

2.4 Study Area: Governance

Morality of Political Violence			
Course Number	00LE62S-LAS-GO0023	Teaching Period	Block I
Study Area(s)	Governance, Electives	Credit Points	6 ECTS
Module(s) (StuPo 2012)	Advanced Governance I, II; Specialization Option: Law, Politics, Administration	Module(s) (StuPo 2015)	Advanced Governance I, II; Specialization Option Governance I, or II
Open to Students	Year(s) 3, 4, (2 by request only)	Max. Enrollment	20
Prerequisites	Introduction to Governance; Theoretical and Philosophical Foundations of Social and Political Sciences		
Instructor(s)	Dr. Nadia Mazouz (n.mazouz@gmx.de)		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 17.10.-09.12.: Tue, 9-12h, AU 01065 Thu, 9-12h, AU 01065 17.11 theater visit		
Course Description	<p>Can political violence ever be morally justified? In order to address this important and perennially controversial problem, key underlying questions have first to be elucidated, i.e. What constitutes political violence in the first place? How does it transform with political, sociocultural and technological developments? What types of justifications can count as moral and how are they to be weighed against political, social or economic justifications? How does one think about the fact of fundamental dissent about answers to these questions?</p> <p>In this course, an overview of contemporary philosophical thinking about the moral problem of political violence will be given. In particular, we will focus on: war, humanitarian intervention, "new wars", terrorism, targeted killing, revolution and civil disobedience. The learning objective is twofold: Students will become acquainted with the main traditions of philosophical thinking about the morality of political violence; and they will learn to interpret philosophical texts, to think through the difficult problems the texts address and to argue for and against the theses that are made explicit in the different approaches.</p> <p>Each student will be asked to choose one concrete violent political conflict or war he or she is particularly interested in, be it historical or current. For example, students may wish to examine the morality of political violence in the context of the Second World War or the war in Syria now; the French Revolution or the Arabic Spring. Students will be given the opportunity to present a seminar paper on the problem of the moral justification in his or her concrete example using the philosophical theories discussed in the course.</p> <p>Course requirements: Weekly preparation of readings and class discussion; Seminar paper, due week 7 and 8; Essay (5000 words), due December 22.</p>		
Remarks	Second year students can only participate upon request.		