

Small States in International Relations

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 devise 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 to work with different methods of data collection and analysis suitable to their own projects

Leistungsanforderungen:

siehe: https://www.politik.uni-freiburg.de/medien/pdf/studium/leistungsanforderungen_neu-politikwissenschaft.pdf

z.B. M.A. Politikwissenschaft, PO 2013: 10 ECTS

>> Hausarbeit (20 – 25 Seiten) und Essay (5-6 Seiten)

z.B. M.A. Angewandte Politikwissenschaft: 8 ECTS

>> Hausarbeit (20 – 25 Seiten)