Sommersemester 2013
Bachelorseminar “Economics and Politics of International Economic Organizations”

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First Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 16.15-17.45h, Library seminar room, 1st floor (AWI). This is where topics will be allocated.

Seminar: Friday, July 05, 09.00-18.00h, Library seminar room
Saturday, July 06, 10.00-18.00h, Library seminar room

Deadline for enrollment: Friday, April 26, per e-mail to Vera Eichenauer.

Deadline for papers: Saturday, June 29, 23:59

Please send an electronic version of your seminar paper (in pdf) to Vera Eichenauer (vera.eichenauer@awi.uni-heidelberg.de).

If you fail to meet this deadline, you fail the course!

After the deadline you will receive one of the papers written by another student as a paper for discussion. Please prepare a short critical review of this paper for the seminar meeting.

Grading will be based on:
Your seminar paper (60 percent)
Your presentation and Q&A session (15+10 minutes, 30 percent)
Your discussion of another paper (5 minutes, 10 percent)
Your participation during discussions (at the margin)
(You will only be graded when present during all presentations!)

Language: Papers have to be written in German or English.
Seminar meetings and all presentations will take place in English.
Topics

I. Theory of International Organizations

1. Do we need international organizations to ensure cooperation among states?


2. Why do states delegate part of their sovereignty to international organizations?


3. Do International Organizations matter in international politics?


II. International Monetary Fund

4. Why do governments and the IMF enter into agreements?


Vreeland, James, 2000, The IMF: Lender of Last Resort or Scapegoat? mimeo.

5. Who controls the IMF?


6. A critical assessment of IMF Conditionality

7. What are the effects of IMF programs?


Smith, Alastair and James R. Vreeland, 2006, The Survival of Political Leaders and IMF Programs, in Gustav Ranis, James Vreeland, and Stephen Kosack (eds.), Globalization...
8. Does the IMF’s “seal of approval” catalyze capital flows?


10. Should the IMF be reformed?

Bordo, Michael and Harold James, 2009, The Past and Future of IMF Reform, mimeo.


Krueger, Anne O., 2006, A response to Allan Meltzer, Review of International Organizations 1, 1: 61-64.


Meltzer, Allan H., 2006a, Reviving the Bank and the Fund, Review of International Organizations 1, 1: 49-59.


III. World Trade Organization

11. Who joins the WTO?


12. What are the economic consequences of the WTO?


13. Should the WTO be reformed?


IV. The World Bank Group (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA)

14. Why do governments and the World Bank enter into agreements?


15. Who controls the World Bank?


16. What are the effects of World Bank involvement?


17. Should the World Bank be reformed and, if so, how?


V. The European Union

18. Who has the power in the EU?


19. The Political Economy of the European Constitution

20. What are the macroeconomic consequences of the EMU?


21. Does EU conditionality work?


22. Who is in favor of enlarging the European Union?


Guideline for Seminar Papers

Editing
You may use any word processing software that you feel comfortable with. Preferentially make use of LaTeX in case you decide to use a lot of formulas in your paper. Papers have to be submitted by Email in PDF format.

Style
- Font Size: 12 pt
- Line Spread: 1.5pt
- Alignment: justified
- border: 2.5cm

Length
The seminar papers should not exceed 12 pages excluding references, tables and title page.

Organization
- Cover (Include name, student number, title)
- Table of Contents: Number headings in the table of contents and the text identically.
- Table of Figures: List all figures (if any) with number and heading.
- List of Tables: List all tables with number and heading.
- (Table of Symbols: List all symbols and variables (if any) with their definitions.)
- Content: The introduction leads to and defines the subject, the body deals with the subject and the summary sums up the results in a critical manner. Number content, table of contents, table of figures, the list of tables, and the table of symbols. Reduce the number of footnotes to a minimum. Abbreviations have to be explained. Number only important equations that you refer to. Within the text argue in economic terms and not with variables. Orthography, grammar, and style are taken into account. Refrain from excessive bulleting and numbering.
- References
- (Appendix)

Quotations, References and Plagiarism

Quotations: use Harvard style, i.e. quote within the text and not in footnotes (e.g., as has been shown by Sturm (2006)…).

References: all studies that you have quoted in the text have to appear in the reference list. Anything that you have only read, but that is not quoted in the text, must NOT appear in the list of references. There are no restrictions on the reference style. However, consistency is required.

Plagiarism: any text parts (of more than two words) or ideas that are not strictly your own have to be marked. That means that the text has to be phrased in a way that makes unambiguously clear which parts are your own thoughts and which part repeats ideas from other persons. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of your paper, i.e., you fail the course, and possible further disciplinary measures by the Ruprecht-Karl University of Heidelberg. Don't even think about copy/pasting your paper from the internet. Each paper will be tested in that respect.
Finding Literature

The references that you get from us are only a starting point (and we will not provide these articles). You are supposed to do your own literature research. The first step in the search for relevant literature is to check the reference lists of the literature that we gave you. Good sources for economic literature, among others, are:

- http://ideas.repec.org
- http://www.jstor.org
- Business Source Premier and EconLit (via the university library website)
- http://www.nber.org
- http://www.cepr.org

A rule of thumb is that the list of references should have about as many entries as there are pages in the seminar paper, e.g., 20 pages, 15-25 references. Be prepared to read about the double amount of papers that finally make it into the list of references. Wikipedia is not a scientific source.

Deadlines

Make sure that you hand in your paper exactly on time. If you miss the deadline, the rules are strict and you will not pass the course.

Interaction with your supervisor

It is recommended that you meet your supervisor (at least once, but better twice) in order to discuss the progress of your paper. The first meeting should happen within about two weeks after you started working on the paper.