

Mastercourse for MA Political Science Students

Small States in International Relations

Convenor: Prof. Dr. Diana Panke

Place and time: on Tuesdays, 14:00 – 16:00h HS 1231, KG 1

Please note: Covid-conditions and official regulations-permitting, this seminar will take place on a face-to-face based. Thus, it might be the case that we will shift towards a synchronic online setting in the course of the semester. In this case, the seminar will take place on a zoom platform (link and access codes will be provided via email).

Short summary:

Although formally equal in international law, sovereign states differ with respect to their size. They vary considerably with respect to the number of citizens, their economic power, or their territory, as a result of which some states are considered as being small in nature. In effect, small states – although being formally equal to their larger counterparts – are often less active in international politics within and outside international organizations and tend to be less influential across the board. This course explores the different dimensions of size and discusses its implications. Which challenges do small states face when navigating global politics? Which strategies do they device to cope with being small in a big world? Under what conditions can small punch above their weights? In answering these and other questions with respect to into selected policy fields and contemporary problems of international politics, the course draws on theories of international relations, small states scholarship and work on international negotiations and applies a broad range of different methods of data collection and analysis.

Learning outcomes:

- Students will increase their substantive theoretical knowledge concerning size-related theories of international relations, small states approaches and international negotiations
- Empirically, the course offers the opportunity to deepen insights into selected policy fields (e.g. security, environment and climate change, trade, global health, migration) and associated contemporary problems of international politics as well as selected international organizations (e.g. the United Systems Security Council, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or the World Health Organization)
- Methodologically, the students learn how to set-up explanatory research design and how to work with different methods of data collection and analysis suitable to their own projects

Assessment

In order to obtain ECTS credits (c.f. <http://portal.uni-freiburg.de/politik/studium>), you need to:

- Do all the core readings
- Actively participate in all the sessions and attend them regularly (no more than two no-shows in total)
- Prepare and deliver a short presentation of one of the core readings (5 minutes per article/chapter)
- Work on one group project (including literature research, power point/multimedia presentation (20 minutes), and handout)
- Write an individual paper based on your group project (length depending on your degree, usually between 20-25 pages)¹

The core literature can be found in ILIAS. You will receive the link and the password by mail on October 14 via HisInOne. Please make sure that you registered in HisInOne for this course and that you provided the correct e-mail address in HisInOne.

This course uses blended learning. The E-Learning units can be accessed through ILIAS (https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs_360306_rcodehXJf8QDBAB&client_id=unifreiburg)

¹ You cannot submit one paper as a group, each student needs to write his/her own paper.

Essential:

In preparation for each class session, it is required that all students do the assigned core readings. The core reading materials are available online in ILIAS (see above). The additional readings are recommendations and not mandatory in nature.

Syllabus:

Slot	Topic	Materials
19.10.2021 Session 1	Introduction Conceptual clarifications Smallness - definitions	Core reading: Panke 2012 Additional readings Hey 2003, Ingebritsen, et al. 2006, Panke 2008, Thorhallsson 2018
26.10.2021 Session 2	Theory: Small states in IR theories I (Neo-Realism)	Core reading: Waltz 1979, Ch. 4 “Political Structures” and Ch. 5 “Anarchic Orders and Balance of Power” Additional readings: Waltz 1979, Baldwin 1993, Buzan, et al. 1993, Waltz 1988
02.11.2021 Session 3	Theory: Small states in IR theories II (Interdependence theory)	Core reading: Keohane and Nye 1998 Additional readings: Stein 2008, Martin 1992, Garrett 1992, Keohane and Nye 1977, Snidal 1985, Panke 2013, Martin 2007, Axelrod and Keohane 1986
09.11.2021 Session 4	Theory: Small states in international negotiations	Core readings: Panke 2010, Panke 2014 Additional readings: Panke 2012, Panke 2013
16.11.2021 Session 5	Theory: Small states sheltering	Core readings: Thorhallsson 2011; Bailes, et al. 2016 Additional readings: Thorhallsson 2018, Thorhallsson, et al. 2018, Bladaite and Šešelgytė 2020
23.11.2021 Session 6	Theory: Small states hedging	Core readings: Pempel 2016, Ciorciari and Haacke 2019 Additional readings: Strating 2020, Jones and Jenne 2021, Raimundo and Ferreira-Pereira 2021

30.11.2021 Session 7	Research design essentials	Core reading: Panke 2018 (chapters 1 and 3) Additional readings: Panke 2018 remaining chapters and E-Learning units https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs_360306_rcodehXJf8QDBAB&client_id=unifreiburg
07.12.2021 Session 8	Case applications: Group I	Materials will be provided one week prior to this session by group I
14.12.2021 Session 9	Case applications: Group II	Materials will be provided one week prior to this session by group II
21.12.2021 Session 10	Case applications: Group III	Materials will be provided one week prior to this session by group III
11.01.2022 Session 11	Case applications: Group IV	Materials will be provided one week prior to this session by group IV
18.01.2021 Session 12	Case applications: Group V	Materials will be provided one week prior to this session by group V
25.01.2022 Session 13	Term Paper – Conference I	E-Learning units https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs_360306_rcodehXJf8QDBAB&client_id=unifreiburg
01.02.2022 Session 14	Term Paper – Conference II	E-Learning units https://ilias.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs_360306_rcodehXJf8QDBAB&client_id=unifreiburg
08.02.2022 Session 15	Final Discussion	

Literature:

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