

## EU- UN Relations

### Hauptseminar / Masterseminar

The European Union (EU) is one of the best known regional organizations (ROs), but by no means the only one. After two waves of regional integration, there are more than 70 ROs today. Many started out with covering few policy fields (trade, economy, peace and security). Over time, their internal and external political competencies were broadened and ROs strengthened their aspirations to become actors beyond the borders of their member states.

The number of international organizations (IOs) has increased after WWII and the end of the Cold War and the number of different policy fields covered by IOs has been broadened over time as well. The United Nations (UN) belongs to the most well-known organizations, and its IOs cover a broad range of different policy areas.

Thus, after the end of the Cold War, many ROs, and especially the EU, started to play an ever increasing role in many IOs, most notably the UN umbrella organizations. Thus, this seminar examines a series of questions. What role do regional organizations, especially the EU, play in international negotiations and international organizations, especially the UN? When and under what conditions do they become active? Can the EU and other ROs also become influential in the UN system and if so under what conditions?

The seminar places an emphasis on methodologically and empirically sound work. Students learn how to set up and adopt an explanatory research question and how to answer this question in a theory-guided methodological stringent manner. This seminar is part of an ERASMUS+ project and its E-Learning elements are available under [https://wb-iliias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs\\_122050](https://wb-iliias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs_122050).

### Introductory readings:

- Diana Panke, Stefan Lang, Anke Wiedemann (2019) "Regional Organisations in the UNGA: Who is most active and why?" In: Journal of International Relations and Development. DOI: 10.1057/s41268-017-0119-8.
- [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu_en)
- <https://www.un.org/en/about-un/>

Further literature:

- Diana Panke, Stefan Lang, Anke Wiedemann (2018) "[Regional Actors in Multilateral Negotiations. Active and Successful?](#)", ECPR Press.
- Diana Panke, Stefan Lang, Anke Wiedemann (2017) "[State & Regional Actors in Complex Governance Systems. Exploring Dynamics of International Negotiations.](#)" In: British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Vol. 19, No. 1, 91-112.

### **Organizational issues:**

Ilias: All preparatory material (core readings, ppps, videos etc.) is available via ILIAS. Please go to: [https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs\\_1535465&client\\_id=unifreiburg](https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs_1535465&client_id=unifreiburg)

The password will be distributed after registration in HisInOne.

Office hours will be hold online. Please request an appointment via email to [sekretariat.governance@politik.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:sekretariat.governance@politik.uni-freiburg.de) ,  
c.f. <http://portal.uni-freiburg.de/politik/professuren/governance/sekretariat> .

### **To acquire a Pruefungsleistung / Studienleistung it is essential to:**

- Prepare all sessions in advance (readings, videos, eLearning etc.), use the guiding questions to work through the material and try to answer them in advance
- Listen to the student's voice over power point presentations prior to the synchronic elements of the online course
- Prepare a 20-25 min. voice over power point presentation for part II of the seminar (needs to be uploaded into ILIAS at the very least three working days prior to the session)

Each student writes an individual paper in English, in line with the formal guidelines of his or her degree/Pruefungsordnung (c.f. [http://portal.uni-freiburg.de/politik/medien/pdf/studium/Leistungsanforderungen\\_neu.pdf](http://portal.uni-freiburg.de/politik/medien/pdf/studium/Leistungsanforderungen_neu.pdf)) and in full compliance with the code of good academic conduct (citations, no plagiarism)

## Course schedule

| Session                           | Content and Core Questions  | Materials   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Session 1<br>May 12 <sup>th</sup> | <p>Introduction</p> <p>Structure of the course, requirements</p> <p>Combination of synchronic and asynchronous elements in this online course</p> | <p>All asynchronic content has to be worked through by each participant prior to the online meeting. This includes the preparatory material listed in this syllabus (videos, eLearning Q&amp;A, core readings) as well as the voice over power point presentations of the students.</p> <p>It is essential that each student uses the guiding questions in order to work through the material and prepare brief answers to these questions as a preparation to further class discussion.</p> <p>Online meetings takes place via Adobe Connect through ILIAS and usually last for 45 minutes</p> |

### PART I Foundations

|                                   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Session 2<br>May 19 <sup>th</sup> | <p>Introducing the EU and the UN</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <p>What is the difference between an IO and a RO?</p> <p>What are the essential historical stepping stones in the development of the UN?</p> <p>How does the structure of the UN look like?</p> | <p>Video and Q&amp;A on Introducing the EU and the UN (available here <a href="https://wb-iliass.uni-freiburg.de/iliass.php?ref_id=126861&amp;obj_id=37210&amp;cmd=layout&amp;cmdClasses=ilLMPresentationGUI&amp;cmdNode=h5&amp;baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI">https://wb-iliass.uni-freiburg.de/iliass.php?ref_id=126861&amp;obj_id=37210&amp;cmd=layout&amp;cmdClasses=ilLMPresentationGUI&amp;cmdNode=h5&amp;baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI</a> )</p> <p>Core Readings (need to be worked through prior to the class session):<br/>Diana Panke (2013) ‘<a href="#">Regional Power Revisited. How to Explain Differences in Coherency and Success of Regional Organizations in the United Nations General Assembly</a>’. In: International Negotiation Journal. Vol. 18, No. 2, 265–291.<br/><a href="https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-in-brief_en">https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-in-brief_en</a><br/><a href="https://www.un.org/en/about-un/">https://www.un.org/en/about-un/</a></p> |
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|                                   |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
|                                   | What are the essential historical stepping stones in the development of the EU?  |   |
|                                   | How does the structure of the EU look like?  |   |
| Session 3<br>May 26 <sup>th</sup> | Introduction EU performance in the UN system   | Video and Q&A on EU performance in UN (available here <a href="https://wb-iliias.uni-freiburg.de/iliias.php?ref_id=126861&amp;obj_id=37216&amp;cmd=layout&amp;cmdClasses=ilImpresentationgui&amp;cmdNode=h5&amp;baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI">https://wb-iliias.uni-freiburg.de/iliias.php?ref_id=126861&amp;obj_id=37216&amp;cmd=layout&amp;cmdClasses=ilImpresentationgui&amp;cmdNode=h5&amp;baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI</a> )               |
|                                   | <i>Guiding questions:</i>  |   |
|                                   | What does it mean to be an RO that also is an ‘external actor’? Is this surprising and if so why (or: why not)?  | Video and Q&A on the role of the EU delegation (available here <a href="https://wb-iliias.uni-freiburg.de/iliias.php?ref_id=126861&amp;obj_id=37218&amp;cmd=layout&amp;cmdClasses=ilImpresentationgui&amp;cmdNode=h5&amp;baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI">https://wb-iliias.uni-freiburg.de/iliias.php?ref_id=126861&amp;obj_id=37218&amp;cmd=layout&amp;cmdClasses=ilImpresentationgui&amp;cmdNode=h5&amp;baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI</a> )      |
|                                   | Why does the EU turn into an external actor?   | Core Literature (needs to be worked through prior to the class session): Jørgensen, K-E., S. Oberthür, and J. Shahin (2011) ' <a href="#">Introduction: Assessing the EU’s Performance in International Institutions – Conceptual Framework and Core Findings</a> ’, Journal of European Integration 33(6), 599-620.  |
|                                   | How does the EU become active on the international level?  | <a href="https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/trade_en">https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/trade_en</a><br><a href="https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/humanitarian-aid-civil-protection_en">https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/humanitarian-aid-civil-protection_en</a><br><a href="https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/foreign-security-policy_en">https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/foreign-security-policy_en</a> |
|                                   | Is the UN an arena or an actor or both?  |   |
|                                   | Which different options are there to measure the performance of an RO in an IO? What are the advantages and disadvantages to the different measurements? |   |
|                                   | How well – do you think – does the EU perform in the UN and why? What do you base your assessment of the EU’s role and influence on?                     |   |

ALSO: What should the voice over PPPs in the next part of the seminar look like?

Session 4  
June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Explanatory Research Design I

(refreshing) research design essentials:  
types of projects, x- and y-centered  
questions, steps towards answering  
explanatory research questions in a  
scientific manner

Explanatory research design and method selection (please make sure that you cover the first three parts) [https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs\\_360306\\_rcodehXJf8QDBAB](https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs_360306_rcodehXJf8QDBAB) (this requires that you log into the system with your Uni-Freiburg account)

Further Literature (not a required reading for this class):  
Diana Panke (2018): „Research Design and Method Selection: Making Good Choices in the Social Sciences”, (Sage).

## **PART II The EU in the UN system**

Session 5  
June 9<sup>th</sup>

The EU in the ILO

Video and Q&A on the ILO (available here [https://wb-ilias.uni-freiburg.de/ilias.php?ref\\_id=126861&obj\\_id=37212&cmd=layout&cmdClass=ilImpresentationgui&cmdNode=h5&baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI](https://wb-ilias.uni-freiburg.de/ilias.php?ref_id=126861&obj_id=37212&cmd=layout&cmdClass=ilImpresentationgui&cmdNode=h5&baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI) )

*Guiding questions:*

What does the ILO seek to accomplish?

How does the ILO work?

Which role does ROs play in the ILO?

Can the EU exert influence over ILO norms and rules?

How influential is the EU in the ILO? Can you give examples for influence as well as for failed influence?

Core Literature (needs to be worked through prior to the class session):  
R. Kissack ‘[EU Actorness in the International Labour Organisation: Comparing declaratory and voting cohesion](#)’, Global Society, Vol. 22(4) 2008, pp. 469-489.  
<https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/lang--en/index.htm>  
<https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/lang--en/index.htm>

Listen to the students’ voice over PPP for this session and put your comments and questions in writing

Session 6  
June 16<sup>th</sup>

The EU in the UNSC

*Guiding questions:*

Which role does the UNSC play in the UN system in general?

How does the UNSC work?

Which outcomes can the UNSC pass?

Which role does ROs play in the UNSC?

Can the EU exert influence over UNSC resolutions? Why? Please look for examples.

Can the EU acquire a seat in the UNSC? Why?

Video and Q&A on the EU in the UNSC (available here [https://wb-iliias.uni-freiburg.de/iliias.php?ref\\_id=126861&obj\\_id=37213&cmd=layout&cmdClass=ilImpresentationgui&cmdNode=h5&baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI](https://wb-iliias.uni-freiburg.de/iliias.php?ref_id=126861&obj_id=37213&cmd=layout&cmdClass=ilImpresentationgui&cmdNode=h5&baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI) )

Core Literature (needs to be worked through prior to the class session):  
Drieskens, E. (2015). 'Curb your enthusiasm: Why an EU perspective on UN Security Council reform does not imply an EU seat'. Global Affairs, 1(1), 59-66.

Blavoukos, Spyros, & Bourantonis, Dimitris (2011). 'The EU in the United Nations Security Council: the Case of the UNSC Reform'. Journal of European Integration, 33(6), 731-742.

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>  
<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/security-council-members>

Listen to the students' voice over PPP for this session and put your comments and questions in writing

Session 7  
June 23<sup>rd</sup>

The EU and human rights

*Guiding questions:*

Which role does the HRC and the 3<sup>rd</sup> committee of the UNGA play in the UN system in general?

How does the HRC work?

Which outcomes can the HRC and the 3<sup>rd</sup> committee of the UNGA pass?

Video and Q&A on the EU and human rights (available here [https://wb-iliias.uni-freiburg.de/iliias.php?ref\\_id=126861&obj\\_id=37214&cmd=layout&cmdClass=ilImpresentationgui&cmdNode=h5&baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI](https://wb-iliias.uni-freiburg.de/iliias.php?ref_id=126861&obj_id=37214&cmd=layout&cmdClass=ilImpresentationgui&cmdNode=h5&baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI) )

Core Literature (needs to be worked through prior to the class session):  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/02/17/human-rights-eu-adopts-conclusions-on-eu-priorities-at-united-nations-human-rights-fora-in-2020/> read page and open pdf link to the [Council conclusions on the EU Priorities in UN Human Rights Fora 2020, 17 February 2020](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/home.aspx)  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/home.aspx>

Listen to the students' voice over PPP for this session and put your comments and questions in writing

Which role do ROs play in the HRC?

Which role do ROs play in the 3<sup>rd</sup> committee of the UNGA?

Can the EU exert influence over human rights resolutions? Does this apply to the HRC and the UNGA or only one of them and why?

How influential is the EU in the human rights domain?

Session 8  
June 30<sup>th</sup>

The EU and environmental policy

*Guiding questions:*

Which UN organizations deal with environmental policy?

To which UN environmental organizations and agencies does the EU have access to?

Is regime complexity of international environmental policy an asset or does it render the protection of the environment more difficult?

Which role do ROs play in the UN environmental policy?

Can the EU exert influence over international environmental policies? If so, how and under what conditions?

Video and Q&A on the EU and environmental policy (available here [https://wb-iliad.uni-freiburg.de/iliad.php?ref\\_id=126861&obj\\_id=37215&cmd=layout&cmdClass=ilImpresentationgui&cmdNode=h5&baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI](https://wb-iliad.uni-freiburg.de/iliad.php?ref_id=126861&obj_id=37215&cmd=layout&cmdClass=ilImpresentationgui&cmdNode=h5&baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI) )

Core Literature (needs to be worked through prior to the class session):  
Delreux T. (2014), 'EU actorness, cohesiveness and effectiveness in environmental affairs' in Journal of European Public Policy, 21(7): p. 1017-1032. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13501763.2014.912250>  
<https://www.unenvironment.org/>  
<https://unfccc.int/>

Listen to the students' voice over PPP for this session and put your comments and questions in writing

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|-------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                     | Is the EU a force in greening international politics?  |   |
| Session 9<br>July 7 <sup>th</sup>   | <p>The EU and peace and security</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <p>How do UN peacekeeping missions come about? Who is initiating them/ issuing a mandate?</p> <p>How many UN peacekeeping missions have there been in the last decade?</p> <p>Which role do ROs play in UN peacekeeping missions?</p> <p>How does the EU cooperate with the UN in respect to international peace and security affairs?</p> <p>Can the EU contribute to the success of UN peacekeeping efforts and if so how?</p> | <p>Video and Q&amp;A on the EU and peace and security (available here <a href="https://wb-iliass.uni-freiburg.de/iliass.php?ref_id=126861&amp;obj_id=52701&amp;cmd=layout&amp;cmdClasses=ilImpresentationgui&amp;cmdNode=h5&amp;baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI">https://wb-iliass.uni-freiburg.de/iliass.php?ref_id=126861&amp;obj_id=52701&amp;cmd=layout&amp;cmdClasses=ilImpresentationgui&amp;cmdNode=h5&amp;baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI</a>)</p> <p>Core Literature (needs to be worked through prior to the class session):<br/>Tardy, Thierry (2009): '<a href="#">UN-EU Relations in Military Crisis Management: Institutionalisation and Key Constraints</a>', <i>Studia Diplomatica: The Brussels Journal of International Relations</i> 62(3): 43–52.<br/><a href="https://peacekeeping.un.org/en">https://peacekeeping.un.org/en</a><br/><a href="https://dppa.un.org/en/european-union">https://dppa.un.org/en/european-union</a><br/><a href="https://au.int/en/psc">https://au.int/en/psc</a></p> <p>Listen to the students' voice over PPP for this session and put your comments and questions in writing</p> |
| Session 10<br>July 14 <sup>th</sup> | <p>The EU and the development of international law</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <p>What is international law?</p>  | <p>Video and Q&amp;A on the EU and the development of international law (available here <a href="https://wb-iliass.uni-freiburg.de/iliass.php?ref_id=126861&amp;obj_id=37217&amp;cmd=layout&amp;cmdClasses=ilImpresentationgui&amp;cmdNode=h5&amp;baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI">https://wb-iliass.uni-freiburg.de/iliass.php?ref_id=126861&amp;obj_id=37217&amp;cmd=layout&amp;cmdClasses=ilImpresentationgui&amp;cmdNode=h5&amp;baseClass=ilLMPresentationGUI</a>)</p> <p>Core Literature (needs to be worked through prior to the class session):<br/>Jan Wouters and Marta Hermez, '<a href="#">The EU's Contribution to "the Strict</a></p>  |



|   |  |
|---|--|
| Which sources of international law are there?   | <a href="#">Observance and the Development of International Law</a> ”at the UNGA Sixth Committee’, in Spyros Blavoukos and Dimitrios Bourantonis (eds.), The EU in UN Politics. Actors, Processes and Performance (Palgrave 2017) 147-163. |
| Which types of international laws can we distinguish?   | Listen to the students’ voice over PPP for this session and put your comments and questions in writing   |
| Which role does the UN system in general play for the development of international law?                                 |  |
| Through which pathways can ROs in general influence international law?  |  |
| Is the EU successful in influencing international law? When is this the case and when does the EU fail in this respect? |  |

### Final Part

Session 11 Explanatory Research Design II  
July 21<sup>st</sup>

Explanatory research design and method selection (please go through the material that you are not familiar with and/or that you have not already covered in the session on June 2<sup>nd</sup>) [https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs\\_360306\\_rcodehXJf8QDBAB](https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs_360306_rcodehXJf8QDBAB) (requires that you log into the system with your Uni-Freiburg account)

Further literature (not a required reading for this class):  
Diana Panke (2018): „Research Design and Method Selection: Making Good Choices in the Social Sciences”, (Sage).

Session 12 Final session  
July 28<sup>th</sup>

Discussion: The EU in the UN – Active  
and Influential?

Please submit the items/questions you want to discuss prior to the meeting in  
ILIAS (link to whiteboard will be made available in prior to the session) and  
please read and think about the questions others have posted as well

Repetition and open questions: How to  
Write Term Papers

How to Write Term Papers (link to general paper structure available under  
<https://portal.uni-freiburg.de/politik/professuren/governance/sekretariat>)