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Universität Düsseldorf



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Courses in English at the Institute of Social Sciences

Bachelor & Master

Summer Term 2025

Summer Term 2025
Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2025

Bachelor Courses

The overview of courses for the summer term 2025 is preliminary.
We expect more courses to be announced and/or more details to be provided.

Media and Communication Studies

Political Marketing American Style

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Unterberg
Level	Intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 6 CP (with final exam)
Times	Monday, 14:30 - 16:00

This course will show how political marketing is used in the competition among political actors seeking to gain influence on the public sphere. Increasingly, voters choose parties and candidates like consumers choose products. The competing political parties and candidates therefore try to use political marketing to influence the public and the content of the media in a way that is favorable to their communication goals. Political marketing can therefore be understood as a tool designed to influence the public about political candidates and issues.

Harmful Online Communication

Term	Summer Semester 2025
Department	Media and Communication Studies, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Weller
Level	Intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 CP (without final exam), 8 CP (with final exam)
Times	13.06., 14.06., 04.07., 05.07. 10:30 - 18:00

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Bachelor Courses
Summer Term 2025

Political Science

Introduction to Comparative Welfare State Analysis: Foundations, Theories and Development

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Johanna Plenter
Level	Intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 (with final exam 6)
Times	Wednesday 12:30 - 14:00

Political Economy of Peace and Conflict I - Conflict

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Neudorfer
Level	Advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 (with final exam 8)
Times	Thursday 10:30 - 12:00

Conflict is a persistent element of human history, and its current impact is unprecedented since World War II. By 2022, 108.4 million people had been forcefully displaced—2.5 times more than a decade ago—while civilian deaths rose by 50%. Today, six out of seven people globally experience a sense of insecurity. In response, Sustainable Development Goal 16 aims to promote peaceful societies, ensure access to justice, and build effective, accountable institutions to guarantee freedom from violence and fear for all individuals.

This seminar focuses on intrastate conflicts, or civil wars, exploring their causes, continuation, and consequences. Students are introduced to key theories, concepts, and research methods to analyse variations in war and peace across time and countries. The course combines academic readings, simulation games, and interactive activities to develop critical thinking and the ability to evaluate research and apply knowledge to case studies.

As an introduction to peace and conflict studies with a focus on the political economy of conflict, this seminar lays the groundwork for a follow-up module, “Political Economy of Peace and Conflict II – Peace.” Students are encouraged to take this seminar first to build a solid foundation for understanding the complexities of civil war and broader peace studies.

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2025

International Political Economy (IPE) - Theories and Empirics

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Neudorfer
Level	IAdvanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 (with final exam 8)
Times	Thursday, 14:30 - 16:00

The increasingly integrated global economy challenges governments to address policy making (in various policy areas) taking both the national and global dimension into consideration. Looking at where the interface of international and domestic policy making lies, this course introduces students to IPE theories in general and the growing research body in IPE. To do so, the course combines a general textbook with published articles in high ranking journals. The first part of the course will familiarize students with IPE in general and crucial actors in studying IPE – voters, parties and government. The second part of the course will then focus on political decision making in trade and monetary policy in the international context. The third part looks at effects of globalization on e.g. child labour, foreign aid, and government spending. Particularly, in the second and third part we will also look at empirical testing of theoretical explanations.

Political Economy of the Eurozone - Blockseminar

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	XXX
Level	Intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	XXX
Times	Monday 07.04.25 12.30 - 14.00 Thursday 10.04.25 12.30 - 18.00 Thursday 24.04.25 12.30 - 18.00 Friday 25.04.25 12.30 - 18.00 Wednesday 30.04.25 12.30 - 18.00 Thursday 08.05.25 12.30 - 18.00

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2025

Brussels lace! Understanding the EU and it's current challenges - Blockseminar

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Alkan
Level	Intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 (with final exam 6)
Times	Wednesday 09.04.25 14:00 - 16:00 Friday 16.05.25 9:00 - 18:00

Sociology

Sociology of the Body

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Beckers
Level	Intermediate bachelor course
ECTS	2 (with final exam 6)
Times	Thursday, 12:30 - 14:00

This course on the "Sociology of the Body" addresses a social category which has been overlooked in many early sociological theories although bodies are everywhere in society and "serve as the substratum for social life" (E. Bernstein). Yet, multiple approaches to theorizing and researching the body have emerged in recent decades. We will read studies from scholars of the 20th century until today and examine the processes by which individual bodies are shaped by social structures, ways in which bodies are socially constructed, represented and used - and, in turn, shape social life. We will understand bodies as situated within particular social and historical contexts and address a range of contemporary issues to illustrate this perspective. The body will be addressed not as a pre-social physical objective fact, but as something interpreted through the lens of society and culture.

Antisemitism as a multi-faceted problem of contemporary societies

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Niklas Herrberg
Level	Advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2SWS
Times	Tuesday, 16:30 - 18:00

Bachelor Courses

Summer Term 2025

Death, grief, and bereavement

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Beckers & Josué Teran Linarte
Level	Advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 SWS
Times	Monday 14:30 - 18:00

This course will primarily explore the development of death studies within sociology, adopting a multidisciplinary approach. We will examine death as a cultural, physical, and metaphysical phenomenon. You will gain insights into how death is culturally embedded, how different societies and cultures confront death, the medical perspectives on death, and the implications for individuals and groups. Death possesses both personal and social dimensions, which is why we will focus on grief and bereavement, seeking to understand the impact on those who remain and how culture shapes these experiences. The aim of this seminar is to provoke thoughtful consideration of a topic rarely addressed in public discourse and to explore the reasons behind this reticence.

Constructing the Migrant Self: Existential and Phenomenological Approaches to Migration Studies

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Sociology, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Gregory Maliukov
Level	Advanced bachelor course
ECTS	2 SWS
Times	Tuesday 14:30 - 16:00

Master Courses

Summer Term 2025

The overview of courses for the summer term 2025 is preliminary.

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Political Science

Civil Society in the European Union: Theoretical Foundations and Practical Insights

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Dr. Mucha
Level	Master course
ECTS	2 SWS
Times	Wednesday, 10:30 - 12:00

Democracy at Risk: Understanding Contemporary Autocratization in a Changing World

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU
Lecturer	Henri Koblischke
Level	Master course
ECTS	XXX
Times	Tuesday, 10:30 - 12:00

Personalization in Politics. Comparative Perspectives

Term	Summer Term 2025
Department	Political Science, Institute of Social Sciences,
Lecturer	HHU Prof. Dr. Poguntke
Level	Master course
ECTS	3 CP (without exam), 9CP (with exam)
Times	Thursday, 10:30 -12:00

We are looking forward to welcoming you
at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf!

The team for internationalization, Institute of Social Sciences

All courses listed are taught in English. They are open to regular as well as to ERASMUS and other international students.

Please note: All information given is subject to change!

For additional information see:

<http://www.phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de/sozwiss/englische-version/>

<https://www.phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de/sozwiss/internationaloffice/students-from-abroad/>

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