from different sources, reading and understanding scholarly texts, and managing references. In addition, they will practice the presentation of a topic in a limited amount of time to a specific audience. It will also provide the starting point for the training in academic writing, which will be complemented by the course “English Academic Writing”.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Remarks</td><td colspan="3">This course is part of the Foundational Year. First year students receive the seminar descriptions and register for this course during the Welcome Week.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Examination</td><td colspan="3">Annotated bibliography (due date as announced in the seminar) and final presentation on Dec 4 or 5, 2025 (latest examination date).</td></tr>
</table>

Introduction to Mediation			
Core		Block I	
Theresa Sieß (theresa.siess@konfliktberatung-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	2	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0076
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Academic Skills			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 17.10., 8-17h, AU 01.065 24.10., 8-17h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	This workshop introduces you to mediation as a conflict solving process. Its main goal is to achieve a win-win solution. The first two sessions have a more theoretical focus. On the one hand we will reflect our own behaviour in conflict situations, and we will take a closer look at how conflicts are defined. On the other hand, the current political situation gives us enough reason to analyse present conflicts. Consequently, you will be introduced into current conflict theories, into the main background and into the principals of mediation. We will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this way to solve conflicts and you will get to know various fields, in which mediation processes are applied. In the last two sessions we will then step into the practical part of mediation. Here you will at least be introduced to one method with the help of a role play. The choice of methods depends on your experience and interest. The workshops will give you an opportunity to reflect on personal conflicts.		
Examination	SL only		

2.2 Study Area: Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

Climate Adaptation: Urban Climate and Human Health			
ESS		Block I	
Prof. Dr. Matzarakis (andreas.matzarakis@meteo.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3,4	3	15	00LE62S-LAS-EE0044
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile ESS or LS		Introduction to Environmental and Sustainability Sciences, Introduction to Earth and Environmental Sciences and Introduction to Life Sciences	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 13.11., 8-12h, KG 1132 14.11., 13-17h, KG 1142 27.11., 8-12h, BT R 105 28.11., 13-17h, Co-Creation Room		
Course Description	With the increasing number of urban inhabitants and densification patterns, the risks of heat related mortality and morbidity in an era of climate change have never been as prominent. For this reason, the understanding, monitoring, and implementation of means to mitigate these risk factors must accompany the growing effects of climate change upon human well-being, safety, and comfort. Such efforts must be escorted by suitable knowhow on how to appropriately quantify such effects upon the urban climate, human biometeorology and overall health standards in warming cities. Similar to what was once the sole reliance on top-down climate mitigation before the turn of the century, climate change implications can no longer be associated to mere protection that is void of adaptation measures. The formulation of preparation plans, and their associated actions as contained in Heat Health Action Plans, have never been as crucial. Heat action plans launch an integrative approach that combine short, medium, and long-term health protection measures within a common framework. For the short-term, this embraces the implementation of warning systems, and well-constructed spatiotemporal heat risk mapping/action. These solutions must embrace key factors such as effective interdisciplinary communication with the public, and multi-faceted vulnerability identification (e.g., towards susceptible population groups and specific urban conditions). For the long-term in which modification of the urban microclimate is to be undertaken, a similar interdisciplinary vision is needed across different disciplines. One which is supported by the common goal to physically shape the urban environment to improve human living and safety conditions. It is here where blue and green measures can flourish. This, however, can only take place if microclimatic influences and risks factors upon humans are embraced in an effective manner in an era of climate change.		
Examination	report/essay		

2.3 Study Area: Life Sciences

Introduction to Tissue Engineering and Cellular Therapies in Regenerative Medicine			
Life Sciences		Block I	
PD Dr. Melanie L. Hart and colleagues (melanie.lynn.hart@uniklinik-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	8	00LE62S-LAS-LS0020
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II Elective module (Joker)		Introduction to Life Sciences and Cell Biology (both required)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lab Seminar Tue, 8:30-12h, G.E.R.N . (Gewebeersatz, Regeneration & Neogenese) Center – Engesserstrasse 4 (2nd floor) Thu, and first day of class, 9:30-12:00h, G.E.R.N Seminar room, Engesserstrasse 4 (5th floor)		
Course Description	This course will consist of a series of lectures, student-led seminars, journal clubs (student-led presentation of current research articles) and hand-on laboratory work. Lectures will introduce you to the topics relevant to the field of tissue engineering and cellular therapies in regenerative medicine such as Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) production of cells for cellular therapies, choosing the right cell type for a specific cell therapy, the importance of the extracellular matrix in regeneration of tissue, the role of biomechanical and biophysical stimuli in tissue engineering and creating three-dimensional (3D) environments for cells and vital implants. Students will team up to present a research article ("Journal Club"), as well as a seminar topic relevant to the this field of in order to gain knowledge in how to read, present and evaluate scientific research papers and to become more acquainted with standard and new techniques that can be used in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Hands-on work in the laboratory will include sterile cell culture techniques, how to isolate and culture mesenchymal stem cells from tissue, creating and assessing 3D cellular environments and analyzing their biomechanical properties.		
Remarks	First course will be taught in the G.E.R.N. Seminar room (5th floor). Please always be on time: the doors are locked and you will need to call to be let in.		
Examination	Prüfungsleistung (PL) = graded exam and presentations. The grade is based on the following: ▪ multiple choice exam (70% of final grade) ▪ seminar presentation (15% of final grade) ▪ journal club presentation (15% of final grade).		
Recommended Reading	Guraya, S. Y., Sampogna, G., & Forgione, A. (2015). Regenerative medicine: historical roots and potential strategies in modern medicine.		

2.4 Study Area: Multiple

Environmental Psychology			
ESS, Life Sciences, Governance		Block I	
Ina Lilich (ina.lillich@wandel-werk.org)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOLSEE0003
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option: ESS I or II Human and the Environment I or II Advanced Life Sciences I or II or III Advanced Governance I and II		Introduction to ESS or Introduction to Governance	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, KG 1142 Wed, 14-16h. KG 1021 Fri, 12-16h, KG 1140 Extra dates: 24.10., 31.10. 11.11., 21.11., 28.11., 05.12., 12.12., 09.01., 16.01., 23.01.		
Course Description	Several important questions arise, e.g.: What motivates each of us to behave in a way that is – or is not – environmental-friendly? Why are we sometimes unsuccessful in being sustainable within our actions – despite good intentions? And how can we address the important issue of sustainable development to motivate more and more people to act? Why are some sustainability policies more likely to be accepted by people than others? One puzzle piece to successful environmental and climate protection lies in understanding human experience and behavior. Psychological research makes an essential contribution to this. In this course we will get a glimpse into the field of environmental psychology, its theories as well as practical implementations. At the same time we will critically reflect on the implications of environmental psychological research and discuss limitations. Students will receive weekly readings which form the base for group presentations during the classes. In a group the students will develop their own project in which they will apply the psychological learnings of the course. Additionally, the students receive regular assignments which they will work on individually. Especially students who are politically active in the sustainability domain will benefit from this course since the focus of the application lies in the planning of small projects and larger campaigns, however the course is of course open to everybody.		
Remarks	Students of the major ESS have priority.		
Examination	70 % project report (until 21.02.), 30% Assignments or Presentation (during semester).		

Sustainable Cities			
ESS, Governance		Block I	
Dr. Hanna Helander (hanna.helander@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 02-Apr	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0012
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
ESS: Humans and the Environment I or II Specialization ESS I or II Senior profile ESS (3 ECTS) Specialization Option Governance, Senior Profile Governance (3 ECTS)		Introduction to ESS, for the senior profile attendance of a previous course with a focus on sustainable city development is required.	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 8-12h, BT 107 Thu, 8-12h, BT 107		
Course Description	Approximately 58% of the world's population lives in cities. Research on urban transformation postulates that cities provide valuable opportunities to contribute to local and global sustainability. This course addresses the sustainability of various urban subsystems and processes of change towards increased sustainability and resilience. We will analyze prominent sustainability issues and transformative initiatives, both by civil society, the city administration and in the intersection between the two. The course have a transdisciplinary character and is based on real-world examples. We will go out into the city of Freiburg to explore where sustainable development happens or needs to happen. First-hand experienced will be shared by experts from civil society initiatives or city development projects. Thereby, we will explore different challenges, problem scenarios and possible solutions. Equipped with this background knowledge and analytical perspectives on sustainability transformations in a city, you will explore one of the topics in more depth (e.g. mobility, green infrastructure, social inclusion). Thereto, you will do a small-scale research project in pairs or groups, present it to your peers and finally write an individual report. The project work is allocated to the second half of the course.		
Remarks	Students majoring in Earth and Environmental Sciences/Environmental and Sustainability Sciences have priority, students that take the course as senior profile only have to attend the 2nd half of the course when we focus on group projects. However, they need to have attended a course with a focus on sustainable city development beforehand. For senior profile (3 ECTS only!) please write an e-mail to hanna.helander@ucf.uni-freiburg.de for further information and registration.		
Examination	Graded assignments: Presentation and written report due 21 December.		

3 Block II Courses

3.1 Study Area: Core

Ubuntu Leadership			
Core		Block II	
Chinwe Ogbonna, M.A. (chinwe.ogbonna@grk2571.uni-freiburg.de) Thorsten Leiendecker (thorsten.leiendecker@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0095
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Responsibility & Leadership II		none	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 9-12h, AU 01.036a Thu, 9-12h, AU 01.036a		
Course Description	"A person is a person through others" or short: “I am because you are.” The African concept Ubuntu offers an approach to moral, ontological and political issues based on the principle that all people with their experiences and actions are interconnected. It is a relational idea of humanity that emphasizes community, interaction and empathy. Emerging as a key principle during the South African peace and reconciliation process post-apartheid, Ubuntu serves as a social philosophy that invites critical examination within the realm of critical leadership studies. We will explore different definitions of and challenges to Ubuntu: How does it work as a lived philosophy? What is its relation to Western concepts? Which innovations does it offer? Can it be employed outside of an African context? Based on these theoretical questions, we will explore how the concept works in its practical implementation and talk to people who have applied Ubuntu in some way.		
Examination	tba		

3.2 Study Area: Governance

Governance: Oral Exam			
Governance		Block II	
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 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile Governance		STUPO prerequisites for Senior modules apply	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	This is a graded assignment-only format. The oral examination is a 1.5-hour commitment and will be scheduled for February 6.		
Course Description	This examination is offered as part of the Senior Profile to Governance students. It offers 4 ECTS for an oral examination on Governance-related topics, which students learn about in foundational Governance modules, such as the Introduction, Political Theory, Comparative Politics and International Relations. The examination is based on a list of topics, announced on the Governance Wiki, and consists of a 45-minutes preparation time followed by a 30-minutes oral examination, in presence or online. Topics cover central concepts, questions and debates across Governance disciplines. General examples of topics: ▪ balance of power as a mechanism of avoiding oppression domestically and internationally, ▪ legitimacy of authority and processes of legitimation (different types of rules, civil society and activism, 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). Preparing to the examination thus 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 are announced on the Governance Wiki. Students are assessed on how well they are able to demonstrate the following abilities (Senior Profile learning goals): ▪ 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 SS26.		
Recommended Reading	See the exam brochure on the Governance Wiki for revision suggestions (all readings come from standard Governance courses).		

3.3 Study Area: Multiple

Bachelor Projects - Student Conference			
All Majors		Block II	
Dr. Simon Büchner (buechner@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 4	2	Not limited	00LE62S-LAS-CHEEGOLS0007
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile in any major			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Conference Mon, 09.02, 10-16h, Peterhof 1-4 Tue, 10.02, 10-16h, Peterhof 1-4		
Course Description	In this student-organized conference, you will be able to present your thesis project at whatever stage it is and receive valuable feedback from fellow studetns and staff. Many students start working on their thesis mid-February, so for them it is an opportunity to get feedback right before they start working intensely on it. Others are invited to present early ideas for their project or projects that have already been started or even completed. Based on an abstract you will be able to present your project in a talk or as a poster to an audience of peer and other fellow students as well as staff and supervisors. Students who decide to join the organization team will learn how to organize a small conference.		
Remarks	Attendance on both days is required.		
Examination	Pass/fail (SL) only: ▪ attending the student conference (both days); ▪ giving a talk or presenting a poster at the conference; ▪ attending a number of academic talks during the semester and writing a short report about it, due on Feb 16, 2026. The number of talks you need to visit depends on your involvement in the conference. As a presenter only you will need to attend five talks, as a member of the organization team - fewer. The organization team (7-8 students) will be formed in the first weeks of the semester and will meet for the first time in December. Further details will be announced at the beginning of the semester.		

Climate Change and Biodiversity			
ESS, Governance		Block II	
Dr. Benoit Sittler (benoit.sittler@nature.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-EE0045
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Human and the Environment I or II, Specialization Option I or II: ESS Specialization Option Governance		See requirements for senior modules, accoridng to the Major.	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 8-12h, BT R 105 Thu, 8-12h, BT 105		
Course Description	Climate change and biodiversity are among the major environmental issues modern societies face. They call for governance solutions both on global and local levels. In this course, you will first discover methodological approaches (such as proxies) to the monitoring and assessment of past and present changes in biodiversity. We will consider in detail examples illustrating these approaches looking into, namely, an ongoing longterm project in Greenland, which will provide you with unique insights into effects of climate change on biodiversity. You will understand the basic principles and dynamics behind the climate variability and the link to biodiversity. In the second part of the course we will focus on governance. We will discuss how issues like climate change and loss of biodiversity find their way onto political agendas. We will explore standard-setting mechanisms, especially in respect to the measurement of climate change and its effect on the biodiversity. Furthermore, we will analyze regulatory policies introduced and implemented on the international, national, and local levels.		
Remarks	Students majoring ESS have priority.		
Examination	tba		

Contemplative Science at the Intersection of Mind, Health, and Environment			
All majors		Block II	
Dr. Fynn-Mathis Trautwein (mathis.trautwein@uniklinik-freiburg.de), Dr. Hendrik Stark (hendrik.stark@mindenvironment.org)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	4 (SL)	16	00LE62S-LAS-CH0080
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile all majors		none	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Wed, 14-16h, KG 1243, Dates: 14.1, 21.1, 28.1., 4.2, 11.2. Workshop Fri, 09.01., Fri, 14-18h: Liefmannhaus Fri, 13.02./Sat 14.02: Liefmannhaus		
Course Description	This course introduces you to contemplative science—an emerging interdisciplinary field that bridges scientific and humanistic inquiry with contemplative practices such as mindfulness-based meditation. From a scientific standpoint, such practices can be conceptualized as first-person methods, which have also been developed in the European tradition of phenomenology. The course blends classical academic formats with experiential educational approaches such as meditation practice, dialogue, and reflection. It examines how contemplative science can expand the scope of science and the humanities, especially in fields like health, psychology, and sustainability. An important assumption is the idea that subjectivity and meaning are inseparable from objective knowledge and professional commitment. Thus, you are invited to explore how contemplative approaches may support your personal development, understanding and wellbeing, and how this relates to societal challenges (e.g. climate anxiety, digital overload). No prior experience with contemplative practices is required.		
Remarks	The course is structured into four themes, which you will explore in two half-day workshops, regular weekly seminar sessions and one full-day practice workshop: Workshop 1 (09.01.) - Introduction to contemplative practices. Seminars 1-2 (14.01, 21.01.) - Investigating the mind. Seminars 3-4 (28.01, 04.02.) - Fostering wellbeing. Seminar 5 (11.02.) - Contemplative perspectives on sustainability. Full-day workshop (14.02.) - Extended meditation and group reflection.		
Examination	SL only: General attendance and a reflective essay due on 02.03.2026.		

Diplomacy in Practice - International Geneva and its Organizations			
All Majors, with LS and GOV having priority		Block II	
Julia Reus (jteresareus@gmail.com), Dr. Stoyan Panov (stoyan.panov@ucf.uni-freiburg.de) and Dr. Simon Büchner (buechner@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 4	2 or 3 (see below)	20 students in total (up to 20 for 2 ECTS, up to 12 for 3 ECTS)	00LE62S-LAS-GOLS0031
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior profile for all majors. Priority given to GOV and LS students.		Prerequisites for the Senior Profile module apply, in line with Major regulations.	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Excursion: planned for Jan 18-20, 2026 (subject to change) Preparatory Seminar (dates and times tba) Fri, 7.11. or 14.11. (for the 3 ECTS option) + online mentoring sessions Fri, 12.12. and Fri, 09.01., 14-16h, Co-Creation Room Fri, 23.01., debriefing workshop		
Course Description	What is referred to as “International Geneva“ is a diplomatic hub made up of around 40 international organisations (IOs), hundreds of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and more than 180 Permanent Missions. For this course, students have two module choices to explore and engage directly with diplomacy and advocacy at the UN and various Geneva-based organisations. As part of their Senior Profile (2 ECTS), students have the opportunity to join an excursion to Geneva to visit multiple IOs in January 2026. On this excursion we will visit a number of international institutions in Geneva to learn about their missions, organizational structures, funding sources, and modes of function and working. The competences of the institutions will be in the areas of Global Health, International Law, Migration. The preparation for this visit will include a meeting before the study visit in early January to discuss the aims of the study trip and introduce the mandates, profiles and interactions between the relevant IOs. After the visit, a debriefing workshop (Friday after the visit) will provide an opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of the excursion. As part of the Senior Profile (3 ECTS) – this option is oriented at students with a particular interest in diplomacy and international relations as their career or research area. There is space for 12 participants in this format (priority to Governance students, then Life Science students). A workshop in November (date tba, but probably on 7 or 14 November, Friday) will introduce multilateral diplomacy in Geneva to students, outlining theory and practice. The workshop will situate relevant organisations and actors in the context of current challenges to the international system and explore evolving career paths within the sector. The workshop will be followed by online mentoring for small groups of students. Students choosing this option will also join the Geneva excursion to conclude the course. For both options, literature on the relevant international organisations and material related to pursuing careers in international relations will be provided.		
Remarks	Dates are subject to change. More details will be announced at the beginning of the winter semester. The study visit is mandatory for all students in the course.		
Examination	Reflective report due on Feb 9, 2026 (for 2 ECTS). Mentoring diary and short report in addition, for the 3 ECTS option.		

Humans of Freiburg			
Electives		Block II	
Dr. Janet Bean (jbean@uakron.edu)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1 (-4)	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHEEGOLS0010
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Elective Joker			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Asynchronous at your own pace 8.-22.12.2025 In Person 8.1.2026-12.2.2026 Tue, 9-12h, AU 01.065 Thu, 9-12h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	Humans of Freiburg invites students to explore the intersection of academic research, public storytelling, and visual expression. Inspired by the photo blog Humans of New York, this course emphasizes the power of images and personal narratives to illuminate broader social and cultural themes. Students will learn the fundamentals of interviewing—how to ask thoughtful questions, listen actively, and ethically represent others' stories—while also developing visual literacy skills. Assignments include photo essays, short videos, and websites. Alongside these creative works, students will conduct interdisciplinary research to contextualize their stories and reflect on how public-facing media can bridge academic inquiry and everyday life. No prior experience with technology or media production is required. Students can expect a hands-on, collaborative course that will deepen their understanding of Freiburg—not just as a place, but as a vibrant community of individuals with diverse experiences and perspectives.		
Remarks	First year students will have priority. Advanced students who register during the registration periods will initially be on the waiting list until the Welcome Week.		
Examination	Presentation 12.2.2026; Portfolio due two weeks after end of term.		

4 Semester long Courses

4.1 Study Area: Core

Foundational Year: English Academic Writing			
Core		Semester	
Dr. Sebastian Gehart, (sebastian.gehart@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Dr. Steven Randall (steven.randall@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1 (-2)	6	84	00LE62S-LAS-CO0013
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
English Academic Writing			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Group 1 (SG): Tue 14-16h / Thu, 12-14h, AU 01.036a Group 2 (SG): Tue 16-18h, KG 1034/ Thu, 16-18h, KG 1234 Group 3 (hybrid): Tue 14-16h KG 1231 / Thu 14-16h KG 1234 Group 4: Tue 14-16h R 207 / Thu 14-16h KG 1108 Group 5: Tue 14-16h HS 1023 / Thu 14-16h, BT 106		
Course Description	English for Academic Writing (EAW) is designed to introduce students to the essentials of English academic writing culture. The objective of this course is to support students in a regular practice of critically reading and writing academic texts across genres. One overarching goal of the module is to explore how writing is not a passive medium of communication, but a social activity that involves many actors and has multiple effects in the world. In Block I of this course, we will identify academic discourse and the features of academic writing. Students will learn how to write structured paragraphs and how to present their research — in the form of summary, paraphrase, and quotation — with academic integrity. In Block II, we will explore critical reading and writing with a focus on the genres review and essay. Students will extend their recognition of argumentation by examining the specific anatomy of the persuasive essay. Building on the skills and contents developed in Research and Presentation, each student will craft an essay aimed at compellingly convincing the reader of the merits of its claims. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to: ▪ Write persuasively and critically ▪ Identify, analyse, and evaluate academic texts ▪ Use outside sources with academic integrity ▪ Successfully proofread and edit their seminar papers		
Remarks	This course is part of the Foundational Year. First year students register for this course during the Welcome Week.		
Examination	Student will compose several pieces of writing; final assignment due date tba.		

Foundational Year: Principles of Responsible Leadership			
Core		Semester	
Dr. Simone Krais (simone.krais@sli.uni-freiburg.de) and Thorsten Leiendecker, M.A. (thorsten.leiendecker@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1 (-2)	6	84	00LE62V-LAS-CO0026
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Responsibility & Leadership I			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture Fri, 10-12h, AU HS 2 Workgroups WG 1: Wed, 8-10h, AU 01.036a WG 2: Wed, 8-10h, AU 01.065 WG 3: Wed, 10-12h, AU 01.036a WG 4: Wed, 10-12h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	We experience an increasing dynamic and complexity of daily life, a variety of lifestyles and beliefs about what is right or wrong which make the task of leading responsibly more difficult, complex, and uncertain. In addition to this, grand challenges like global warming, rising inequality and global migration put pressure on every one of us to contribute to a sustainable future for people and the planet. This foundational course introduces essential principles of responsible leadership, understood broadly as a multifaceted approach to constructive action in professional life and beyond. Our comprehensive treatment of the term is reflected in different parts, each presenting responsibility and leadership from a different angle. At the same time, this course will introduce a foundation and practical guideline for working dynamically and efficently in groups. Based on this input, students will develop their own project which will be presented at the end of this first semester.		
Remarks	This course is part of the Foundational Year. First year students register for this course during the Welcome Week.		
Examination	Regular attendance and active work in the project groups. Students will organize the presentation of the projects at the end of the semester.		

Foundational Year: Students and Other Knowers in Context			
Core		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Veronika Lipphardt (veronika.lipphardt@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1 (-2)	6	84	00LE62S-LAS-CO0020
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Knowledge in Context			

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture Mon, 10-12h, AU HS 2 Workgroups WG 1: Wed, 12-14h, BT 105 WG 2: Wed, 12-14h, BT 206 WG 3: Wed, 14-16h, BT 105 WG 4: Wed, 14-16h, BT 206
Course Description	The central part of the course introduces students to a broad consideration of knowledge in its historical, social, political and practical contexts. This will be the most academic part of the course, with academic readings and much sociological theory. Drawing on work in the history, anthropology, and sociology of knowledge, the course addresses knowledge production, appropriation and circulation beyond academia, in and across (non-academic) professional fields, educational systems, regions, cultures, individuals, and in knowledge regimes. The course aims at fostering reflection about questions such as, How do individuals or groups approach, appreciate, and determine what knowledge is for them? What counts as knowledge, why, and on what grounds; where, for whom, and in what context? What has counted as knowledge in previous centuries, in other places and situations? What is (or what was) the relationship between scientific knowledge and knowledge that is (or was) not deemed scientific, as, for example, common sense knowledge, or the knowledge of non-academic professional fields, or knowledge produced and used by political entities? Furthermore, we will discuss different forms of knowledge, such as explicit and tacit knowledge; how knowledge relates to identity building or to professional ethos; and how knowledge relates to power. The course also fosters reflection about epistemic beliefs, or “personal epistemology:” That is, how humans (including ourselves) use, evaluate, cherish and question knowledge in their daily lives, how they relate emotionally to specific forms of knowledge, and how they deal with uncertainties. One specific focus will be “the knower” as an imagined reality and subjectivity. How do humans understand themselves as subjects of knowing? What kind of knower do they believe to be, or aspire to become? How do they ascribe or deny others the status of a knower? How do they evaluate other individuals as knowers?
Remarks	This course is part of the Foundational Year. First year students register for this course during the Welcome Week.
Examination	Students will work on several assignment sheets and submit an E-Portfolio as a final assignment. A final project is also required. Not all deliverables will be graded and students have several options for designating which deliverables are ungraded and which are graded. Ungraded proof of progress on the assignments (in the form of a partial, draft E-Portfolio) will be due at the end of December. The final E-Portfolio will be due on 15.03.2026.

Introduction to Epistemology			
Core		Semester	
Dr. Melanie Altanian (melanie.altanian@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	80	00LE62S-LAS-CO0011
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Theory of Knowledge			

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture Tue, 16-18h, AU HS 2 Workgroups WG 1: Thu, 16-18h, KG 1134 WG 2: Thu, 16-18h, KG 1140 WG 3: Thu, 18-20h, KG 1016 WG 4: Thu, 18-20h, KG 1140
Course Description	This course offers an overview of contemporary epistemology with a primer on the basics of philosophical logic (propositional and predicate logic). At the same time, it introduces non-philosophy students to philosophy in the sense of working on conceptual problems, questions and arguments. Students of all disciplines will profit from the introduction to conceptual thinking and logic in the first three sessions. The primer on propositional and first-order logic is based on standard textbooks for logic in philosophy. The overview of epistemology is structured according to Michael Williams' five systematic problems of epistemology: ▪ The Analytical Problem. What is knowledge and how can we define it? ▪ The Problem of Scepticism. Can we know anything at all? How can we know that we do (not)? ▪ The Problem of Boundaries. What different kinds (know-how, know-that) and sources (perception, testimony, memory) of knowledge are there? How do we explain and distinguish them? ▪ The Problem of Value. Why do we aspire to gain knowledge? Why does true belief not suffice? ▪ The Problem of Method. How do we gain knowledge? What role do rationality and reason play in epistemology? How should we do epistemology?
Remarks	The lecture and the workgroups are set up as two courses in HISinOne. Please register for the workgroup only.
Examination	Graded Examination I (20%): Students must give a short (10min) presentation of one core text in the workgroups. Graded Examination II (80%): The final exam will be a written exam on 03.02.2026. The re-sit date is April 7, 2026.
Recommended Reading	Jennifer Nagel: Knowledge: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: OUP, 2014. Duncan Pritchard: What Is This Thing Called Knowledge? Third ed. London: Routledge, 2014. Alessandra Tanesini: An Introduction to Feminist Epistemologies. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999. Michael Williams: Problems of Knowledge: A Critical Introduction to Epistemology. Oxford: OUP, 2001.

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 Kick-off Fri, 17.10., 9-13h		
Course Description	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. 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 volunatry work.		
Remarks	The language of instruction and at most cooperation partners is German. The assignment can be written in English. Please register for the course and the examination in HISinOne both at UCF (see course/module no.) and at ZfS. For more information, please visit the ZfS website on Service Learning: https://www.zfs.uni-freiburg.de/de/service-learning		
Examination	Written assignment and poster presentation at the final conference.		

4.2 Study Area: Culture and History

Theory of History			
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-CH0002
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Theory of History		Introduction to Culture & History	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, KG 1023 Wed, 10-12h, Ph R3		
Course Description	All human groups engage with the past, with their history. Through the informal mechanisms of individual and collective memory and through the formal memorialization of states, churches and other authorities, the past is selectively appropriated for social, political, and cultural needs. In the modern world a professionalized academic discipline specializes in this work: History. Beginning in the 19th century, especially in Germany, the scholarly or scientific (wissenschaftlich) study of the past coalesced around the attempt to provide reliable and verifiable knowledge about the past according to the standards of logic, proof, and secular ontology that guided other fields of inquiry. The primary goal of this course is to explore modern History understood as methodologically rigorous research and judiciously selective reconstruction of the past in writing. The course is designed to develop students' theoretical thinking about history and historiography, that is, in reference to problems and questions in historical research that cannot be resolved empirically or methodologically. The course is organized in three parts. First, students ground their learning about History through a brief history of the emergence, coalescence, and differentiation of the professional academic discipline in the modern period. Second, students work through some perennial theoretical problems in History. Finally, students consider how theory informs historical work outside of the academy.		
Examination	11.02.2026		

Sensing Others: Ways of Knowing Animals			
Culture & History		Semester	
Dr. Michaela Frey (michaela.frey@unibas.ch)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CH0081
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Culture: Arts Culture & History I, II, or III		none	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 18-20h, PH R 3 Thu, 16-18h, AU R 01 065		
Course Description	How do we produce knowledge of the nonhuman Other? This course aims to examine the way we make knowledge about animals by analysing the ways we have learned to see, listen to, and live with them. Bringing together approaches from the emerging field of 'sensory studies' and 'Human-Animal-Studies', the course traces how humans have imagined and aestheticized animals. We will explore the practices and institutions through which we (re)produce knowledge about animals (zoos and museums) and how these stimulate and limit certain senses. Students are encouraged to think about the way culture and art engage with sensory perception to extend human limitations, for instance, through anthropomorphising strategies in fiction, in which writers are lending animals a voice. Lastly, we will examine how living with domestic and wild animals has shaped and shapes human lives and histories. These ways of co-evolution and cohabitation emphasises the ties with and affection toward the more-than-human Others but also highlights their boundaries. Engaging with theoretical texts by John Berger, Jacques Derrida, Vinciane Despret, and Donna Haraway, we will reflect on how knowledge about animals is produced, challenged, and rethought. Alongside these, we will analyse various contemporary artworks and discuss how these envision ways of perceiving and knowing more-than-human life, such as ecopoetry by Irish poet Caitriona O'Reilly and English-Kenyan poet Elizabeth-Jane Burnett, Laura Jean McKay's novel The Animals in That Country (2020), and Wiktor Kossakowski's documentary Gunda (2020).		
Remarks	The course includes two mandatory excursions, both taking place outside of the regular schedule on Friday: Basel Zoo on 24.10.25 (approx. half a day) and Museum "Natur und Mensch" in Freiburg on 14.11.25 (approx. 2 hours in the morning).		
Examination	13.02.2026		

4.3 Study Area: Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

Environmental Chemistry			
ESS		Semester	
Christoph Howe, PhD (C.Howe@gmx.net)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	25	00LE62S-LAS-EE0010
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Environmental Chemistry		Introduction to Environmental and Sustainability Sciences	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, Ph HS 1 Wed, 10-12h, HH4 R2.5.1.		
Course Description	In this course, students will be firstly introduced to basic chemical concepts such as LEWIS structures and oxidation states to describe essential molecular compounds in the environment, their involvement and transformation in the biosphere. Further on, insights on acid/base theory, coordination chemistry and hardly soluble salts will provide the necessary fundament to describe environmental systems such as the atmosphere, water bodies and soil. Systematically, material cycles such as the carbon and nitrogen cycle will be described in depth as they play a major role in climate change, agriculture and waste water treatment. Additionally, students will be given the opportunity to work on projects on self-chosen pollutants to eventually forward technological solutions to cope with or mitigate the pollutants' negative effects on the environment. These projects will be graded in the format of reports (40 % of the total grade). A midterm and final written exam (each 30 %) on the given lecture topics will enclose the course while as a guideline for the written exam, exercises will be provided after each lecture. This course aims to create a rigid fundament to understand various biochemical and biophysical processes in the field of environmental chemistry		
Remarks	Students of the major ESS have priority. This course should not be taken together with the Foundational Chemistry as content partly overlaps.		
Examination	Written midterm exam 17.11.2025; written final exam date 19.01.2026; report deadline 20.02.2026.		
Recommended Reading	Environmental Chemistry: Fundamentals.		

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4.4 Study Area: Governance

Economy and Society			
Governance only		Semester	
Olivier Schunck (olivier_schunck@hotmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2(3,4)	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0101
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Economics (priority) Advanced Governance (no priority)		Introduction to Governance	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 12-14h, BT 106 Wed, 12-14h, PH R3 Additional or different dates (presence): 14.10., 04.11. and 20.01., 10:15-14h, 15.10., 05.11., 21.01. - 12-14h instead of 16-18h		
Course Description	This course introduces LAS students to the interactions between economy and society. Rather than leading with traditional economic theory, this course introduces a foundational understanding of key concepts and methods of economics by taking a hands-on approach based on concrete cases with real-life data as well as historical examples. About half of the course modules will be delivered online, while the remaining sessions will take place in person over 3 separate weeks during the semester. Sessions will combine readings-based seminar discussions, individual or small group project work, including presentations, exercises on basic analysis of economic data and, possibly, guest talks. Upon completion, students will be equipped with conceptual and analytical tools to: ▪ effectively investigate major societal trends and challenges at global or regional level and to articulate appropriate views; ▪ understand the disciplinary focus and the value added of economics in the study of social reality; ▪ increase their understanding and interpretation of economic data including how to use it to support the analysis of given topics; ▪ improve awareness about contemporary economic and socio-political debates and enhance critical judgment and self-awareness.		
Remarks	There is no senior priority in the registration for this course. Second-year students have priority. About half of the course will take place online with the remaining sessions happening in presence (attendance is mandatory). Second-year students of Governance wishing to specialize in economics are highly recommended to take this course. In presence on Tue 10-14h and Wed 12-14h on 14/15.10, 4/5.11 and 20/21.01.		
Examination	The graded examination includes written assignments and presentations. Final deadline: February 15, 2026.		

European Union Law and Policies			
Governance only		Semester	
Dr. Stoyan Panov (stoyan.panov@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2(3,4)	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0084
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Regional and Area Studies		Introduction to Governance	

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, AU 01.065 Wed, 14-16h, AU 01.065
Course Description	The course focuses on contemporary challenges that the European Union is facing and offers an overview of the institutional design and competences of the EU and current developments. Some questions that we will address: ▪ How do the EU institutions such as the Commission, the Council, the European Council, and the European Parliament function and make policies? ▪ Is there an alleged democratic deficit of the EU institutions? ▪ Will there be an EU of “two speeds”? ▪ What is the chance of further enlargement of the EU in the Western Balkans, Ukraine, or Turkey in light of the recent rise of populist parties in the EU? ▪ Is the EU a harbinger in data privacy protection on international level? ▪ What is the role of the EU in responding to climate change? ▪ What can the EU do in terms of energy security and common foreign and security policy? ▪ What are the latest developments in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice with respect to migration policies? This is a sample of issues that we will address in the course. Students may be divided into small groups and may be required to deliver short analytical presentations or outlines on written material and media sources related to the topics covered in the course. Group activities and presentations are to be expected as the course will be highly interactive. Simulations of the proceedings in EU institutions may take place in the course.
Remarks	The course is highly recommended to 2nd-year Governance students, who have priority in registering. No senior student priority for this course.
Examination	The final grade will be based on wriiten assignments and presentation(s). Final component of the examination is planned to be due on 04.02.2026.
Recommended Reading	For an overview of EU policies: "Europe in 12 Lessons". For the latest news from Brussels and current events and developments in the EU, you can check the free-access Politico as well as the daily newsletter Brussels Playbook. An introductory academic text on the topic of the functioning of the EU: D. Kenealy, J. Peterson, and R. Corbett, The European Union: How Does It Work? (OUP, 5th edition)

International Law and International Security			
Governance		Semester	
Dr. Stoyan Panov (stoyan.panov@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	18	00LE62S-LAS-GO0008
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option: Governance, Research in an Area of Governance		Introduction to Governance, see also the requirements for senior Governance courses in the STUPO	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, AU 01.065 Wed, 10-12h, VF 00.003		
Course Description	The course introduces students to an interdisciplinary exploration of International Law and International Security. While it provides students with the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of fundamental principles of International Law, the course also examines how international actors coexist, interact and make law and apply the principles governing international legal relations and international security. The thread of international security in the fields of human rights, the law of armed conflict (war), terrorism and cybersecurity among other relevant topics is examined. Essential topics of International Law such as the identification and function of actors in the international legal order and their role in security system (States, Statehood, International Organizations), the creation of international law (Sources of International Law such as treaties, custom, and general principles), the consequences of breaches of International Law and present-day challenges to the international legal order are analyzed. Most recent developments in the field of International Law will serve as a focal point of analysis and discussion. Related to the concept of International Security, discussions will focus on contemporary developments in the global order, international interventions in armed conflicts, the feasibility of the Responsibility to Protect doctrine, migration, law enforcement mechanisms against terrorism, collective security, the legal aspects of the threat or use of force, function of human rights law in international security, nuclear proliferation regime, among others. The emphasis is on dealing with current pressing debates on International Law as well as novel approaches to the topic through the prism of International Security. By examining materials and their interaction with current security-related issues around the world, students shall gain competences in analyzing contemporary developments. In order to appropriately examine the topics of International Law and security studies, the material includes general introduction to fundamental techniques and methods of legal and security studies research and interpretation. The course will employ concrete current examples, case studies and interactive exercises in order to contextualize the approaches and tools, and highlight linkages between theory and practice in the areas of International Law and International Security. The participants will gain skills to analyze fact problem sets and apply acquired knowledge in various case scenarios. Students may be required to participate in group activities and presentation projects.		
Examination	Written assignments, and/or research paper/research design analysis, and/or presentations. Last component of the grade is planned to be due on 27.02.2026.		

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Political Theory			
Governance only		Semester	
Wouter Wiersma (wouter.wiersma@rug.nl)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2(3,4)	8	22	00LE62S-LAS-GO0103
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Political Theory		Introduction to Governance	

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, AU 01 036a Wed 10-12h, BT 107
Course Description	Note: The topics covered and structure of this course will be revised still, we will keep you updated on the changes. What effects does it have to limit free speech? How does affirmative action relate to equality? By what standards do we evaluate whether progressive taxation is fair? In this introduction to Political Theory, we take questions such as these to critically test the claims, assumptions, and agendas of different theoretical approaches. We will study some core ideas of political theory, relating to the relative position and roles of the individual, the community, the state and humanity. The aim of the course is to get to know a range of theoretical perspectives, to critically discuss their claims and propositions, to assess their explanatory potential, and to apply them to politically controversial questions and cases. A willingness to engage with challenging theoretical texts and a curiosity about the complex processes of social and political world-making are prerequisites for the course. Course aims: ▪ Learn to relate political arguments to different traditions of political theory. ▪ Learn to understand and position your own political opinions in relation to different thinkers of political theory. ▪ Learn to approach politically controversial topics from several different perspectives and backed up by theoretical arguments. ▪ Learn to critically situate and reflect on established theories. ▪ To express your own reflections and positions according to academic standards (in written and oral form).
Remarks	Second-year Governance students are highly recommended to take this course and have priority during the registration. No senior priority in this course. Note that this is an 8 ECTS courses and comes with a corresponding workload.
Examination	Written assignments. Final submission deadline on 22 February, 2026.
Recommended Reading	To prepare to the course, review texts dealing with issues of the organization of the social groups (family, community, club) and institutions (universities, markets, states) that you have encountered so far in your studies and formulate a few personally meaninfgul questions.

Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality as Social Categories			
Governance		Semester	
Zeynep Cemre Sandalli			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0104
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Governance I and II		Introduction to Governance, Political Theory	

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 10-12h, KG 1134 Thu, 10-12h, KG 1243
Course Description	Social categories are necessary to make sense of the political world. Categories such as class, race, gender, and sexuality, however, are not fixed, and are themselves the objects of extensive theorizing, debate, and political action. This seminar will focus on exceptional social theorists and social philosophers, each of whom lies outside narrow disciplinary boundaries, and whose ideas have profoundly influenced social and political theory, and actually-existing politics. To that end, the goal of this course is to read and critically reflect on primary texts of seminal figures like Karl Marx, W.E.B. Du Bois, Franz Fanon, Michel Foucault, and more contemporary work by scholars on identity and difference, such as Catharine MacKinnon, Iris Marion Young, Nancy Fraser and Judith Butler, whose ideas lie in critical dialogue with earlier foundational thinkers. The course has a chronological structure, starting with Marx and finishing with the contemporary authors Fraser and Butler. The course will explore the following questions: How have various thinkers from different historical and political contexts understood oppression and domination and how have these understandings influenced their conceptualization of resistance and emancipation? In what ways do the categories race, class, gender and sexuality interact with each other in systems of power? In what cases could or should they be analyzed separately? etc. Learning goals: ▪ analyze complex primary texts by seminal figures in social theory, ▪ discuss the role that class, race, gender and sexuality play in social thought, ▪ discuss the relationship between the theory and politics of emancipation, ▪ reflect on the extent to which race, class, gender, and sexuality are interconnected in theoretical or political contexts.
Remarks	Second-year students are not recommended to take this course if they did not study political theory previously. Taking Political Theory in parallel is not enough.
Examination	Reading responses [ungraded]: Students should write a brief critical response (each 500 words max) for at least four of the theorists the course engages with. In-class Presentation (30% of the final grade) Mid-Term Essay (20% of the final grade) (to be submitted by 16.11.2025) Take-Home Exam (50% of the final grade) (to be submitted by 22.02.2026)
Recommended Reading	Du Bois, W.E.B (1933): Marxism and the Negro Problem. The Crisis 40, 5, 103-104. Fraser, Nancy; Nicholson, Linda (1989): Social Criticism without Philosophy: An Encounter between Feminism and Postmodernism. Social Text, 21, 83–104. Huegel, Viktoria (2020): On the Politics of Nonviolence. An Interview with Judith Butler. Interfere: Journal for Critical Thought and Radical Politics 1, 86-91.

4.5 Study Area: Life Sciences

Anatomy and Functions of the Brain			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Janina Kirsch (janina.kirsch@biologie.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0007
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III		Introduction to Life Sciences (required)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Online course with three optional classroom sessions: Fri, 24.10., 10-12h, Biologie II/III, SR 00 043 Fri, 28.11., 10-12h, Biologie II/III, SR 00 043 Fri, 23.01., 10-12h, Biologie II/III, SR 00 043 Exam: Fri, 06.02., Biologie II/III, Computerpool		
Course Description	Self-paced online studying with recorded videos and a script. For each topic, students complete learning units in ILIAS and model the brain structures at home using plasticine (yes, your hands will get dirty!). These plasticine models will help you to understand the relative location of different parts of the brain. Feedback is provided through video files and during the optional check-in meetings in person. In this course different components of the vertebrate brain and associated functions are presented one by one. In particular these are General structure of the vertebrate brain; Spinal cord; Medulla oblongata; Cerebellum; Midbrain; Thalamus; Hypothalamus; Basal ganglia; Limbic system; Cerebral cortex		
Remarks	This class is a self-paced online class. Students complete learning modules in ILIAS throughout the semester and build plasticine models of different parts of the brain. Online sessions have to be completed before Jan 25, 2026 in order to be admitted to the exam.		
Examination	Online sessions have to be completed before Jan 25, 2026 in order to be admitted to the exam. Final Exam: Fri, Feb 6, 2026, Biologie II/III, Computerpool		
Recommended Reading	Two SOMSO Brain models as well as the script (English and German) are available in the reading room for self-study! Kandel, Schwartz, et al. (2012) Principles of neural science. (Reading Room: NT/Kan/1)		

Basic Chemistry and Biochemistry			
Life Sciences,		Semester	
Christoph Howe, PhD (C.Howe@gmx.net)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0002
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Foundational Chemistry		none	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 10-12h, KG 1019 Thu, 10-12h, KG 1019		
Course Description	In this course the students will learn the basics on chemistry and how to apply fundamental chemical concepts in a scientific lab environment preparing for common tasks: How to read the periodic table?; how to draw realistic chemical structures (LEWIS) and implement essential geometric information within their 3D structure (VSEPR)?; what are functional groups and how to prepare dilution series for experiments?; how to create buffer systems?; how to calculate for the necessary chemical ingredients to individually manufacture a culture medium (e.g. in a biological lab)?; how do we use thermodynamics to predict spontaneity of chemical reactions?; how to use a spectrophotometer and what is the principle of absorption spectroscopy (IR, UV-Vis, etc.)? The chemical concepts of this lecture will be trained in a seminar-like course style with time for questions and answers. Additionally excercise sheets will be solved by the individual student outside class room. By the end of the course, the students show their training by presenting a chemical or a chemical process on a self-chosen topic to the class.		
Examination	Midterm exam (50% of final grade) on Nov 13, 2025, final exam (50%) on Jan 20, 2026, and an ungraded presentation during the class.		
Recommended Reading	Theodore E. Brown, H. Eugene LeMay, Bruce E. Bursten & Catherine Murphy (2017) Chemistry: The Central Science (Mastering Chemistry), 14th edition, Pearson. Crowe & Bradshaw (2010) Chemistry for the Biosciences. (Reading room: NT/Cro/2,a)		

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Engineered Living Materials			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Tobias Butelmann (tobbut@posteo.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0043
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option I or II		Foundational Chemistry, Cell Biology, Physiology (all required, Physiology can be taken in parallel)	

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 18-20h, AU 01.036a Wed, 18-20h, AU 01.036a
Course Description	Engineered Living Materials (ELMs) represent one of the most interesting and emerging disciplines at the crossroads of biology and materials science allowing researchers to develop new materials with breathtaking properties and applications. They combine living cells, such as microorganisms, and specific materials, such as polymers, and can be applied in biotechnology and medicine, but also construction and electronics, finding solutions for industrial and societal demands. In this class, students will explore the domains within the field of ELMs in between “Life” and “Materials” and see how they are connected through engineering. Students will build on their biological and chemical knowledge, get to know polymer chemistry and materials science in more detail and discover numerous applications to get an idea of what is possible in the field of ELMs. For the examination, students will present a research article as an oral presentation in a seminar (~20 min, 30 %) and write a final exam (70 %). At the end of the course, they will have an understanding of the new field and will have gained some insights into how their biological knowledge can be applied in a different scientific domain, i.e. materials science. This will help the students to become an interdisciplinary scholar with a broad knowledge.
Remarks	Class starts on Wednesday, Oct 15.
Examination	Feb 2, 2026 (to be agreed on in the first session)
Recommended Reading	Srubar III, Wil (2022) Engineered Living Materials. Electronic version available through the univeristy library (with UFR IP): https://www.redi-bw.de/start/unifr/EBooks-springer/10.1007/978-3-030-92949-7

Human Physiology in Clinical Cases			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Dieter Kunz (dieter.kunz@unibas.ch)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0010
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Physiology		Foundational Chemistry and Cell Biology (both required)	

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 8-10h, KG 1140 Wed 8-10h, online
Course Description	Human Physiology is the science of life aiming to understand the mechanisms of the human body on different levels including molecules, cells, tissues, organs and organ systems. One focus is how the human body's systems and functions work together to maintain a stable internal environment, an important requirement for live and survival of the induvial organism. It focuses on how organ systems, individual organs, cells, and biomolecules carry out chemical and physical functions including the nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, and urinary systems, as well as cellular and exercise physiology. Pathophysiology is at the intersection of pathology and physiology, concerning disordered physiological processes that cause or result from or are otherwise associated with a disease or injury. Knowledge in physiology and pathophysiology helps not only to understand how the body works in health and is deflected in disease, but it also provides potential target structures for development of therapies and medications. The course will include presentations by the instructor and the student participants. Student tandems will present patients suffering from exemplary and most common diseases. Students will explain the underlying physiology but also present some data to the pathophysiology of the disease.
Examination	Final exam in the last week of the semester
Recommended Reading	Silverthorn (2016) Human Physiology: An Integrated Approach (Reading Room: NT/Sil/1) Brandes, Lang & Schmidt (2019) Physiologie des Menschen: mit Pathophysiologie (electronic license through the university library)

Introduction to Cancer Biology			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Jun.-Prof. Priscilla Briquez (priscilla.briquez@uniklinik-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	15	00LE62S-LAS-LS0035
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization LS I or II		Foundational Chemistry and Cell Biology (both required) and Human Physiology (can be taken in parallell)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 16-18h, AU 01.065 Wed, 16-18h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	In this class, students will be introduced to key mechanisms of cancer biology, including cancer development, host response and therapeutic perspectives, via ex cathedra lectures and critical discussion of journal articles. We will explore the transformations that healthy cells undergo to become malignant, and how the host response participates in the development of the tumor microenvironment. We will additionally detail the mechanisms by which primary tumor cells modify their phenotype to further form metastasis. Lastly, we will discuss how cancer cells develop strategies to evade the host immune system, and the different types of cancer therapies that exist to fight cancer, including newly developed immunotherapies. During the course, students will have to present research papers selected in the relevant topics, to promote critical thinking and communication skills. Upon successful completion of this course, students will: ▪ Acquire general knowledges on cancer biology ▪ Understand current challenges for the development of effective and safe cancer therapies ▪ Present a research paper to develop critical thinking and communication skills.		
Examination	Paper presentation during class (30% of the final grade) and formal written exam on Feb 4, 2026 (70% of the final grade) .		

Nervous System Disorders			
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-LS0029
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III, Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II		"Anatomy and Functions of the Brain" (required) and "Neuroscience: From Brain to Behaviour" (recommended)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, AU 01.036a Wed, 14-16h, AU 01.036a		
Course Description	The central nervous system is the biological engine through which humans navigate the world. It dictates every modality of the human condition, from the most primitive functions of our survival to our higher-order intelligence and self-awareness. Modern neuroscience, building on the early experiments of antiquity and the progress of anatomy and physiology in the 19th and 20th centuries, integrates elements of biology, chemistry, medicine, psychology and philosophy to provide insights into the mechanics of the brain and everything it controls. This course explores the nervous system through its disorders, the study of which has long been used as a window into normal function. Biomedical neuroscience not only aims to develop clinical solutions for these conditions, but also provides unique insights about how the nervous system functions in health and disease. Drawing from a wide array of biological, psychological, and clinical aspects, students will develop an understanding of how neuroscience research utilises tools from a range of disciplines to describe the function and dysfunction of the nervous system, and ultimately to diagnose and treat its disorders. Students will develop in-depth knowledge of how various forms of disruption of nervous system function can give rise to disease, and learn to think critically about diseases, treatments, and how they can be understood within a wider societal context. Classes are based on a combination of lectures, seminars, and student presentations, with a focus on interactive learning and discussion. Material will be presented in a hybrid format, with online lectures paired with seminar sessions for discussion. Topics will include neuroscience research methods, infectious disease and the brain's immune system, brain injury, neurodegeneration, and functional and psychiatric disorders. Students will learn to interact critically with research methodologies and scientific literature, encouraging them to explore topics beyond the immediate course material. The course endeavours to equip students with specialised neuroscientific knowledge and offer a foundation for those who would choose to further pursue basic or clinical research, in neuroscience or the wider biomedical sciences."		
Examination	Presentation (30% of final grade) + exercise sheets (30% of final grade) + end-of-term essay due on Feb 23, 2026 (40% of the final grade)		
Recommended Reading	Sontheimer, H. (2015). Diseases of the nervous system. Academic Press. (Reading Room: NT/So/1) Kandel, Schwartz et al. (2013) Principles of neural science. McGraw-Hill Medical. (Reading Room: NT/Kan/1)		

4.6 Study Area: Multiple

Business Planning for Beginners			
Senior Profile in all Majors		Semester	
Dr. Firuza Rizaeva (rizaeva.firuz@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	4	18	00LE62S-LAS-CHEEGOLS0008
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile		Prerequisites for senior modules apply, depending on the Major	

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 10-12h, HS 1142 Thu, 10-12h, tbc
Course Description	The course is designed for students who are interested in entrepreneurship and want to learn how to write a business plan, the first step in implementing an entrepreneurial idea. During the course, we will expose the process of preparing a business plan step-by-step, theoretically and practically, and encourage participants to work in small groups on their business projects. We will support them in learning to gather and structure information into a Business Plan, and tools to develop product ideas and commercialization plans, identify/evaluate opportunities, and acquire/manage resources. On this basis, they will independently develop a complete business plan for their initiative, including all financial components, competitive analysis, and customer profiles. In general, by participating in this course, the student will have a chance to build the initial framework of a usable business plan and get feedback on it from the instructor and other participants. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to: ▪ Identify, develop, and evaluate a business idea. ▪ Acquire the entrepreneurial skills required to gather and analyze industry information, potential markets, the impact of competitors, and define needs of potential customers. ▪ Analyze the environment or industry in which the proposed business will exist. ▪ Conduct a feasibility analysis. ▪ Create a customer profile. ▪ Analyze the competition and determine their impact on your business venture. ▪ Develop a revenue generation model and growth strategies. ▪ Produce a multi-year financial plan that supports the business venture. ▪ Apply the business planning process to produce a business plan The course is interactive and combines lectures and guided discussions. A team exercise continues throughout the course, in which each team of students starts a fictional intrapreneurial venture and develops it into a final Business Plan draft presentation.
Remarks	The course will take place in October-December only.
Examination	Assignments and practical exercises and discussions (40 points). Written final Business Plan (60 points) to be submitted by 24.02.2026. Late submission will be accepted with a significant point reduction until the final deadline of 28.02.
Recommended Reading	It is highly recommended to read the textbook on “Microeconomics” (for non-economics students) before starting the course to understand the meaning of economic terms: D. MacDonald, D. Shapiro, and A. Steven: Principles of Microeconomics 3 e. Openstax, Rice University, 2022 (Chapter: Production, Costs, and Industry Structure, 169-195).

Computational Methods in Pharmaceutical and Biochemical Sciences			
Life Sciences, ESS		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Stefan Günther, Simon P. Pfäffle (simon.pfaeffle@pharmazie.uni-freiburg.de), Sinclair Cullen Rockwell-Kollmann (sinclair.rockwell-kollmann@pharmazie.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	8 + waiting list	08LE31V-40010M 08LE31Ü-40011M
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Methods I or II (LS, ESS)			

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture: Tue, 11-12:30h, HS Pharmazie, Hermann-Herder-Str. 7, Hörsaal Practical: Thu 10-12h, PC Pool 3, Werthmannstr. 4
Course Description	This course provides a practical introduction to scientific programming and data analysis in the life sciences, with a focus on Python-based methods. Students will learn to visualize data, explore AI and machine learning techniques, and work with molecular and genomic data, including chemical structures and next-generation sequencing. Additionally, the course will introduce specialized software for the life sciences (AlphaFold, Cytoscape, mothur, PyDESeq, PyMOL, Schrödinger Suite). By the end of this course, students will be able to: ▪ Write and understand basic Python code. ▪ Programmatically create different types of visualisations for various data sources. ▪ Understand the underlying principles in model building, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning methodology. ▪ Digitally work with chemical molecules and apply currently relevant methods from the life sciences field. ▪ Digitally work with Next-Generation-Sequencing data and apply currently relevant methods from the life sciences field. ▪ Comprehend basic graph theory and its application to biological networks.
Remarks	Students don't require their own computers. We will make use of the computers in the IT department (Rechenzentrum) with preinstalled software. After each practical there will be a homework assignment. A virtual machine with all required software is available at: https://bwlehrpool.ruf.uni-freiburg.de/ Students must register for both the lecture and the practical session separately.
Examination	12.02.2026, 10-12h, e-exam, Werthmannstr. 4
Recommended Reading	https://www.learnpython.org/ Reinhard Pharmazeutische Biologie : Grundlagen und Humanbiologie available at the UB Freiburg

Debates in Academia and Beyond			
Senior Profile in all Majors		Semester	
Fran Seitz (f.seitz@mailfence.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	4, 6, or 8	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHEEGOLS0009
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile		Prerequisites for senior modules apply, depending on the Major	

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 8-10h, AU 01.065 Wed, 8-10h KG 1034
Course Description	This course aims at enhancing both your analytical tool box in recurring argumentation patterns and practical debating techniques. We will focus on dialogue-based argumentation in epistemic practice, honing spoken and written argumentation skills in current controversies in and beyond academia. While the importance of argumentative reading and writing in academic literacies is undisputed, there is a strong caution against the confrontational or competitive argument styles commonly associated with journalistic or political forms of expression. However, despite the potential issues with an 'adversarial frame of mind,' the ability to identify and analyze arguments—including their claims, warrants, and evidence—in both listening and reading is crucial for developing critical thinking and effective spoken and written communication skills. Studying the historical influence of rhetorics and its current stand in educational and political science, we will see that the acquisition of factual knowledge is based on a specific set of argumentative patterns, fostering coherent worldviews. In terms of epistemic tradition, we will consider questions of how evidence that is incongruent to an individual or collective set of believes proves to have the most significant effect in developing critical argumentation skills—acknowledging and addressing, rather than ignoring, evidence that counters one's preferences. Another question we'll raise is how are critical listening and reading skills important in the age of fake news and discuss options to prevent and intervene in past and current debates lacking formally permissible argumentation. The course serves as a space for three objectives: 1) to reflect on and expand upon the landscape of research epistemology, debate traditions and evaluation of analytical tools including several graphical tools organizing complex information, visualizing data; 2) to practice debating techniques; and 3) writing lab sessions devoted to prepare the discussion paper and providing feedback to fellow students.
Remarks	You will need to indicate to the lecturer how many ECTS you are aiming for by the end of the exam registration period. Second-year students are not admitted to this course. A visit at the Dokumentationszentrum Nationalsozialismus Freiburg will give us insight into local media and propaganda and consequences by looking at complementary archive material.
Examination	Examination format and dates 4 ECTS: reading journal for two sessions, participation in two debates and written assignment (800 words by 11th February 2026) 6 ECTS: see above + essay/podcast script (2.500 words, by February 18th 2026) 8 ECTS: see above + seminal paper/podcast script (7.000 words by February 25th 2026)
Recommended Reading	Stephen E. Toulmin, The uses of argument. Cambridge University Press, 2003 [1958]. Dan Tierney, Rory Stewart, The Long History of... Argument, BBC Radio 4, July 19, 2022.

KG Kollegiengebäude
AU Alte Universität
HS Hörsaal
BT Breisacher Tor

Ph Peterhof
HH Hermann-Herder-Straße
FMF Stefan-Meier-Str. 21

Discourse Analysis			
Governance, ESS, Senior Profile for all Majors		Semester	
Dr. Seongcheol Kim (seongcheol.kim@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0102
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Methods (Governance), ESS: Methods II, Senior Profile		If taken for Senior Profile, prerequisites for senior modules apply.	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 16-18h, KG 1234 Wed, 16-18h, AU 01.036a		
Course Description	This methods seminar provides a broad-based introduction to different approaches to discourse analysis in the social sciences as well as related methods such as qualitative content analysis and narrative analysis. Specific paradigms of discourse analysis that will be examined include Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Cultural Political Economy (CPE), Post-Foundational Discourse Analysis (PDA), and the Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse (SKAD). In addition to a compact overview of each method and its theoretical underpinnings, the course will be geared toward exploring avenues for application in areas ranging from populism and nationalism research to political economy and policy studies. To this end, hands-on exercises and group work will constitute an integral part of the course. Students will be encouraged to grapple with questions of how to translate the conceptual toolkit of each method into analysis and operationalize their objects of inquiry using the method in question. As such, course participants are actively encouraged to bring in their own areas of research interest and will have the opportunity to discuss potential applications of discourse analytic methods in their BA theses.		
Remarks	Second-year students are not admitted to this course.		
Examination	The final examination will take the form of a term paper with deadlines for different phases of the research process spread out across the semester. The final deadline for term papers is 31.01.2026.		

Elites: Who Governs in Democracy?			
Governance, C&H		Semester	
Dr. Sigurd Rothe (sigurd.rothe@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0022
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Advanced Governance I, II Specialization Option C&H I and II Senior Profile C&H		Introduction to Governance	

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Thu, 10-13h, VF R 00003
Course Description	This course examines both empirical and normative perspectives on elites and their exercise of power within democratic systems. At the core of the seminar lies the exploration of a central paradox of modern democracy: while political power is supposed to rest with the people, governance is typically exercised by small, identifiable groups — democratic elites. Who are these elites? How are they recruited and held accountable? Can democracy be reconciled with elite rule, or must it move beyond it? The seminar is organized in three parts: The first part examines classical elite theory through foundational texts and critiques to understand key concepts like elite circulation, oligarchy, and legitimacy in the context of power and governance. The second part explores the rise and influence of “new elites” such as technocrats, media figures, and transnational actors, highlighting how they impact democracy beyond traditional frameworks. The third and final part uses Ursula K. Le Guin’s novel The Dispossessed as a literary case study to prompt a structured debate on whether complex societies can function without elites, exploring the tensions between anti-elitist ideals and the realities of power, legitimacy, and institutional stability. Learning objectives: Students will develop a sound understanding of classical elite theories and their role in analyzing power and governance in democracies, while building critical vocabulary and methods for studying elites empirically and normatively. They will connect these frameworks to contemporary “new elites” and critically reflect on the challenges and opportunities of anti-elitist political visions through literary analysis. Ultimately, students will deepen their understanding of the tensions between elite rule and democratic ideals and articulate thoughtful perspectives on the future of democratic accountability.
Remarks	The course takes place once per week with 3-hour sessions.
Examination	To pass the course, students must regularly prepare for and attend classes, actively participate in discussions, and complete both a collaborative wiki project and an individual analytical paper (3,000–4,000 words). The wiki project is assessed on a pass/fail basis and is mandatory for course completion. Students seeking a graded examination must submit both assignments, with the analytical paper accounting for 100% of the final grade. The final submission deadline will be February 15, 2026.
Recommended Reading	Piano, Natasha. Democratic Elitism: The Founding Myth of American Political Science. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: Harvard University Press, 2025. Le Guin, Ursula. The Dispossessed: An Ambiguous Utopia. New York: Harper, 1974.

Environment, Risks, and Us			
ESS, Governance, Life Sciences		Semester	
Prof. Dr. habil. Dirk Bunke (D.Bunke@oeko.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0024
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Human and the Environment I or II, Specialization Option Governance Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III		Environmental chemistry or foundational chemistry	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 16-18h, BT R 101 Wed, 16-18h, BT R 101		
Course Description	In this course we will explore the manifold impacts of human activities on the environment and resulting risks – for human health as well as for the environment. The course aims to create an understanding of present sources for environmental pollution, alternative options to act as well on regulatory and voluntary steps for abatement. Based on examples from everyday life products, several groups of pollutants and their sources will be introduced. Examples are given for the mechanisms how chemicals can interfere with organisms and for the environmental fate of chemicals. In addition, you develop basic skills in environmental risk assessment and management strategies. The course includes topics such as risks resulting from products, citizen science on biodiversity, toxicological and ecotoxicological assessment of chemicals, chemicals in articles, legislation on hazardous chemicals and their substitution, properties of eco-labels and options for us to reduce risks. It includes also field work to enhance your chance to experience biodiversity and to hear or see birds of the night in the areas around Freiburg.		
Remarks	Students of the major ESS have priority.		
Examination	Graded assignments: Presentation and written report due 23 February 2026 Pass/Fail examination: one assignment and a written exam on 2 February 2026		

Geographical Information System (GIS)			
ESS, Governance		Semester	
Dr. Ayobami Badiru Moreira (ayobami.badiru-moreira@dwd.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2,3,4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0005
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
ESS Methods I, ESS Methods II, Specialization Option: ESS I or II, Methods (Governance)		Introduction to ESS or Introduction to Governance	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, Werthmannstr. 4, PC Pool 1 Wed, 14-16h, Werthmannstr. 4, PC Pool 1		
Course Description	Managing data with a spatial reference to the Earth is a central function of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). A GIS stores and manages different types of data and links them to geographic locations, serving as a powerful tool for visualization and spatial analysis. GIS is widely used in science, public administration, and various industries. This course follows a hands-on and integrated approach, with all classes held in the computer lab using QGIS, a free and open-source GIS software. Instead of separating theory and practice, theoretical concepts will be introduced directly through practical exercises, helping students to understand the ideas behind spatial data while applying them in real-time. The course is divided into three parts: In the first part (approx. 25% of the course), students will explore the broad applications of GIS through guided examples, learn about spatial data types, data sources (including open data), and basic regulatory aspects — all while working directly with QGIS. The second part deepens the use of QGIS tools, with a focus on geospatial analysis methods commonly applied in environmental science. Students will complete a short Studienleistung and collaborative group work. The final part (approx. 50% of the course) consists of a supervised study project, where students will apply their knowledge to a self-chosen topic and present their results. By the end of the course, students will be able to operate basic GIS functions, understand core concepts of geospatial data, perform simple analyses, and create and publish maps.		
Remarks	Students majoring in Earth and Environmental Sciences/Environmental and Sustainability Sciences have priority		
Examination	Practical assignments and participation (30%): Short exercises completed during or after class sessions, focused on applying the tools and concepts presented. Active participation in discussions and group work will also be considered. Group activity (20%): A small team-based assignment to reinforce learning and encourage peer interaction. Final project (50%): An individual or group project on a self-chosen topic, using QGIS to analyze geospatial data and present results in a short written report and/or presentation. Project topics will be defined with instructor guidance.		
Recommended Reading	Bolstad, P. (2019). GIS fundamentals: A first text on geographic information systems (6th ed.). Eider Press. ISBN 9781506695877 Graser, A. (2016). Learning QGIS 2.x. Locate Press. ISBN 9780989421775 Longley, P. A., Goodchild, M. F., Maguire, D. J., & Rhin		

Making Apartheid Work: Labour, Class, and Oppression in 19th and 20th Century South Africa			
Culture & History, Governance		Semester	
Max Hufschmidt (max.hufschmidt@unibas.ch)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0023
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
History: Modern or Contemporary Culture & History I, II or III Advanced Governance		none	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Thu, 14-16h, KG 1134 Fri, 14-16h, Ph HS 1		
Course Description	Apartheid (Afrikaans for 'Separateness') constituted one of the most oppressive and long-lasting systems of racialized control on the African continent. Its roots lay much earlier than the 1948 elections, which marked the beginning of institutionalised Apartheid. Likewise, some of its influences on state and society survived its nominal end in 1994 and continue to have lasting effects on South Africa up to this date. The course takes a deep dive into Southern African history to trace the roots of the embittered race relations that surfaced in the 20th century. It asks how the emergence of Apartheid can be explained, and why the system survived for such a long time. It focuses on social and labour history to answer these questions. Students will learn to examine various historical sources in different forms (e.g. texts, photography, film, and oral sources), allowing them to get acquainted not only with the history of Apartheid, but also with different research methods in history. Students will specifically learn how sources can be critically questioned and how their contents can be made usable for researching and writing history, as well as how to critically assess current and past historiography.		
Examination	06.02.2026		

Maths and Physics			
Life Sciences, ESS		Semester	
Dr. Benoit Louvel (benoit.louvel@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	40	00LE62VS-LAS-LSEE0003
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Mathematics for the Sciences		Introduction to Earth and Environmental Sciences or Introduction to Life Sciences (required)	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 8-10h, AU 01.036a Wed, 8-10h, Ph R 4 Tutorials: Fr, 10-12h, KG 1009 Fr, 12-14h, KG 1231		
Course Description	In this course, Mathematics will be introduced from two points of view: Mathematics as a tool in Science, and Mathematics in the context of Number Theory. The first part of the course will present Mathematics as a necessary tool in the formalism of any scientific approach. In the second part, basic concepts of Classical Mechanics necessary for the understanding of nature will be introduced as an application of the first part. In the third part, fundamental concepts in Number Theory - from ancient maths to most challenging problems not yet resolved - will be addressed in order to put the student in contact with the abstraction of pure Mathematics.		
Examination	Mid-term and final exam. Dates to be announced in the first session.		
Recommended Reading	"Pre-Course Maths & Physics" as preparation. A script will be provided at the beginning of the class.		

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BT Breisacher Tor

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HH Hermann-Herder-Straße
FMF Stefan-Meier-Str. 21

Planning and Doing Research			
Senior Profile: all Majors		Semester	
Dr. Simon Büchner (buechner@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	4	20	00LE62S-LAS-COCHEEGOLS0004
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 14-16h, HS 1139		
Course Description	In the fourth year of LAS studies it is time to take stock of your knowledge on how to plan and conduct an independent research project which you may or may not turn into your bachelor thesis. The course 'Planning and Doing Research' introduces you to the expectations to high quality research and encourages discussion on the differences and similarities across the areas of intellectual interests that you and other students will bring to the course. We will summarize, analyze and improve your ability to plan and manage a small-scale research project. The goal is to come up with a proposal including a research plan which you can then discuss with a (potential) supervisor. For this, we will run through all phases of a research project and discuss and practice related activities involved in each step. This includes, finding an interesting and feasible research topic, developing a manageable research question, selecting an appropriate method or approach, coming up with a suitable research design, approaching a potential supervisor, collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data (written, verbal, and numerical), drawing conclusions, critically discussing your own work, and presenting your plans and results effectively. The course will be a mix of instructor presentations, individual and group exercises, and a poster session. The starting point will be your interests. Ideally, you already have a first, but not final, idea for a bachelor project which you want to develop into a full-fledged proposal. There is no topical focus in this course and students from all majors are invited to join as a large diversity of students from different majors will improve the learning of every member of the class.		
Remarks	The course is open to all Majors. Students can prepare a potential bachelor or other research project.		
Examination	Pass/fail: creation and presentation of a poster on your project idea in December. Graded exam: 30% of the final grade: draft research proposal due on Jan 7, 2026 70% of the final grade: final, polished research proposal including feedback from the draft, due on Feb 23, 2026.		
Recommended Reading	Booth, W., Colomb, G. & Williams, J. (2008). The Craft of Research. 3rd edition. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press (Reading room: EDU/Boo/1) Snieder, R., & Larner, K. (2009). The Art of Being a Scientist: A Guide for Graduate Students and Their Mentors. Cambridge University Press. (UB: NA/2018/84)		

Research Design			
Senior Profile in all Majors (no Electives)		Semester	
Dr. Mila Mikalay (mikalay@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 4	6	18	00LE62S-LAS-COCHEEGOLS0005
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile		Prerequisites for senior modules apply, depending on the Major	

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 14-16h, AU 01.065 Thu, 12-14h, AU 01.065
Course Description	The course exposes you to the expectations to high quality research in different disciplines and encourages discussion on the differences and similarities across the areas of intellectual interests that you and other students will bring to the course. We will summarize, analyze and improve your ability to formulate a research goal, select an appropriate theory and method, and plan and manage a research project. Upon completing this course, you should be able to understand the principles of developing a viable research project, following the criteria of solid research design, including: ▪ formulating and refining a research goal / research question, ▪ understanding the principles of selecting a suitable theory and method for answering your research question, ▪ knowing how to define the data necessary to answer the research question, how to gather, systematize and analyze it, ▪ formulating a convincing relevance statement by contextualizing your research as an informed position in an existing academic debate, ▪ improving the capacity to efficiently and correctly use sources, ▪ improving the ability to clearly and convincingly communicate your research, both in writing and oral presentations; ▪ improving the ability to provide constructive feedback on research of other scholars. ▪ The course consists of two parts: in the first one we cover the topics on the example of academic papers of interest to you and your own course papers. In the second part, you will apply the knowledge to develop a research proposal within a small team.
Remarks	Please note that this is a 6 ECTS course, which is concentrated in the first part of the semester; it comes with a corresponding workload. Consider taking the course in combination with the Student Conference, which is set up together with the students from the Planning and Doing Research course and includes further activities contributing to the learning goals of the course.
Examination	Pass/fail: Research diary due mid-January. Graded: Research Outline due mid-January, Research Proposal due on February 28th.
Recommended Reading	Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb & Joseph M. Williams (2008). The Craft of Research. 3rd edition. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Turabian, K., revised by W. C. Booth, G. G. Colomb, J. M. Williams, J. Bizup, W. T. Fitzgerald, and the University of Chicago Press editorial staff (2018). A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. 9th edition. Chicago UP.

Social Justice: Philosophical Perspectives			
Culture & History, Governance		Semester	
Wouter Wiersma (wouter.wiersma@rug.nl)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0024
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Philosophy Culture & History I, II, or III, Advanced Governance I or II		none	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, KG 1134 Wed, 14-16h, KG 1134		
Course Description	Justice is one of the central concepts we use when criticizing social relations and evaluating the legitimacy of political arrangements. Whether we are protesting economic inequality, challenging discriminatory laws, or advocating for human rights, appeals to justice provide the moralfoundation for demands for social change. The course will introduce students to the rich tradition of social justice thought, exploring how ourconceptions of justice have evolved across different historical periods and cultural contexts. In this course, we will focus on gaining a clearunderstanding of the main claims of both historical and contemporary theories of social justice. Topics will include the normative foundations ofjustice claims, the relationship between individual rights and collective well-being, concepts such as equality, liberty, recognition, andredistribution, as well as contemporary applications to issues like racial justice, gender equality, economic inequality, and global citizenship.		
Examination	13.02.2026		

Sustainable Mobilities			
Governance, ESS		Pre-Block + 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	
Specialization Option Governance Research in an Area of Governance ESS modules tbc		Focus on sustainable city development is required for ESS students.	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Pre-Block Course Oct 6-9th, Mon-Thu, 15-19h, KG 1019 Semester-long Seminar Mon, 12-14h, AU 01.036a/online		
Course Description	Transport accounts for about the quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions globally. Worse, whereas emissions are decreasing in every other sector, in transport they keep increasing. Transport also contributes to air pollution with grave health consequences for people, animals and plants alike. It is the single biggest source of noise pollution and habitat fragmentation. Highway-like roads lead to segregation in human settlements too. Furthermore, motorised transport severely constrains any other forms of (active) mobility. A sustainable traffic policy change is not simply technological. True, the electrification of road transport can lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Though with the emergence of autonomous vehicles it might even exacerbate the problems associated with heavy traffic in cities. Moreover, technological change itself does little to address the fundamental societal problems of mobilities, such as inequal access (accessibility), risk, mobility culture, or the (sources for the) demand for mobility. Thus, this seminar is embedded in the framework of sustainable mobilities, which offers a radical departure: environmental, societal and cultural aspects of mobility are all integral parts of it. Indeed, for a sustainable mobilities transformation societal participation and deliberative processes involving citizens in urban, landscape, traffic and infrastructural policy decisions are all necessary conditions. Setup and organisation: during the offline pre-block seminar week, the course first introduces students to both positivist (e.g. multilevel theory and the advocacy coalition framework) and social constructivist frameworks (e.g., discourse coalitions) of technological (regime) change and environmental policy. Then we will focus on empirical cases of sustainable mobilities policies and practical applications (e.g., participatory research projects). During the semester, students will work on their written assignment with weekly consultation opportunities and a presentation session at the end of the semester.		
Remarks	The first part of the course takes place in the week before the semester start: October 6th to 9th, every day for 4 hours (15-19). The rest of the course is a weekly coloquium taking place mostly online. It is impossible to take only the first or only the second part of the course.		
Examination	Written assignment: A critical analysis of a traffic policy, urban design, sustainable mobility plan/project – 75% of the final grade (5,000-6,000 words excluding references). The analysis must have a clear theoretical basis and engage with the chosen empirical case critically. The paper is due on February 8th, 2026. Presentation: Presentation of your topic – 25% of the final grade. You will give a critical analysis of your topic (a detailed description of the case and your main arguments, embedded in the chosen theoretical framework).		

The Psycho-Physical Problem and Exceptional Experiences			
Life Sciences, Culture & History		Semester	
Dr. Wolfgang Fach (fach@igpp.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHLS0002
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option I or II (LS) Philosophy Culture & History I, II, and III		required: Introduction to Life Sciences or Introduction to Culture and History	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, KG 1021 Final conference: 23.01., 30.01., and 06.02.: Fri 14-19h, Peterhof R 4		
Course Description	To this day, we are not able to understand consciousness within a physicalist framework, which is referred to as the “psychophysical problem”. Despite all advances, neuroscience cannot explain how our subjective phenomenal experience (first-person perspective) can be generated by objective neurobiological processes (third-person perspective). In this course, we will shed light on fundamental properties of consciousness and discuss what makes consciousness a “hard problem”. In terms of the relationship between mind and brain, we will explore concepts such as mental representation, self-organization and emergence and see where physical reductionism fails. We will take the psychophysical problem to the extreme by examining exceptional experiences (ExE) such as “extrasensory perceptions”, near-death experiences, or spiritual experiences as extreme deviations from ordinary psychophysical correlations and conventional models of reality. Regardless of how one evaluates their ontological status, the study of ExE opens up perspectives that may lead to new insights into the mind-matter relationship. We will discuss recent scientific approaches into which exceptional phenomena can potentially be integrated. Enactivism, for example, attempts to overcome both physicalism and psychophysical dualism with the concept of embodiment. Even more far-reaching approaches, which are becoming increasingly important in the philosophy of mind, are so-called dual-aspect theories. The course will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, student presentations and essays, and in-class activities.		
Examination	Presentation at the final conference (30%) and an essay due on 30.03.2026 (70%).		
Recommended Reading	Nagel, Thomas (1974). What is it like to be a bat? Philosophical Review 83, No. 4: pp. 435-450. Download mit UB-Lizenz oder: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/~cavitch/pdf-library/Nagel_Bat.pdf Chalmers, David (2003). Consciousness and its place in nature. In Stephen P. Stich & Ted A. Warfield (eds.), Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Mind. Blackwell: pp. 102--142. Download from: https://consc.net/papers/nature.pdf Atmanspacher, H. and Fach, W. (2013). A structural-phenomenological typology of mind-matter correlations. Journal of Analytical Psychology, 58: pp. 219-244.		

Visualizing Environmental Crises and Sustainability			
Culture & History, ESS		Semester	
Dr. Ana-Clara Alves (ana-clara.alves-de-oliveira@philosophie.uni-tuebingen.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62VS-LAS-CHEE0004
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Culture: Peoples and Practices Culture & History I, II, or III Human and the Environment I or II, Specialization Option I or II: EES/ESS		none	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue 10-12h, Ph R 3 Thu 10-12h, KG 1036		
Course Description	This course offers an anthropological overview of the impact of extractivism practices on climate change and ecological disasters that affect people's lives worldwide. From mining in Brazil, uranium extraction in Mexico, to floods and wildfires in Chile and earthquakes in Taiwan, this course will guide students in developing an anthropological vision of current environmental issues. During the classes, students will learn how to conduct visual ethnography, using photography and video as research tools, with the goal of developing a photo essay by the end of the course. To visualize times of environmental crisis, we must reflect on the intersection between nature and culture, and the terms of this relationship in different societies around the world. Practices of sustainability will be a recurring theme in the classes, seen both as a way to address crises and as a social practice that envisions a future for the world. To engage with these themes, we will do readings, participate in group discussions, go on an excursion in the Black Forest, and learn how to produce and use images as research tools.		
Examination	05.02.2026		

Wicked Problems in Socio-Economic Systems: An Introduction to System Dynamic Modelling			
ESS, Governance		Semester	
Dr. Stefanie Klose (stefanie.klose@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0017
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
ESS: Sustainability Sciences Advanced Governance I and II		Introduction to ESS or Introduction to Governance	

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 14-16h Ph HS 2 Thu, 14-16h, AU 01.065
Course Description	Problems that cannot be solved with existing modes of inquiry and decision-making are often called "wicked problems". They typically represent complex issues for which no definitive solution exists, as any resolution often generates additional problems. In the first part of this course, we will explore why many sustainability issues are considered wicked problems and examine some examples along with their associated challenges. You will learn about the methods used for systems thinking and how these methods can help us to understand the real underlying issues. In the final phase of this course, you will apply these methods to sustainability problems of your choice and try to identify leverage points while exploring strengths and shortcomings. Upon completing this course, students will be able to… ▪ understand the basic principles of causal loop diagrams and apply the concept to real-world sustainability-related problems. ▪ understand stock and flow dynamics and their impact on dynamics within socio-economic systems. ▪ analyse the systemic interdependencies between social practices, planetary boundaries, and human well-being. ▪ explore and assess leverage points to initiate and support sustainable transformation.
Remarks	Students majoring in ESS have priority. This course is offered as an EPICUR course and might therefore take place in a hybrid format.
Examination	Pass/fail: Submitting 80% of the weekly exercises. Graded: Written assignment (poster due at January 26 at 10 am) and poster presentation (between January 27 and February 5).
Recommended Reading	Doyle, J.K. and Ford, D.N. (1998), Mental models concepts for system dynamics research. Syst. Dyn. Rev., 14: 3-29. Feder, C. et al. (2024). The system dynamics approach for a global evolutionary analysis of sustainable development. Journal of Evolutionary Economics, 34, 351–374. Head, Brian W. 2022. Wicked Problems in Public Policy: Understanding and Responding to Complex Challenges. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. Kim, D. H. (2000). Systems thinking tools: A user's reference guide. Pegasus Communications. (Original work published 1994) Meadows, D. H. (2008). Thinking in Systems: A Primer. Earthscan. Schlüter, M. . et al. Navigating causal reasoning in sustainability science. Ambio 53, 1618–1631 (2024).

Writing in the Sciences			
Life Sciences, ESS		Semester	
Dr. Wilf Gardner (w.gardner@tuta.io)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	4	15	00LE62S-LAS-LS0045
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Senior Profile: Life Sciences and ESS			

Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 12-14h, KG 1140 Wed, 12-14h, BT 204
Course Description	"Scientific writing is a critical but often overlooked skill. The ability to communicate complex information in a clear and engaging manner is a subtle but powerful tool, ensuring precision in how your ideas are understood and enhancing their impact. With the increasing volume and homogenisation of written work across numerous professional and academic domains, being able to write not just competently but well is a becoming a rare art. This course aims to provide the foundational elements of good technical writing and help students to develop and hone their own writing style within a scientific framework. Students will learn the structure, style, and conventions of scientific writing, and practice critically evaluating technical texts for clarity, logic, and effectiveness. They will identify and analyse the strengths and flaws in scientific texts, and will have the opportunity to apply these lessons to their own work. Writing exercises will include working with sample texts, rewriting sections, and students developing their own work (e.g. previous or current reports, essays, or theses) to begin to apply good practice and learn the value of iterative editing. The course aims to equip students with the fundamental tools to enhance their writing and develop their style for their thesis projects and future academic and professional contexts. Sessions will be in a workshop-style format, with taught elements and hands-on exercises. Students will have opportunities to bring their own work to develop within workshops if they wish.
Remarks	Not all Wednesday meetings will take place. Exact dates will be announced in the first session.
Examination	Pass/Fail dependent on participation and completion of in-class and at-home exercises.

5 Courses of Other (Degree) Programs

A Neurodiversity Perspective on Disability Studies			
Culture & History		Semester	
Tba			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	WTG
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option C&H I or II Senior Profile C&H			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Online Seminar Mon, 8-10h		
Course Description	This course introduces students to the study of neurodivergence and disability as socially, culturally, and politically mediated concepts. In it, we will explore and critically engage with then concept of neurodiversity: the idea that neurodivergence and variations in ability are instantiations of human diversity. Through discussions of major models of disability, including the medical and social models, and the ways disability can be conceptualized among cultures, we will develop an understanding of how differences among people can and are being reframed from deficits to valuable variations, and how categories such as “normal” are highly contingent and malleable. We will also discuss how the medicalization of disability has significant ramifications in terms of agency and power for neurodivergent people and people with disabilities, and the ways that new media technologies are fostering connections, communities, and mobilizations around neurodiversity and disability. The course will take an international and interdisciplinary perspective, while at the same time, students will be encouraged to explore and understand examples from their everyday lives and experiences. The course will combine discussions of readings with guest inputs, and will integrate discussions of theory, concrete examples of neurodiversity and disability (e.g. autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and dyscalculia among others), and considerations of activism and practice.		
Remarks	This course is organized online with the EPICUR program. You can find more information here.		
Examination	tba		

Environmental Conflict			
ESS		Semester	
Tba			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-EE0046
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
ESS: Human and Environment I/II, Specialization I/II Specialization Option C&H I or II Senior Profile C&H			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Thu, 12-14h, KG 1231		
Course Description	Is that thing they're calling food actually food? How safe, or unsafe, is the drinking water? And who gets to define "safe," and by what metric? Will geoengineering be used to combat climate change? How can we ensure such decisions are just and inclusive? Is that animal species endangered? And if so, should we do something about it? These are but a few of the questions at the center of ongoing environmental conflicts that affect the lives of everyone on earth, whether directly or indirectly. Such controversies are moments in which people disagree about the environmental past, present, and future; about what the relationship between the environment and human societies should or should not be; about how best to produce and communicate environmental knowledge; about who has the authority to govern the environment and the people in it; and about what action, if any, to take. The course will focus on tracing the social, scientific, and technical dynamics of environmental conflicts. Through theoretical and empirical readings, we will explore the dynamics of scientific and technical authority within environmental conflicts, the politics of expert disagreement, and the fate of plural ways of knowing and valuing the environment (e.g., indigenous and local knowledge). We will also investigate how environmental decision-making is becoming increasingly participatory, complicating the boundaries between scientists and the public, as well as between regulators and the regulated.		
Examination	Tba		

Geschlechterwissen in der Biologie: Perspektiven der feministischen Wissenschaftsforschung und -geschichte			
Culture & History		Semester	
Dr. Xenia Steinbach (steinbach.xenia@mh-hannover.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-WTG-002502
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option C&H I and II Senior Profile C&H		Prerequisites for senior modules in C&H apply	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Fri, 14-17h, Ph R3		
Course Description	Während das Wissen und die Erkenntnisse der Natur- und Lebenswissenschaften meist als wertneutral und objektiv verstanden werden, verweist die sozial- und kulturwissenschaftliche Wissenschaftsforschung bereits seit vielen Jahrzehnten auf die tiefe Verwobenheit von Forschungspraktiken und Theorienbildung in den Lebens-wissenschaften mit ihrem historisch spezifischen sozialen, kulturellen und politischen Kontext. Feministisch-informierte Wissenschaftsforschende kritisieren dabei insbesondere die häufig unreflektierte Übernahme von kulturell tradierten Vorstellungen von binärer Geschlechtlichkeit in der biomedizinischen Forschung. Damit betreiben sie eine Ideologiekritik und argumentieren, dass gesellschaftlich tief verankerte Vorstellungen über Geschlechterunterschiede die vermeintlich „neutrale“ Wahrnehmung und Beurteilung von Forschungsdaten verstellten und zur Priorisierung von Theorien und Paradigmen führten, die mit den tradierten Denkmustern über Geschlecht vereinbar seien. Das dabei entstehende vermeintlich „objektive“ Wissen stabilisierte fortwährend die binäre Geschlechternorm verstärke fragwürdige gesellschaftliche Annahmen über Geschlechterunterschiede. Studien, die eine solche ideologiekritische Perspektive einnehmen, beleuchten die verschiedenen Ebenen der Produktion von Wissen über Geschlecht in den Lebenswissenschaften und insbesondere in biologischen Disziplinen: Historische Arbeiten zeigen dabei auf, wie unterschiedliche Grundannahmen über Geschlecht in Biologie und Medizin aufgekommen sind und wie sie sich über die Jahrhunderte im Rahmen sich wandelnder soziokultureller Kontexte verändert haben. Die Etablierung neuer naturwissenschaftlicher Disziplinen im 19. und 20. Jhd., so etwa Evolutions-, Hormonbiologie oder Genetik, hatte zur Folge, dass die binäre Diderenzkategorie „Geschlecht“ in immer tiefere Ebenen von Körpern und ihren physiologischen Prozessen hineingetragen wurde. Sozial- und kulturwissenschaftliche Studien wiederum zeigen, wie auch die gegenwärtige biomedizinische Forschung durch gesellschaftliche Vorannahmen über Geschlecht strukturiert ist. Den genannten feministisch-informierten ideologiekritischen Ansätzen folgend, bewegt sich diese Lehrveranstaltung an der Schnittstelle zwischen Wissenschaftsgeschichte und Science and Technology Studies. Ziel ist es, Lebenswissenschaften und Wissenschaft generell als Teil eines kulturellen Systems erkennbar zu machen und den Studierenden intellektuelle Werkzeuge für die kritische Betrachtung von Geschlecht als strukturierende Kategorie in der lebenswissenschaftlichen Wissensproduktion und Gegenstand biomedizinischer Forschung an die Hand zu geben.		
Remarks	Das Seminar wird in Deutsch abgehalten, erfordert jedoch die Bereitschaft zur Lektüre von englischsprachiger Literatur und stellt den Studierenden frei, ob sie ihre Beiträge in Deutsch oder Englisch gestalten möchten.		
Examination	tbc		

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Was ist Gerechtigkeit?			
Governance		Semester	
PD Dr. Elisa Orru (elisa.orru@philosophie.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year 3-4	6	30	06LE32PS-25234
Module(s) StuPo 2020		Prerequisites	
Specialization Option Governance		Prerequisites for senior modules apply	
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Fri, 10-12h, KG 1134		
Course Description	Was bedeutet Gerechtigkeit, und wie kann sie in einer pluralistischen Gesellschaft verwirklicht werden? Dieses Seminar widmet sich grundlegenden und einflussreichen Gerechtigkeitstheorien der politischen Philosophie, Moral- und Sozialphilosophie. Im Zentrum stehen drei Schlüsselwerke: ▪ John Rawls: Eine Theorie der Gerechtigkeit (1971) – Rawls' Theorie des „Gerechtigkeit als Fairness“ ist einer der bedeutendsten Beiträge zur politischen Philosophie des 20. Jahrhunderts. Wir besprechen zentrale Konzepte wie den Urzustand und den Schleier des Nichtwissens. ▪ Michael Walzer: Sphären der Gerechtigkeit (1983) – In kritischer Auseinandersetzung mit Rawls entwirft Walzer ein Modell pluraler Gerechtigkeit. Gerechtigkeit ist für ihn kontextgebunden und entsteht innerhalb spezifischer sozialer „Sphären“, deren Güter jeweils eigene Verteilungslogiken erfordern. ▪ Miranda Fricker: Epistemische Ungerechtigkeit (2007) – Fricker erweitert das Gerechtigkeitsverständnis um eine epistemologische Dimension. Sie zeigt, wie Menschen durch strukturelle Vorurteile in ihrer Rolle als Wissenssubjekte benachteiligt werden. Wir diskutieren insbesondere die Konzepte der testimonialen und hermeneutischen Ungerechtigkeit. Das Seminar regt zur kritischen Reflexion über normative Grundlagen und gesellschaftliche Bedingungen von Gerechtigkeit an. Neben der theoretischen Auseinandersetzung werden aktuelle politische und soziale Fragen einbezogen.		
Remarks	Das Seminar wird in Deutsch abgehalten, erfordert jedoch die Bereitschaft zur Lektüre von englischsprachiger Literatur und stellt den Studierenden frei, ob sie ihre Beiträge in Deutsch oder Englisch gestalten möchten.		
Examination	Schriftliche Hausarbeit (12-14 Seiten, Abgabefrist: 6. März 2026) oder mündliche Prüfung (ca. 30 min., Prüfungstermin: 7. März 2025). Übernahme eines Referats und insgesamt 7 1/2 Seiten Textanalyse über das Semester verteilt.		

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