

universität freiburg



Course Catalog

BA/BSc Program
Liberal Arts and Sciences
Winter Semester 2024-25



UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
FREIBURG

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I General Information

For detailed information on all topics listed below, please consult the [LAS Info Board](#) on ILIAS.

Due to the limited places in Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) courses, all courses listed in the LAS Course Catalog are open to LAS students and students of the official exchange partners and partner degree programs of UCF only.

1 Teaching Periods and Dates

Teaching Period	Dates
Pre-Block	23.09. – 08.10.2024
Block I	14.10. – 06.12.2024
Block II	09.12.2024 – 14.02.2025
University Semester	14.10.2024 – 07.12.2025 (semester-long LAS courses run according the university semester)
Re-sit Period	01 – 26.10.2024 (re-sit examinations that require students' presence only)

The university is closed on public holidays! Dates for individual courses may slightly vary from these dates (see course descriptions).

2 LAS Academic Calendar

Date		Important Dates and Deadlines
September 2024		
22.07 – 20.09		Pre-Block Course Registration
Mon	02.09	Deadline: Application for Admission of Bachelor Thesis. Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board .
12.09 – 30.09		LAS Course Registration with consecutive registration periods (see Course Registration)
23.09 – 08.10		Pre-Block Courses
Mon	30.09	Application for SLI Language Courses begins (individual courses paid by UCF) Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board)
October 2024		
01.10 – 26.10		Resit Period
07.10 – 11.10.		LAS Welcome Week
Fri	11.10.	LAS Graduation Ceremony
		Deadline: Application for Courses of other Degree Programs at the University of Freiburg - Confirmation from Major/Core Coordinators
Mon	14.10.	University Semester and Block I begin
		Event: Exam Registration Information

Date		Important Dates and Deadlines
14.10 – 27.10		Exam Registration: Block I and Semester long courses
Sun	27.10.	Deadline: Application for Courses of other Degree Programs at the University of Freiburg (for <u>all graded</u> examinations). Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board .
November 2024		
28.10 – 03.11.		Withdrawal from Examination for semester-long courses in HISinOne
Fri	01.11	Public Holiday: All Saint's Day (no teaching)
Fri	15.11	Deadline: Round One Application UCF Exchange Programs for the Academic Year 2024/25. Details on the Application procedure will be announced by Email.
		Deadline: Application credit recognition for study abroad (application forms and guidelines are available on the Info Board)
December 2024		
Mon	02.12.	Event: Bachelor Thesis Information (tbc)
Wed	04.12.	Deadline: Application for Admission of Bachelor Thesis. Guidelines and application forms are available on the LAS Info Board .
Mon	09.12.	Block II begins
09.12 – 22.12		Exam Registration and withdrawal: Block II courses
tba		Event: UCF Director's Punch
23.12.-07.01.		University Christmas Break (no teaching)
January 2025		
Wed	15.01.	Deadline: Round Two Application UCF Exchange Programs for the Academic Year 2024/25. Details on the Application procedure will be announced by Email
tba		Event: Foundational Year: Second Semester Info
Fri	31.01	Deadline: Declaration of Major in HISinOne (to be taken into account for the upcoming course registration)
		Deadline: Application for Graduation WS 2024-25 on ILIAS
February 2025		
Fri	14.02.	Deadline: Application for Admission of Bachelor Thesis (4 th year students) on ILIAS (recommended date for students graduating at the end of SS 2025)
March 2025		
Beginning of March		Publication of the LAS Course Catalog SS 2025 on the UCF website

3 EPICUR – The European University

Uni Freiburg and UCF are part of [EPICUR](#), a pilot European University of the future. EPICUR offers LAS-based seminars and other teaching activities across the alliance:

- EPICUR courses taught by [UCF EPICUR staff](#) are organized as regular UCF courses and listed in the Course Catalog. Reserved EPICUR slots not taken by students from EPICUR partners will be assigned to UCF students on the waiting list during the post-registration period II and in registration period III.
- EPICUR courses offered at the EPICUR partners can be taken by UCF students. These courses adhere to the individual partner's academic calendar and course organization.

Due to the international schedule, EPICUR courses and the LAS semester are not in sync. Please check the registration periods on the [EPICUR website](#). More information on upcoming courses and on course registration is available in the course catalog and on [EPICampus](#), the EPICUR Virtual Campus Learning Platform. Credit recognition at UCF follows the procedure for courses taken outside the University of Freiburg during LAS.

4 Course Registration

The LAS course registration procedure ensures that LAS students and LAS exchange students can register for a sufficient number of courses to keep up with their studies and that they get priority for compulsory courses they require in order to graduate.

This procedure applies to all courses offered by UCF that appear in the LAS Course Catalog (unless stated otherwise in the remarks section of individual course descriptions). Information on taking courses of other degree programs and by the Sprachlehrinstitut (SLI) of the University of Freiburg is available on the [LAS Info Board on ILIAS](#).

4.1 When to Register for Courses?

- [LAS students](#) register during the three consecutive registration periods as outlined below. Please note that you may have to register for different courses at different times.
- [LAS exchange students](#) can register for courses during Registration Period II and III.
- [Students of partner degree programs at the University of Freiburg](#) can register for courses during Registration Period III. Additionally, please contact UCF well in advance: las.consultation@ucf.uni-freiburg.de.

Registration Period I: Thu, 12.09. – Mon, 16.09. (12:00h, noon)		
Who can register	For what	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LAS students who have formally declared their Major by 31 July 	LAS courses to be recognized as Major courses only (not as Elective or Core courses!)	LAS students can register for a maximum of 5 courses in total (pre-block or language courses not included). Students who register for more than 5 courses will be removed from the most popular courses.
Places are assigned after the registration period. Students from higher years will get priority unless otherwise noted in the course description. You can check your registration status on Tuesday afternoon. Students whose registration requests were declined or altered can register for alternative courses on Wednesday, 18.09., 14:00h to 18:00h in HISinOne. Please de-register from courses that you do not want to take immediately.		

Registration Period II: Thu, 19.09. – Mon, 23.09. (12:00h, noon)		
Who can register	For what	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAS students LAS exchange students 	All courses listed in the LAS Course Catalog.	LAS students and LAS exchange students can register for a maximum of 5 courses in total (pre-block or language courses not included).
<p>Places are assigned after the registration period. Students from higher years will get priority unless otherwise noted in the course description. You can check your registration status on Tuesday afternoon.</p> <p>Students whose registration requests were declined or altered can register for alternative courses on Wednesday, 25.09., 14:00h to 18:00h in HISinOne.</p> <p>Please de-register from courses that you do not want to take immediately.</p>		

Registration Period III: Thu, 26.09 – Mon, 30.09. (12:00h, noon)		
Who can register	For what	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students of the University of Freiburg 	All courses listed in the LAS Course Catalog	<p>Students can register for courses that still have places available.</p> <p>Students are allowed to register for a maximum of 6 courses in total.</p>
<p>Places will be assigned throughout the registration period. Regularly check your registration status in HISinOne. In some cases, priority will be given to students of partner degree programs.</p> <p>Please de-register from courses that you do not want to take immediately.</p>		

4.2 How to Register for Courses?

Course registration takes place in the campus management system HISinOne. For a description of the registration process, please consult the [LAS Info Board](#) on ILIAS.

4.3 Participant Lists

Course participant lists will be finalized **on Monday, 7 October, 2024** and passed on to the instructors. Later admissions to courses by the LAS program coordination are not possible.

The final decision about participation lies with the course instructor. Students may be excluded from a course at a later stage, e.g. if they do not fulfill the prerequisites or have not reached the required year of studies. It is also up to the instructors whether or not they admit students once the participant lists are finalized.

Courses with less than five participants may be cancelled.

4.4 Course Cancellation Period

Students can withdraw from courses before the semester start. The cancellation period will be from 7.-11.10. (noon). Students from the waiting list may be assigned to courses during that week.

4.5 Problems with Course Registration?

If course registration in HISinOne does not work, please immediately contact LAS program coordination: las.consultation@ucf.uni-freiburg.de. Requests after the given deadline are not considered.

Always provide

- your name, matriculation number, and Major (if declared formally),
- your study and examination regulations (2015, 2020, exchange student),
- the exact course and module title that you wish to register for,
- and information about your problem. Please provide a screenshot whenever possible.

5 Exam Registration

5.1 Who Needs to Register for Examination?

All students who wish to get credits for courses need to register for examinations.

5.2 When to Register for Examination?

Period	Dates	Exam Registration and Withdrawal
I	23.09 – 30.09.2024	Registration Pre-block
II	14.10. – 27.10.2024	Registration Block I and semester long courses
	28.10. – 03.11.2024	Withdrawal semester long courses
III	09.12. – 22.12.2024	Registration Block II and non-LAS courses

The registration periods apply to all courses offered by UCF (unless otherwise noted in the course details). Courses of other degree programs have different registration periods.

Please register right at the beginning of the registration period in case any problems arise. **Please remember: You are not allowed to take part in the exam or will not be given a grade for any written work if you have not registered by the deadline specified.**

5.3 How to Register for Examination?

All LAS students (including first year students) and LAS exchange students (on [UCF programs](#) only) register their examinations in the campus management system HSiOne as outlined on the [LAS Info Board](#) on ILIAS.

5.4 Students of other degree programs and other exchange programs

UCF does not organize exam registration for students of other degree programs and for international exchange students from other departments. Rather, this is organized at the relevant faculty or by the International Office for students on international office exchange programs. Students should contact their faculty or the International Office.

5.5 Was the exam registration successful?

Pass/fail assessments (Studienleistungen) will appear as REG (Registriert) and graded assessments (Prüfungsleistungen) as ZU (zugelassen) in HSiOne. See *My enrollments and registrations* or your transcript of records.


5.6 Problems with Exam Registration

See [Problems with Course Registration](#).

II Course Descriptions

1 Pre-Block Courses

1.1 Study Area: Core

Intercultural Competence				 EPICUR EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
Core		Pre-Block		
Holger Witzenleiter (kontakt@holger-witzenleiter.de)				
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number	
Year(s) 2-4	2	15	00LE62S-LAS-CO0093b	
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020		
Elective Joker (SL only)		Advanced Academic Skills		
Prerequisites	EAW			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 26.-30.08.2024, 9-17h Mon-Wed (13h), KG 1036 Wed (13h)-Fri, AU Co-Creation Room			
Course Description	<p>In a globalized world and especially in daily working routine we more than ever meet and work with people representing different cultural backgrounds. To speak a common language can only provide a first step into successful communication across borders. For productive cooperation, also intercultural competence is required to deal effectively with each other. On top of this knowledge, we need specific skills that help develop sensitivity for intercultural interaction.</p> <p>This seminar focuses on Intercultural Communication for various fields of business, international cooperation, import/export, Human Resource Management as well as education. The goal is to transmit knowledge, elicit self-regulation, and provide tools for a reflective professional dealing with intercultural situations.</p> <p>Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Terms and models of culture▪ Culture and identity: sensitizing for own cultural imprint; otherness, ethnocentrism▪ Cultural filters: neutral and value-free observation, process of attribution, comparison of self- and foreign perspective▪ Culture “grammar”: norms and values, attitude towards time, space, individualism/collectivism▪ Culture exploration: ethnographic method including field study - questioning and exploration models of communication▪ Critical Incidents			
Remarks	<p>This is the first and second part of a modular system of seminars that will help you to systematize your intercultural experiences and provide the opportunity to become a trainer for Intercultural Communication yourself (please see www.xpert-ccs.de).</p> <p>To register for this course, please send an email to epicur@ucf.uni-freiburg.de before the course starts, attaching proof of your enrollment. Thank you!</p>			
Examination	SL only			

Peer Review: A Cascade Approach			
Core		Pre-Block	
Anna Opanasenko (tbc), Dr. Steven Randall, Thorsten Leiendecker			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	2	15	00LE62S-LAS-CO0094
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Elective Joker (SL only)		Advanced Academic Skills	
Prerequisites	EAW		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 25.09., 9-13h, BT 105 26.09., 9-13h, BT 105 27.09., 9-13h, AU 01.065 Final workshop (2h): tba (Jan/Feb, acc. to the availability of students and instructors)		
Course Description	Writing is re-writing. While much of our effort in writing assignments goes into crafting the initial text, the most crucial aspect for ensuring the quality of a(ny) paper is the final stage: the revision. Editing and re-writing are complex cognitive tasks that require not only the author's review of their own text but also feedback from others. In academia, peer review is a fundamental part of the publishing process and should therefore be cultivated from the start of one's writing journey. In this course, we will look at the processes that take place during the revision of a text with a focus on reviewing other people's writing. The approach to learning in this course includes cascade learning: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. During the pre-block part of the course, students will get input and develop a deeper understanding of writing and revision. The course materials will be drawn from the participants' own writing history.2. In a second part during the semester, students will join the first year course English Academic Writing (January 2025, different slots possible) and pass on their knowledge to less experienced writers. Thereby, the younger learners (in EAW) will benefit from the experience of more advanced students.3. In a final workshop, the participants of this course will reflect the learning/teaching experience and come to a more profound understanding of their learning process and, eventually, of their own writing.		
Remarks	This seminar is ideal for students who already wrote a couple of term papers and/or essays.		
Examination	Pass/fail only: Students have to be present for the pre-block, one session in EAW and the workshop at the end of the course		

Rhetoric and Techniques of Presentation			
Core		Pre-Block	
Holger Witzenleiter (kontakt@holger-witzenleiter.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	2	18	00LE62S-LAS-CO0095
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Elective Joker		Advanced Academic Skills	
Prerequisites	none		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 01.-02.10.2024 9-17h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	<p>Powerful rhetoric and a precise, convincing argumentation will enhance your speeches or presentations. It is not only the way you structure your argument but also the different layers of delivery that can take your talks to another level. In this class we will focus on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ short speeches and brief addresses▪ body language, facial expressions and gestures▪ voice pitch, articulation, emphasizing through rhythmic speaking▪ dealing with nervousness and fears for public speaking▪ presenting: Standard phrases, five picture method, Pecha Kucha method▪ killer phrases and quick-wittedness▪ argumentation <p>In this course we will see, what we find impressive, exercise what we will have learnt and pattern drill what helps us the most. Even if we start with differing previous knowledge, each student will have the chance to build a stronger and broader competence in these core skills.</p>		
Remarks	Students of PO20 have priority.		
Examination	SL only		

Ubuntu Leadership			
Core		Pre-Block	
Gloria Nyambura Kenyatta (gloria.kenyatta@politik.uni-freiburg.de) and Chinwe Ogbonna (chinwe.ogbonna@grk2571.uni-freiburg.de), Thorsten Leiendecker (thorsten.leiendecker@ucf.uni-freiburg.de),			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0095
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Responsibility and Leadership 2		Responsibility and Leadership 2	
Prerequisites	none		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 23.09.-02.10.2024 9-16h (not all in presence tba), AU 01.036a and Ph HS 2		
Course Description	<p>"A person is a person through others" or short: "I am because you are." The African concept Ubuntu offers an approach to moral, ontological and political issues based on the principle that all people with their experiences and actions are interconnected. It is a relational idea of humanity that emphasizes community, interaction and empathy.</p> <p>Emerging as a key principle during the South African peace and reconciliation process post-apartheid, Ubuntu serves as a social philosophy that invites critical examination within the realm of critical leadership studies. We will explore different definitions of and challenges to Ubuntu: How does it work as a lived philosophy? What is its relation to Western concepts? Which innovations does it offer? Can it be employed outside of an African context?</p> <p>Based on these theoretical questions, we will explore how the concept works in its practical implementation and talk to people who have applied Ubuntu in some way.</p>		
Remarks	Gloria Nyambura Kenyatta and Chinwe Ogbonna are researchers in political and social sciences and work at the University of Freiburg.		
Examination	Group project and reflection paper (no more than 3,500 words), due 13.10.2024		
Recommended Reading	See ILIAS.		

1.2 Study Area: Earth and Environmental Sciences / Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

Excursion to the National Park Black Forest			
EES/ESS		Pre-Block	
Dr. Sabine Sané (sabine.sane@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	2	15	00LE62S-LAS-EE0040
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Elective Joker		Elective Joker (SL)	
Prerequisites	none		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Excursion 26.09. - all day		
Course Description	<p>This is going to be a one-day trip. It will include travel to and from the destination, a guided walk with a ranger through the park for 4h and subsequently the visit of the visitors' center (about 1.5 h). The topic will be around nature conservation, biodiversity, climate change.</p> <p>The excursion will be offered to all UCF students, however only 15 spots are available. Further information will come soon. However, if you are SURE you will attend you can already reserve a spot via e-mail to: sabine.sane@ucf.uni-freiburg.de. To secure your spot you will then be asked to pay 20€ that will be returned to you after you participated in the excursion or your spot could be filled with another student. So please only reserve a spot if you are SURE. The excursion is without any costs if you do attend.</p>		
Remarks	Update: The excursion is already fully booked. Please get in touch with Sabine Sané if you want to be added to the waiting list.		
Examination	SL only. You can receive 2 ECTS (Elective, submission of a 1000 word reflection paper).		

1.3 Study Area: Life Sciences

Drug Development and Regulation			
Life Sciences only		Pre-block	
Dr. Petra Lachmann (lachmannpge@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	7	00LE62S-LAS-LS0019
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Advanced Life Sciences I or II Specialization Option I or II		Advanced Life Sciences I, II, or III Specialization Option I or II: Life Sciences	
Prerequisites	Introduction to Life Sciences, Cell Biology (required)		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar and Laboratory 23.9.-25.9., 9-13h, AU 01.065 26.09.-01.10., 9-15h, Lab at BIOS Schänzlestraße 18 02.10. and 04.10., 9-13h, Ph 2		
Course Description	<p>What is a drug? What is an active substance? What are biologics? What is an orphan drug? How are drugs discovered? What are the potential starting points? Who decides which drug /treatment/disease to follow up? What regulations have to be fulfilled to get pharmaceuticals approved? Who are the stakeholders involved?</p> <p>In this interdisciplinary course, we are going to investigate different areas of drug development. Starting point will be a disease and how it affects the body. The molecules – receptors, enzymes, genes – that might play a role in the disease will be discussed. Then we will talk about active substances, how to identify them and how they react with the target. The active substance - a chemical-synthetic substance or a biopharmaceutical - has to be produced in a larger scale and has to be tested in cell cultures, animals and finally in humans (GLP, GMP, GCP). We will take a closer look at preclinical development and at clinical trials. We will talk about the Committee of Animal Experimentation as well as the Ethics Commission and discuss the history behind it.</p> <p>Emphasis will also be put on legal requirements for drug approval in different countries - Europe, USA -- and the agencies involved. We will spend five days in the lab to learn more about requirements and the importance of SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures): how to write them and why they are important; what they should include.</p> <p>At the end of the course students will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ have a basic knowledge about the different steps in drug development,▪ understand the regulations for clinical trials including the history behind animal tests and clinical trials,▪ know about the legal requirements and the agencies involved in the approval of drugs,▪ have an understanding of the stakeholders involved,▪ write/discuss an SOP.		
Remarks	Life Sciences students only.		
Examination	Write a Standard Operating Procedure for the experiments conducted. Due on 04.11.2024.		

1.4 Study Area: Multiple

Pre-Course Maths & Physics			
Life Sciences, EES/ESS		Pre-block	
Dr. Benoit Louvel (benoit.louvel@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	none (course optional)	20	00LE62S-LAS-LSEE0006
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
none		none	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS and/or Introduction to Life Sciences		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 08.10., 10-12h, Ph 3 Wed, 09.10., 10-12h, Ph 3 Thu, 10.10., 10-12h, Ph 3		
Course Description	Optional preparatory course for the semester-long course Maths and Physics. There is an accompanying course for independent learning on the e-learning platform kosmic: https://kosmic.uni-freiburg.de/goto.php?target=crs_3475 The exercises allow you to refresh your Math knowledge and to prepare for the mandatory UCF “Maths and Physics” course. The exercises are designed to complement the lectures of the pre-block course. Although the exercises can be used for self-study alone, we recommend to participate in the lectures of the pre-block course as well.		
Examination	none		

2 Block I Courses

2.1 Study Area: Core

Foundational Year: Research and Presentation							
Core		Block I					
Dr. Simon Büchner (buechner@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Dr. Sabine Sané (sabine.sane@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Dr. Mila Mikalay (mikalay@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Dr. Ryan Plumley (ryan.plumley@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)							
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number				
Year(s)	6	80	00LE62S-LAS-CO0008				
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020					
---		Research and Presentation					
Prerequisites	none						
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	<p>Lecture: Mon, 14-16h, AU HS 1</p> <p>Seminars:</p> <table><tr><td>Group 1: Tue, 8-10h, AU 01.036a Thu, 8-10h, AU 01.036a</td><td>Group 2: Tue, 10-12h, AU 01.036a Thu, 10-12h, AU 01.036a</td></tr><tr><td>Group 3: Tue, 12-14h, AU 01.065 Thu, 12-14h, BT 201</td><td>Group 4: Tue, 16-18, KG I 1136 Thu, 16-18h, Ph 4</td></tr></table> <p>Final Conference Thu, Dec 5, 14-18h and Fri, Dec 6, 9-13h (rooms see HISinOne)</p>			Group 1: Tue, 8-10h, AU 01.036a Thu, 8-10h, AU 01.036a	Group 2: Tue, 10-12h, AU 01.036a Thu, 10-12h, AU 01.036a	Group 3: Tue, 12-14h, AU 01.065 Thu, 12-14h, BT 201	Group 4: Tue, 16-18, KG I 1136 Thu, 16-18h, Ph 4
Group 1: Tue, 8-10h, AU 01.036a Thu, 8-10h, AU 01.036a	Group 2: Tue, 10-12h, AU 01.036a Thu, 10-12h, AU 01.036a						
Group 3: Tue, 12-14h, AU 01.065 Thu, 12-14h, BT 201	Group 4: Tue, 16-18, KG I 1136 Thu, 16-18h, Ph 4						
Course Description	<p><i>“The world has problems while universities have disciplines.” Gordon Wilson (The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK)</i></p> <p>Complex problems require profound thinking from different points of view, sometimes a combination of methods, and always educated sagacity. This course will introduce students to different approaches of dealing with complex problems, not only different scholarly disciplines, but also with respect to the methods used in and across these disciplines. It will face students with questions on different forms of knowledge and will discuss in particular what scholarly knowledge is and how it differs from other forms of knowledge.</p> <p>At the same time students will acquire skills of scholarly work such as finding relevant literature from different sources, reading and understanding scholarly texts, and managing references. In addition, they will practice the presentation of a topic in a limited amount of time to a specific audience. It will also provide the starting point for the training in academic writing, which will be complemented by the course “English Academic Writing”.</p>						
Remarks	This course is part of the Foundational Year. First year students register for this course during the Welcome Week.						
Examination	Annotated bibliography (due date as announced in the seminar) and final presentation on December 5 or 6, 2024 (latest examination date)						

Why? Argumentation in Theory and Practice			
Core		Block I	
Prof. Dr. Frieder Vogelmann (frieder.vogelmann@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	2	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0096
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Elective Joker (SL only)		Advanced Academic Skills	
Prerequisites	none		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 10-12h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	<p>Like children, scholarly work is driven by why-questions—and by giving answers to these questions. More than that: The structure and content of academic texts should answer why-questions: it should give arguments for the concepts used or discarded, the positions defended or attacked, for the interpretations advanced or undermined. The same holds true of essays, term papers and virtually any text students are asked to write at the university. However, it is surprisingly difficult to give good—sound, easy to understand—arguments. It is even harder to come up with a structure for texts that supports the arguments given in it.</p> <p>This class therefore aims to help students with recognizing, reconstructing and crafting arguments, from the minuscule detail in a sentence to the overall structure of a whole text. It offers a mixture of (a lot of) exercises and (some) theoretical foundations.</p>		
Remarks	The class works best for students who have already written a term paper or essay at the university.		
Examination	Pass/fail assignments: active participation in class, fulfillment of three small tasks described in the syllabus.		
Recommended Reading	<p>Harvard Writing Center (n.d.): <i>Strategies for Essay Writing</i>, https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/strategies-essay-writing.</p> <p>Lee, Siu-Fan (2017): <i>Logic. A Complete Introduction</i>. London: Hodder & Stoughton.</p> <p>Ernest (2009 [2000]): <i>Meaning and Argument. An Introduction to Logic Through Language</i>. 2. ed. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.</p> <p>Kane, Robert (ed.) (2002): <i>The Oxford Handbook of Free Will</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Watson, Gary (ed.) (1982): <i>Free Will</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p>		

2.2 Study Area: Life Sciences

Genetics and Epigenetics			
Life Sciences		Block I	
Dr. Nicola Iovino (iovino@ie-freiburg.mpg.de) Dr. Ayele Denboba (denboba@ie-freiburg.mpg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0018
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II		Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II	
Prerequisites	Foundational Chemistry and Cell Biology		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon and Thu, 10:30-12:30h, Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics Stübeweg 51, Room 4.206		
Course Description	How is my brother taller than my parents but I am not? If my parents have diabetes, will I also get this disease when I grow older? If you are curious about these questions, then read on.		
	Whether you'd like to be a biologist, an epidemiologist or a public health professional, you must have a basic knowledge of genetics/ epigenetics and how it applies to human health. This course will get you familiar with the fundamentals of genetics. The following topics will be covered during the course in the form of assignments, group discussions, debates, lab visit or students' presentations. This course will include sessions on <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introduction to Genetics and Epigenetics▪ Genes, coding and non-coding RNA, and proteins▪ Model organisms, in particular Drosophila▪ Mouse genetics▪ Genetic diseases and their molecular basis▪ Technologies to study genetics, in particular genome editing▪ Epigenetics: Phenotype vs genotype▪ Chromatin and nucleosomes▪ Epigenetic programming and reprogramming▪ Sex determination and dosage compensation▪ Epigenetic inheritance▪ 3D organisation of the nucleus▪ Epigenetic diseases and their molecular basis▪ Technologies to study epigenetics, in particular epigenome editing▪ Lab practical		
Examination	Oral Presentation during the class and a final exam on 19.12.2024		

Introduction to Tissue Engineering and Cellular Therapies in Regenerative Medicine			
Life Sciences		Block I	
PD Dr. Melanie L. Hart and colleagues (melanie.lynn.hart@uniklinik-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	8	00LE62S-LAS-LS0020
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II		Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II	
Prerequisites	Required: Foundational Chemistry and Cell Biology and Laboratory Work for the Life Sciences		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lab Seminar Tue, 8:30-12h, G.E.R.N (Gewebeersatz, Regeneration & Neogenese) Center – Engesserstrasse 4 (2nd floor) Thu, and first day of class, 10-12:30h, G.E.R.N Seminar room (5th floor)		
Course Description	This course will consist of a series of lectures, student-led seminars, journal clubs (student-led presentation of current research articles) and hand-on laboratory work. Lectures will introduce you to the topics relevant to the field of tissue engineering and cellular therapies in regenerative medicine such as Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) production of cells for cellular therapies, choosing the right cell type for a specific cell therapy, the importance of the extracellular matrix in regeneration of tissue, the role of biomechanical and biophysical stimuli in tissue engineering and creating three-dimensional (3D) environments for cells and vital implants. Students will team up to present a research article (“Journal Club”), as well as a seminar topic relevant to this field in order to gain knowledge in how to read, present and evaluate scientific research papers and to become more acquainted with standard and new techniques that can be used in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Hands-on work in the laboratory will include sterile cell culture techniques, how to isolate and culture mesenchymal stem cells from tissue, creating and assessing 3D cellular environments and analyzing their biomechanical properties.		
Remarks	First meeting will be taught in the seminar room on the entrance level next to the elevators of Engesserstraße 4. Please always be on time as the doors automatically lock. If necessary, call to be let in but this will disrupt the course (Tel. 40975). The location of the remaining courses will be provided to you on the first day of the course.		
Examination	Two presentations, maintaining a laboratory notebook about the contents of the hands-on laboratory work, as well as a short multiple choice exam in the final week.		
Recommended Reading	Guraya, S. Y., Sampogna, G., & Forgione, A. (2015). Regenerative medicine: historical roots and potential strategies in modern medicine.		

Laboratory Methods in Cell and Molecular Biology			
Life Sciences only		Block I	
Dr. Sheila Bohler (sheila.bohler@uniklinik-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	8	00LE62S-LAS-LS0039
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
LS: Methods Specialization Option I or II		LS: Methods I or II Specialization Option I or II Laboratory Work for the Life Sciences	
Prerequisites	Required: Foundational Chemistry and Cell Biology		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lab Seminar Thu, 14-16h, AU 01.065 Lab: Fri 13-16:30h ZTZ (Zentrum für Translationale Zellforschung), Laboratory 2 OG. 017, Breisacher Str 115, 79106 Freiburg		
Course Description	In this course, students will have the opportunity to learn and perform essential cell and molecular biological laboratory techniques in a world-renowned research institute within the Medical Center – University of Freiburg. In small groups of two or three, students will be able to learn and subsequently execute essential current techniques extensively used in research and diagnostics, including bacterial cloning, genomic and plasmid DNA isolation, PCR, restriction digest, gel electrophoresis, protein isolation, as well as mammalian cell culture. All practical lessons will be preceded by a theoretical lecture, in which underlying fundamentals will be explained and suitable protocols will be provided. After having performed the experiments, the students will learn how to properly analyze the acquired data which will allow them to critically examine their results and discuss troubleshooting aspects of the experiments. At the end of the course, the students will learn not only how to design and perform their own experiments, but also how to critically evaluate the results obtained.		
Remarks	Life Sciences students only. Class starts in the second week on 24.10.2024 ; exam on 19.12.2024		
Examination	Lab-book (35%) to be submitted by Feb 9, 2025, plus a formal written exam (35%) on 19.12. and a presentation during class (30%). Details will be announced in the first course session.		
Recommended Reading	Wilson and Walker's "Principles and Techniques of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology", 8th edition (6th edition available in the university library: TM 2020/1186).		

2.3 Study Area: Multiple

Climate Adaptation: Urban Climate and Human Health			
EES/ESS, Life Sciences		Block I	
Prof. Dr. Matzarakis (andreas.matzarakis@meteo.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	3	15	00LE62S-LAS-LSEE0015
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
---		Senior Profile ESS or LS	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Fri, 13-17h, BT 106 (24.10. 01.11., 08.11. and 15.11.)		
Course Description	<p>With the increasing number of urban inhabitants and densification patterns, the risks of heat related mortality and morbidity in an era of climate change have never been as prominent. For this reason, the understanding, monitoring, and implementation of means to mitigate these risk factors must accompany the growing effects of climate change upon human well-being, safety, and comfort. Such efforts must be escorted by suitable know-how on how to appropriately quantify such effects upon the urban climate, human biometeorology and overall health standards in warming cities. Similar to what was once the sole reliance on top-down climate mitigation before the turn of the century, climate change implications can no longer be associated to mere protection that is void of adaptation measures.</p> <p>The formulation of preparation plans, and their associated actions as contained in Heat Health Action Plans, have never been as crucial. Heat action plans launch an integrative approach that combine short, medium, and long-term health protection measures within a common framework. For the short-term, this embraces the implementation of warning systems, and well-constructed spatio-temporal heat risk mapping/action. These solutions must embrace key factors such as effective interdisciplinary communication with the public, and multi-faceted vulnerability identification (e.g., towards susceptible population groups and specific urban conditions).</p> <p>For the long-term in which modification of the urban micro-climate is to be undertaken, a similar interdisciplinary vision is needed across different disciplines. One which is supported by the common goal to physically shape the urban environment to improve human living and safety conditions. It is here where blue and green measures can flourish. This, however, can only take place if micro-climatic influences and risks factors upon humans are embraced in an effective manner in an era of climate change.</p>		
Examination	Report/essay		

Sustainable Cities			
EES/ESS, Governance		Block I	
Dr. Sabine Sané (sabine.sane@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0012
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Humans and the Environment		Humans and the Environment I or II Specialization ESS I or II Senior profile ESS (3 ECTS) Advanced Governance I or II	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS, for the senior profile attendance of a previous course with a focus on sustainable city development is required.		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar, Excursions Tue, 9-12h, BT 101 Thu, 9-12h, BT 201		
Course Description	<p>Cities were estimated to house about 56% of the world's population in 2020 and contribute 40-70% of global GHGs already a decade ago. Thus, the sustainable development of cities is critical for providing a safe and healthy living environment for a bulk of the human population, and for meeting our global GHG emissions reduction and biodiversity conservation targets.</p> <p>In this course, we will explore sustainable city development. What features and developments should a sustainable city strive for? We will explore different challenges, problem scenarios and possible solutions. We will go out into the city of Freiburg to explore where sustainable development happens or needs to happen. Experts on different city development issues will be invited to our course to share their knowledge and experience.</p> <p>Equipped with this background information and reflection, you will explore the sustainability of Freiburg. Where do you find sustainable developments? Where could the sustainability of your city still be improved? How does it compare to other cities? You will explore and evaluate in groups one aspect of sustainable city development in Freiburg (e.g. mobility, green infrastructure, material life cycle, social inclusion) and make suggestions. Thereto, you will do a small-scale research project in groups and present it to your peers and finally write an individual report or photo essay.</p> <p>After this course you will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ describe different possibilities and challenges for sustainable city development,▪ identify sustainable developments in Freiburg and different cities,▪ discuss sustainable city development with experts,▪ apply your knowledge by collecting and presenting information on Freiburg's sustainability,▪ compare and evaluate the sustainability of different cities.		
Remarks	Students majoring in Earth and Environmental Sciences/Environmental and Sustainability Sciences have priority, students that take the course as senior profile only have to attend the 2nd half of the course when we focus on group projects. However, they need to have attended a course with a focus on sustainable city development beforehand. For senior profile (3 ECTS only!) please write an e-mail to sabine.sane@ucf.uni-freiburg.de for further information and registration.		
Examination	Presentation (30%) and written assignment due date 09.12.2024.		

3 Block II Courses

3.1 Study Area: Governance


Governance: Oral Exam			
Governance		Block II	
Dr. Mila Mikalay (mikalay@ucf.uni-freiburg.de) and Dr. Stoyan Panov (stoyan.panov@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 4	4	10	00LE62S-LAS-GO0086
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
---		Senior Profile Governance	
Prerequisites	STUPO prerequisites for Senior modules apply		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	This is a graded assignment only format. The oral examination is a 1.5-hour commitment and will be scheduled for February 7, 12:00 (tbc).		
Course Description	<p>This examination is offered as part of the Senior Profile to Governance students. It offers 4 ECTS for an oral examination on Governance-related topics, which students learn about in foundational Governance modules, such as the Introduction, Political Theory, Comparative Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>The examination is based on a list of topics, announced on the Governance Wiki, and consists of a 45-minutes preparation time followed by a 30-minutes oral examination, in presence or online.</p> <p>Topics cover central concepts, questions and debates across Governance disciplines. General examples of topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ balance of power as a mechanism of avoiding oppression domestically and internationally,▪ legitimacy of authority and processes of legitimation (different types of rules, civil society and activism, civil disobedience and uprisings),▪ influence of institutional setups on political processes (strong judicial branch as an agenda-setter, majoritarian election systems as a factor of social divisions). <p>Preparing to the examination thus allows students to review and integrate their learning within the Major and enhance their ability to apply skills and knowledge to complex problems and current cases. The detailed procedure of the examination, list of topics, preparation suggestions and grading rubrics will be announced on the Governance Wiki.</p> <p>Students are assessed on how well they are able to demonstrate the following abilities (Senior Profile learning goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ identify, describe, illustrate, compare and assess the ways to integrate knowledge about social, political and economic reality across disciplines and contexts;▪ choose, adapt and assess the use of disciplinary and interdisciplinary vocabulary, and ways of presenting and communicating knowledge about social, political and economic reality.		
	Remarks	This is a PL only offering. There are no meetings associated with it, apart from the examination itself.	
Examination	Resit Date in the re-sit period of the SS25.		
Recommended Reading	See the exam brochure on the Governance Wiki for revision suggestions (all readings come from standard Governance courses).		


3.2 Study Area: Multiple

Climate Change and Biodiversity			
EES/ESS, Governance		Block II	
Dr. Benoit Sittler (benoit.sittler@nature.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0004
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Specialization Option: EES I or II Human and the Environment Specialization Option: Governance I or II		Human and the Environment I or II, Specialization Option ESS I or II Specialization Option Governance	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS or Introduction to Governance		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 8-12h, BT 101 Thu, 8-12h, BT 201		
Course Description	<p>Climate change and biodiversity are among the major environmental issues modern societies face. They call for governance solutions both on global and local levels.</p> <p>In this course, you will first discover methodological approaches (such as proxies) to the monitoring and assessment of past and present changes in biodiversity. We will consider in detail examples illustrating these approaches looking into, namely, an ongoing long-term project in Greenland, which will provide you with unique insights into effects of climate change on biodiversity. You will understand the basic principles and dynamics behind the climate variability and the link to biodiversity.</p> <p>In the second part of the course we will focus on governance. We will discuss how issues like climate change and loss of biodiversity find their way onto political agendas. We will explore standard-setting mechanisms, especially in respect to the measurement of climate change and its effect on the biodiversity. Furthermore, we will analyze regulatory policies introduced and implemented on the international, national, and local levels.</p>		
Remarks	Students majoring in EES/ESS have priority.		

Humans of Freiburg			
Electives		Block II	
Dr. Janet Bean (jbean@uakron.edu)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1 (-4)	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0084
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Elective Joker		Elective Joker	
Prerequisites	none		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 9-12h, AU 01.065 Thu, 9-12h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	The course invites students to explore the intersection of academic research and public writing. How can popular media forms such as podcasts, videos, and blogs bring academically researched topics to public audiences? How might methodological pluralism—including visual arts and storytelling—deepen and enhance academic research? Using the photo blog “Humans of New York” as a model, students will create projects that address themes and issues relevant to the people of Freiburg. The course will emphasize hands-on learning and collaboration. Assignments include three digital projects, a short research report, and a course reflection. No prior experience with technology is necessary.		
Remarks	First year students have priority and register for this course during the Welcome Week.		
Examination	Examination: Portfolio (due 14.02.2025).		


Indigenous Screen Cultures: Excursion			
Culture & History		Block II	
Ece Ergin (ece.ergin@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s)	3	10 LAS	00LE62S-LAS-CH0075
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
		Senior Profile: C+H	
Prerequisites	For Senior Profile C&H: Introduction to Culture and History + Theory Of Culture/Theory of History.		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Excursion 13.-17.02.2024		
Course Description	This is a collaborative excursion between UCF and the English Department to the <i>Indi-gen: Das Nordamerika Film Festival</i> in Stuttgart. The excursion aims to provide an over-view of the Indigenous Film landscape to the students directly at the festival with the involvement of the filmmakers and actors. The program includes lectures, Q&A, museum visit, and film screenings. A recommended reading list will be provided to the students to inform themselves on basic Indigenous Studies frameworks.		
Remarks	Please get in touch with Ece Ergin (ece.ergin@anglistik.uni-freiburg.de / ece.ergin@ucf.uni-freiburg.de) for more information and to participate.		
Examination	Group 1 (English Department): February 11-17, 2025 (5 ECTS) Group 2 (LAS): February 13-17, 2025 (3 ECTS) Students are expected to write a report (1800 words for 5 ECTS, and 1000 words for 3 ECTS) to earn credits.		
Recommended Reading	Reading material will be made available.		

Intercultural Competence - Basic				
Electives		Block II		
tbc				
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number	
Year(s) 1-4	1	16	00LE62S-LAS-CO0093a	
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020		
Elective Joker		Elective Joker (SL)		
Prerequisites	none			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar 18.-19.01.2025, approx. 9-17h, AU 01.065			
Course Description	<p>In a globalized world and especially in daily working routine we more than ever meet and work with people representing different cultural backgrounds.</p> <p>To speak a common language can only provide a first step into successful communication across borders. For a productive cooperation, also intercultural competence is required to deal effectively with each other. On top of this knowledge we need specific skills, that help developing sensitivity for intercultural interaction.</p> <p>This seminar focuses on Intercultural Communication for various fields of business, international cooperation, import/export, Human Resource management as well as education. The goal is to transmit knowledge, elicit self-regulation and provide tools for a reflective professional dealing with intercultural situations.</p> <p>Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sensitizing for own cultural imprint▪ Perception in an intercultural context▪ Otherness▪ Terms- and models of culture <p>After completion, students will be able to successfully observe and analyze intercultural and transcultural situations.</p>			
Remarks	<p>This is the first part of a modular system of seminars, that will help you to systematize your intercultural experiences and provides the opportunity to become a trainer for Intercultural Communication yourself. (please see www.xpert-ccs.de)</p> <p>Optional assessment:</p> <p>The course is based on the curriculum of Xpert® - Culture Communication Skills (CCS)-Basic. The modular system of seminars can provide students with the opportunity for an external certification. The exam fee for an Xpert-CCS-Basic exam is 50,-€, and successful participation qualifies for the next module. After Basic and Professional, a so-called Master-course can be taken. Thereafter, the qualification to become a trainer is possible. The Basic exam consists of 10 multiple-choice questions and 2 open questions. Taking this external exam is optional. Participation without the external exam still qualifies students for the ECTS and to participate in advancing courses. The advancing course professional is also offered in the EPICUR program and can be taken directly following this basic course. It is offered in-person in the three days following this course or online in the three weeks following this course. Please apply for the professional course separately if you are interested.</p>			
Examination	SL only: Presence and active participation			

Intercultural Competence – Professional (online)				
Electives		Block II		
tbc				
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number	
Year(s) 2-4	1	16	00LE62S-LAS-CO0093b	
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020		
Elective Joker		Elective Joker (SL)		
Prerequisites	Participants need to have participated in an Intercultural Competence - Basic course.			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Online Seminar Asynchronous at your own pace 20.01.2025 - 08.02.2025 Synchronous online video conference: Sat, 08.02., 10-12h			
Course Description	<p>This is a follow-up course to the Intercultural Competence - Basic course that is also offered in EPiCUR. If you are interested in the professional course, please also apply to the basic course if you haven't already participated in it. This second module "Professional" broadens general knowledge gathered in the module "Basic". Eventually, you will be capable of applying this expert knowledge more compulsory and successfully in your professional field.</p> <p>Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Comparison of self- and foreign perspective▪ Cultural filters: neutral and value-free observation▪ Ethnocentrism▪ Culture and identity▪ Models of communication▪ "Culture grammar": Power distance, High/Low Context, Activity▪ Culture exploration: The ethnographic method including field study - questioning and exploration▪ Critical Incidents <p>After completing this course students will be able to professionally observe and analyse intercultural and transcultural situations.</p>			
Remarks	<p>Taking this external exam is optional. Participation without the external exam still qualifies students for the ECTS and to participate in advancing courses.</p> <p>Optional assessment:</p> <p>The course is based on the curriculum of Xpert® - Culture Communication Skills (CCS)-Professional. The modular system of seminars can provide students with the opportunity of an external certification. The exam fee for a Xpert-CCS-Professional exam is 50,-€ and the successful participation qualifies for the next module. After Professional a so-called Master-course can be taken. Thereafter the qualification to become a trainer is possible. The Professional exam consists of 10 multiple-choice questions and 3 open questions.</p>			
Examination	SL only: Engaging in the asynchronous learning activities. Presence and active participation in the final video conference are mandatory.			

4 Semester long Courses

4.1 Study Area: Core

Foundational Year: English Academic Writing				
Core		Semester		
Dr. Sebastian Gehart (sebastian.gehart@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Dr. Steven Randall (steven.randall@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), and EPiCUR colleagues Dr. Cleopatra Kontoulis and Faye Mercier				
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number	
Year(s) 1 (-2)	6	80	00LE62S-LAS-CO0013	
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020		
---		English Academic Writing		
Prerequisites	none			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	<div>Seminar</div> <div><div>Group 1 (online SR): Tue, 14-16h, Thu, 14-16h,</div><div>Group 2 (online CK): Tue, 12-14h, BT 106 Thu, 12-14h,</div></div> <div><div>Group 3 (in presence SG): Tue, 14-16h, HH9, 00.003C Thu, 12-14h, Ph3</div><div>Group 4 (in presence SG): Tue 16-18, HH9 01.020B Thu, 16-18h, KG 1021</div></div> <div>Group 5 (online FM): Tue, 12-14h, BT 107 Thu, 12-14h, Universitätsstr. 5, R 2</div>			
Course Description	<p>English for Academic Writing (EAW) is designed to introduce students to the essentials of English academic writing culture. The objective of this course is to support students in a regular practice of critically reading and writing academic texts across genres. One overarching goal of the module is to explore how writing is not a passive medium of communication, but a social activity that involves many actors and has multiple effects in the world.</p> <p>In Block I of this course, we will identify academic discourse and the features of academic writing. Students will learn how to write structured paragraphs and how to present their research — in the form of summary, paraphrase, and quotation — with academic integrity.</p> <p>In Block II, we will explore critical reading and writing with a focus on the genres review and essay. Students will extend their recognition of argumentation by examining the specific anatomy of the persuasive essay. Building on the skills and contents developed in Research and Presentation, each student will craft an essay aimed at compellingly convincing the reader of the merits of its claims.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Write persuasively and critically.Identify, analyse, and evaluate academic texts.Use outside sources with academic integrity.Successfully proofread and edit their seminar papers.			
Remarks	This course is part of the Foundational Year. First year students register for this course during the Welcome Week.			
Examination	Student will compose several pieces of writing; the final assignment will be due ca. two weeks after the semester.			

Foundational Year: Principles of Responsible Leadership			
Core		Semester	
Dr. Simone Kraiss (simone.kraiss@slf.uni-freiburg.de) and Thorsten Leiendecker (thorsten.leiendecker@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1 (-2)		80	00LE62S-LAS-CO0026
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
		Responsibility and Leadership 1	
Prerequisites			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Plenary Mon, 12-14h, AU HS 1 Wed, 8-10h, AU HS 1 Workgroups: WG1: Wed, 8-10h, AU 01.036aWG2: Wed, 8-10h, AU 01.065 WG3: Wed, 10-12h, AU 01.036aWG4: Wed, 10-12h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	We experience an increasing dynamic and complexity of daily life, a variety of lifestyles and beliefs about what is right or wrong which make the task of leading responsibly more difficult, complex, and uncertain. In addition to this, grand challenges like global warming, rising inequality and global migration put pressure on every one of us to contribute to a sustainable future for people and the planet. This foundational course introduces essential principles of responsible leadership, understood broadly as a multifaceted approach to constructive action in professional life and beyond. Our comprehensive treatment of the term is reflected in different parts, each presenting responsibility and leadership from a different angle. At the same time, this course will introduce a foundation and practical guideline for working dynamically and efficiently in groups. Based on this input, students will develop their own project which will be presented at the end of this first semester.		
Remarks	This course is part of the Foundational Year. First year students register for this course during the Welcome Week.		
Examination	Regular attendance and active work in the project groups. Students will organize the presentation of the projects at the end of the semester.		

Foundational Year: Students and Other Knowers in Context			
Core		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Veronika Lipphardt (veronika.lipphardt@ucf.uni-freiburg.de) and Dr. Nicholas Buchanan			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 1 (-2)	6	80	00LE62VS-LAS-CO0020
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Knowledge in Context		Knowledge in Context	
Prerequisites	none		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture: Mon, 10-12h, AU HS 1 Workgroups WG1: Wed, 12-14h, BT 101WG2: Wed, 12-14h, BT 107 WG3: Wed, 14-16h, BT 101WG4: Wed, 14-16h, BT 105		
Course Description	<p>The central part of the course introduces students to a broad consideration of knowledge in its historical, social, political and practical contexts. This will be the most academic part of the course, with academic readings and much sociological theory. Drawing on work in the history, anthropology, and sociology of knowledge, the course addresses knowledge production, appropriation and circulation beyond academia, in and across (non-academic) professional fields, educational systems, regions, cultures, individuals, and in knowledge regimes.</p> <p>The course aims at fostering reflection about questions such as, How do individuals or groups approach, appreciate, and determine what knowledge is for them? What counts as knowledge, why, and on what grounds; where, for whom, and in what context? What has counted as knowledge in previous centuries, in other places and situations? What is (or what was) the relationship between scientific knowledge and knowledge that is (or was) not deemed scientific, as, for example, common sense knowledge, or the knowledge of non-academic professional fields, or knowledge produced and used by political entities?</p> <p>Furthermore, we will discuss different forms of knowledge, such as explicit and tacit knowledge; how knowledge relates to identity building or to professional ethos; and how knowledge relates to power.</p> <p>The course also fosters reflection about epistemic beliefs, or “personal epistemology:” That is, how humans (including ourselves) use, evaluate, cherish and question knowledge in their daily lives, how they relate emotionally to specific forms of knowledge, and how they deal with uncertainties. One specific focus will be “the knower” as an imagined reality and subjectivity. How do humans understand themselves as subjects of knowing? What kind of knower do they believe to be, or aspire to become? How do they ascribe or deny others the status of a knower? How do they evaluate other individuals as knowers?</p>		
Remarks	This course is part of the Foundational Year. First year students register for this course during the Welcome Week.		
Examination	Students will work on several assignment sheets and submit an E-Portfolio as a final assignment. A final project is also required. Not all deliverables will be graded and students have several options for designating which deliverables are ungraded and wh		

Introduction to Epistemology			
Core		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Frieder Vogelmann (frieder.vogelmann@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2 (-4)		80	00LE62VS-LAS-CO0011
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Theory of Knowledge		Theory of Knowledge	
Prerequisites	None		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture Tue, 16-18h, AU HS 1 Workgroups WG 1: Thu, 16-18h, BT 101WG 2: Thu, 16-18h, BT 107 WG 3: Thu, 18-20h, BT 101WG 4: Thu, 18-20h, BT 105		
Course Description	<p>This course offers an overview of contemporary epistemology with a primer on the basics of philosophical logic (propositional and predicate logic). At the same time, it introduces non-philosophy students to philosophy in the sense of working on conceptual problems, questions and arguments. Students of all disciplines will profit from the introduction to conceptual thinking and logic in the first three sessions.</p> <p>The primer on propositional and first-order logic is based on standard textbooks for logic in philosophy. The overview of epistemology is structured according to Michel Williams' five systematic problems of epistemology:</p> <p>(1) <i>The Analytical Problem</i>. What is knowledge and how can we define it? In the lecture, we start from the so-called "standard analysis of knowledge" as justified true belief (JTB) and the famous counterexamples by E. Gettier. We then discuss the most important contemporary theories of knowledge with a focus on their core ideas and arguments.</p> <p>(2) <i>The Problem of Skepticism</i>. Can we know anything at all? How can we know that we do (not)? The lecture includes a discussion of the most common skeptical positions and arguments) as well as the attempts to refute them.</p> <p>(3) <i>The Problem of Boundaries</i>. What different kinds and sources of knowledge are there? How do we explain and distinguish them? The lecture focuses on testimony as a source of knowledge and the resulting recognition of the social aspects of epistemology.</p> <p>(4) <i>The Problem of Value</i>. Why do we aspire to gain knowledge? Why does true belief not suffice? The lecture discusses the intertwinement of values and knowledge by considering contributions from feminist epistemology.</p> <p>(5) <i>The Problem of Method</i>. How do we gain knowledge? What role do rationality and reason play in epistemology? How should we do epistemology? The lecture concentrates on the last question and considers different traditions in epistemology.</p>		
Remarks	Please register for the workgroup only.		
Examination	Short presentation of one core text in the WGs (20%). Written exam on 04.02. (80%).		
Recommended Reading	Jennifer Nagel: <i>Knowledge: A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford: Oxford UP 2014. Duncan Pritchard: <i>What Is This Thing Called Knowledge?</i> London: Routledge 2014. Alessandra Tanesini: <i>An Introduction to Feminist Epistemologies</i> . Oxford: Blackwell 1999. Michael Williams: <i>Problems of Knowledge: A Critical Introduction to Epistemology</i> . Oxford: Oxford UP 2001.		

4.2 Study Area: Culture and History

Arrogant, Closed-Minded, Dogmatic: Introducing Vice Epistemology			
Culture & History		Semester	
Dr. Melanie Altanian (melanie.altanian@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CH0074
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Philosophy Advanced Culture & History I, II or III		Philosophy Culture & History I, II or III	
Prerequisites	Introduction to Culture & History		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 16-18h, AU 01.036a Wed, 16-18h, AU 01.036a		
Course Description	<p>Charging others with ignorance and in particular, willful or vicious ignorance is ubiquitous in both everyday and academic conversations. Its function is usually to call out failures of responsibility or to challenge the authority of individual and collective agents in an attempt to improve both our character and the knowledge of our communities. Determining when such practices are justified, as opposed to being strategies to silence dissent and discredit legitimate opposition, requires an understanding of epistemic vices and vice epistemology.</p> <p>Generally speaking, epistemic vices refer to blameworthy or otherwise reprehensible character traits, attitudes or modes of thinking that systematically get in the way of knowledge and understanding. Examples include gullibility, closed-mindedness, epistemic arrogance and dogmatism. Vice epistemology refers to the philosophical study of the nature, identity, and significance of epistemic vices: What makes an epistemic vice a vice? What types of epistemic vices can be distinguished? How do we identify them?</p> <p>It may seem odd to occupy ourselves with vices: Should we not instead study the ways towards epistemic success – knowledge or understanding – and hence epistemic virtues that may guide us towards this goal? The recent surge of interest in the study of epistemic vices was born out of a methodological turn in Anglophone “analytic” epistemology to start normative theorizing from realistically construed tendencies to failure and dysfunction. The underlying idea is that studying the ways in which humans and institutions tend to fail whichever ideals they set out for themselves enables us to work out ameliorative conceptions and practices of resistance whereby we can approach a better functioning and just society. Applied to the study of vice epistemology, this implies taking seriously our susceptibilities to false beliefs and dysfunctional epistemic practices, and the social and political conditions that enable them.</p>		
Examination	The graded assignment is a final term paper (3000-4000 words) due electronically by 15.03.2025.		
Recommend ed Reading	<p>Alessandra Tanesini and Michael P. Lynch (Eds.), <i>Polarisation, Arrogance, and Dogmatism: Philosophical Perspectives</i>. London and New York: Routledge, 2021.</p> <p>Alessandra Tanesini, <i>The Mismeasure of the Self: A Study in Vice Epistemology</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.</p> <p>Ian James Kidd, Heather Battaly, and Quassim Cassam (Eds.), <i>Vice Epistemology</i>. London and New York: Routledge, 2021.</p>		

Sozial- und geisteswissenschaftliche Neuerscheinungen besprechen: Eine Schreibwerkstatt			
Culture & History		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Frieder Vogelmann (frieder.vogelmann@ucf.uni-freiburg.de), Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bröckling (ulrich.broeckling@soziologie.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	0	06LE42S-20222318
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Specialization Option C&H I or II Elective Joker (SL only)		Specialization Option C&H I or II Senior Profile C+H Elective Joker (SL only)	
Prerequisites	Only for students in the year 4		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 14-16h, KG 4, Übungsraum 1 (Soziologie, 5th floor)		
Course Description	<p>Das geplante Seminar verfolgt drei miteinander verbundene Ziele: Es soll...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Studierenden Erfahrungen mit dem Verfassen von Buchbesprechungen als Schlüsselkompetenz in den Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften ermöglichen, dabei▪ grundlegende Techniken des guten wissenschaftlichen Schreibens trainieren und▪ Informationen über das wissenschaftliche Publizieren und dessen Veränderungen im Zuge der Digitalisierung vermitteln. <p>Dabei wechseln praktische Übungen, theoretische Diskussionen und Workshops mit eingeladenen Gästen aus Verlagen und Zeitschriftenredaktionen einander ab. Vorgesehen sind neben wöchentlichen Seminarsitzungen zwei Blocktermine.</p>		
Remarks	<p>Reviews can be written in English, too, and the discussion in the seminar can be in English and German. However, the readings in the seminar will be in German.</p> <p>Course registration will only possible in periods 2 + 3.</p>		
Examination	<p>Pass/fail: two reviews.</p> <p>Examination: Please inform Frieder Vogelmann if you need a graded examination at the beginning of the course.</p>		

Theory of History			
Culture & History		Semester	
Dr. Ryan Plumley (ryan.plumley@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CH0002
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
History as a Topic of Academic Inquiry		Theory of History	
Prerequisites	Introduction to Culture & History		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, AU 01.036a Wed, 10-12h, BT 101		
Course Description	<p>All human groups engage with the past, with their history. Through the informal mechanisms of individual and collective memory and through the formal memorialization of states, churches and other authorities, the past is selectively appropriated for social, political, and cultural needs.</p> <p>In the modern world a professionalized academic discipline specializes in this work: History. Beginning in the 19th century, especially in Germany, the scholarly or scientific (wissenschaftlich) study of the past coalesced around the attempt to provide reliable and verifiable knowledge about the past according to the standards of logic, proof, and secular ontology that guided other fields of inquiry.</p> <p>The primary goal of this course is to explore modern History understood as methodologically rigorous research and judiciously selective reconstruction of the past in writing. The course is designed to develop students' theoretical thinking about history and historiography, that is, in reference to problems and questions in historical research that cannot be resolved empirically or methodologically.</p> <p>The course is organized in three parts. First, students ground their learning about History through a brief history of the emergence, coalescence, and differentiation of the professional academic discipline in the modern period. Second, students work through some perennial theoretical problems in History. Finally, students consider how theory informs historical work outside of the academy</p>		
Examination	12.02.2025		

4.3 Study Area: Earth and Environmental Sciences / Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

All semester long EES/ESS courses are cross-listed with other majors. Please find them in the section 'Multiple'.



4.4 Study Area: Governance

Backsliding of Democracy? The Rule of Law			
Governance		Semester	
Dr. Stoyan Panov (stoyan.panov@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0090
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Specialization Option Governance I and II Advanced Governance III		Specialization Option Governance Research in an Area of Governance	
Prerequisites	Intro to Governance, highly recommended: Comparative Politics, Principles of Law		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, Ph 2 Wed, 10-12h, HHStr. 9 R 00003a		
Course Description	<p>The EU recently experienced challenges to the democratic structures, fundamental values and the rule of law. In some EU Member States we have observed considerable backsliding in the rule of law and democratic standards influenced by oftentimes super-majoritarian, populist-influenced governments. Such backsliding and abuse of power undermine and transform the Rule of Law, turning it into the Rule of the Super-majority and, potentially, the Rule of the Corrupted. These issues go to the core of the concept of the rule of law.</p> <p>This semester-long course examines the fundamental concept of the rule of law from different angles. We will discover whether there is one universally valid and applicable concept of the rule of law and reflect upon the core of the rule of law, such as the principles of legality, legal certainty, effective judicial protection by independent and impartial courts, fundamental rights protections and equality before the law. We will explore how the concept developed as a means to restrict governmental power and how it offers protection to individuals and their equality before the law. The course offers a methodological exploration of the rule of law and deals with pertinent aspect such as how rules and norms are safeguarded in the properly functioning national and supranational legal and political orders, how the rule of law is recognized and implemented by various societal actors, and in what manner the rule of law is reflected in the political and socio-legal discourse. Some question that we will deal with throughout the course are: What is the relation between the rule of law and democracy? Is the law recognized as supreme in democracy, and why? Which institutions are engaged in the application of the rule of law?</p> <p>Additionally, we will tackle legal and political issues such as the restrictions on the power of the executive and legislative branches to 'power-grab' by changing the constitutional and legal framework, and what happens when the judiciary branch is weakened or not entirely independent. We will also explore why it is important to have access to laws and justice as members of society, and how we can use safeguards against abuse of power by public authorities. We will analyze specific case studies such as the situation in some EU Member States along with the new EU's Rule of Law conditionality mechanism, EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility and the EU's Rule of Law reporting system with focus on justice system, anti-corruption framework, media pluralism, and institutional issues. The course will integrate recent developments such as the EU elections as well as the US presidential elections and their effect on the rule of law. Finally, the course will look at various challenges to the rule of law such as corruption and conflict of interest, external threats to the rule of law and various human rights-related discriminatory practices.</p>		
Examination	The final grade will be based on analytical or research paper(s) and presentation(s). Final part of the graded material will be due on 28.02.2025		

Business Plan for Beginners			
Governance		Semester	
Dr. Firuza Rizaeva (rizaeva.firuz@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0017
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Economics Advanced Governance I and II		Economics Advanced Governance I and II Senior Profile C&H	
Prerequisites	Introduction to Governance; for Senior Profile C&H: see module prerequisites.		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 16-19, AU Co-Creation Room (on some dates – different rooms on the central campus, check Campus Management)		
Course Description	<p>This course covers the fundamentals of writing a Business Plan; such as the rationale, importance, benefits, and components of a business plan. A well-written business plan takes time, patience, detailed research, and the right presentation approach. This course will guide students through the process of writing a Business Plan and will cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Criteria for making (or not) decisions to start new ventures;▪ Tools to analyze business context and risks and develop a sensible commercialization strategy for a new venture;▪ Gathering and structuring information into a Business Plan, relying on analytical frameworks for understanding competitive/market dynamics;▪ Guidelines for developing market-entry strategy, developing product ideas and commercialization plans, identifying and evaluating opportunities, and acquiring and managing resources;▪ Financial options and frameworks, including tools for estimating economic viability;▪ Presenting business, product, financial, and operational plans for those who are potentially interested in supporting their efforts. <p>Upon completing this course, students will be able to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ how existing companies convert new ideas into ventures that enhance (or change) their mission and goals;▪ what the key components of a successful venture are;▪ what the goals, meaning and the key components of a Business Plan are, why and when to create one;▪ how to present a Business Plan to target audiences: key decision-makers, stakeholders and investors. <p>The scenario before, during, and after the planning process to ensure the best chance of long-term success.</p>		
Remarks	This is a practice-oriented course; it will thus differ in the focus and approach from academic courses, better known to LAS students.		
Examination	The course is interactive and combines lectures and discussions. A team exercise continues throughout the course in which each team of students starts a fictional entrepreneurial venture and develops it into a final Business Plan draft presentation.		

Economy and Society			
Governance		Semester	
Olivier Schunck (olivier_schunck@hotmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2,3,4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0093
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Economics Advanced Governance I and II		Economics Advanced Governance I and II	
Prerequisites	Introduction to Governance		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Wed, 12-14h, online and in presence on 30.10. and 18.12., rooms tba Thu, 12-14h, online (KG 1227 open for participants) and in presence: 31.10., room tba and 19.12., 9-14h, HH9 R 00.003C		
Course Description	<p>This course introduces LAS students to the interactions between economy and society. It is designed specifically for students with interest in, but little background in economics and can serve as a stepping-stone towards more specialized courses. For LAS students as scholars and citizens, it is crucial to grasp the underlying economic forces at play in most pressing societal debates such as inequality, climate change, the future of work, and technological innovation.</p> <p>Rather than leading with traditional economic theory, this course introduces a foundational understanding of key concepts and methods of economics by taking a hands-on approach based on concrete cases with real-life data, as well as historical examples.</p> <p>It aims to enhance students' ability to articulate informed views of societal challenges and related policy interventions.</p> <p>The course will mostly take place online, with 1 or 2 weeks of in-person classrooms during the semester, and will combine readings-based seminar discussions, individual or small group project work, including presentations, exercises on basic analysis of economic data and, possibly, guest talks.</p> <p>Olivier Schunck is an academic lecturer and thought leader with professional business expertise in data-driven research and advice on economic, technological, and societal change.</p> <p>Upon completing the course, students will be equipped with the conceptual and analytical tools to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ effectively investigate major societal trends and challenges at global or regional level and to articulate appropriate views;▪ understand the disciplinary focus and the value added of economics in the study of social reality;▪ increase their understanding and interpretation of economic data including how to use it to support the analysis of given topics;▪ improve awareness about contemporary economic and socio-political debates and enhance critical judgment and self-awareness.		
Remarks	The course will mainly take place online, with some sessions happening in presence (attendance of these sessions is mandatory). Second-year students of Governance wishing to specialize in economics are highly recommended to take this course.		
Examination	The graded examination includes written assignments and presentations.		

European Union Law and Policies			
Governance only		Semester	
Dr. Stoyan Panov (stoyan.panov@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0084
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
none		Regional and Area Studies	
Prerequisites	Introduction to Governance		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 16-18h, AU 01.065 Wed, 16-18h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	<p>The course focuses on contemporary challenges that the European Union is facing and offers an overview of the institutional design and competences of the EU and current developments.</p> <p>Some questions that we will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How do the EU institutions such as the Commission, the Council, the European Council, and the European Parliament function and make policies?▪ Is there an alleged democratic deficit of the EU institutions?▪ Will there be an EU of “two speeds”?▪ What is the chance of further enlargement of the EU in the Western Balkans, Ukraine, or Turkey in light of the recent rise of populist parties in the EU?▪ Is the EU a harbinger in data privacy protection on international level?▪ What is the role of the EU in responding to climate change?▪ What can the EU do in terms of energy security and common foreign and security policy in light of the war in Ukraine?▪ What are the latest developments in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice with respect to migration policies? <p>This is a sample of issues that we will address in the course.</p> <p>Students may be divided into small groups and may be required to deliver short analytical presentations or outlines on written material and media sources related to the topics covered in the course. Group activities and presentations are to be expected as the course will be highly interactive. Simulations of the proceedings in EU institutions may take place in the course.</p>		
Remarks	The course is highly recommended to 2nd-year Governance students, who have priority in registering. No senior student priority for this course.		
Examination	The final grade will be based on analytical or research paper(s)/ policy paper(s) and presentation(s). Final component of the examination is planned to be due on 24.02.2025		
Recommended Reading	For an overview of EU policies: "Europe in 12 Lessons". For the latest news from Brussels and current events and developments in the EU, you can check the free-access Politico as well as the daily newsletter Brussels Playbook. An introductory academic text on the topic of the functioning of the EU: D. Kenealy, J. Peterson, and R. Corbett, The European Union: How Does It Work? (OUP, 5th edition).		

Ideologies			
Governance		Semester	
Waleed Ebrahim Ali Elsharkawy			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0096
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Advanced Governance I and II		Advanced Governance I and II	
Prerequisites	Introduction to Governance		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, AU 01.065 Wed, 14-16h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	<p>It seems easy to get disillusioned and discouraged, seeing the rise of right-wing politicians and populist movements and witnessing heated debates on best ways to organize social and economic life, which lead to no substantial change. Is our times a battleground of different ideas about such key values as equality, freedom, and efficiency or are these ideological disagreements a smokescreen hiding the same old hierarchies supported by the apathy and cynicism of majorities? In this course, we will look into main ideologies to understand their content and how they drive and interpret political and economic developments. We will cover liberalism, conservatism, socialism, populism, nationalism, environmentalism, and more. We will engage in discussions, real-world case studies, and critical analysis, exploring how these systems of ideas and beliefs intersect, evolve, and clash in shaping contemporary politics.</p> <p>As we explore these ideologies, the course addresses some questions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Can any political ideology truly balance the tension between individual autonomy and collective responsibility and between freedom and equality?Can socialism and capitalism, as opposing ideologies, coexist in the pursuit of a just society?How can political ideologies address the practical and ethical dilemmas posed by technological advancements, global inequality, and the quest for sustainable development? <p>The course will provide space for students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a thorough understanding of major ideologies and their societal relevance.Examine how different ideologies interpret and tackle modern global challenges.Engage with a wide range of intellectual perspectives, including non-European viewpoints, and develop their own informed and nuanced opinions.Foster critical thinking and analytical and argumentation skills through debates and case studies.		
Remarks	For students from other Majors – you are welcome to join, but please note that this course will be reading-intensive and that discussions will closely relate to the readings.		
Examination	Presentations and written assignments. Submission deadline for the final term paper: 16.02.2025.		
Recommended Reading	tba (you will be informed via Governance Wiki and email after registration)		

Political Theory: A Critical Introduction			
Governance only		Semester	
Waleed Ebrahim Ali Elsharkawy			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	8	20	00LE62S-LAS-GO0095
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
none		Political Theory	
Prerequisites	none		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, AU 01.065 Wed, 10-12h, KG I 1236		
Course Description	<i>Note: The topics covered and structure of this course will be revised still, we will keep you updated on the changes.</i> What effects does it have to limit free speech? How does affirmative action relate to equality? By what standards do we evaluate whether progressive taxation is fair? In this introduction to Political Theory, we take questions such as these to critically test the claims, assumptions, and agendas of different theoretical approaches. We will study some core ideas of political theory, and get familiar with some of the classics of political thought from the Western canon and beyond. The aim of the course is to get to know a range of theoretical perspectives, to critically discuss their claims and propositions, to assess their explanatory potential, and to apply them to politically controversial questions and cases. A willingness to engage with challenging theoretical texts and a curiosity about the complex processes of social and political world-making are prerequisites for the course. Course aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Learn to relate political arguments to different traditions of political theory.▪ Learn to understand and position your own political opinions in relation to different thinkers of political theory.▪ Learn to approach politically controversial topics from several different perspectives and backed up by theoretical arguments.▪ Learn to critically situate and reflect on established theories.▪ Learn to express your own reflections and positions according to academic standards (in written and oral form).		
	Second-year students in Governance should take this course. Please note that this is a 8 ECTS course and it is foundational for your Major studies. No senior student priority.		
Examination	Written assignments with the final submission date on 16.02.2025.		
Recommended Reading	tba		

4.5 Study Area: Life Sciences

Anatomy and Functions of the Brain			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Janina Kirsch (janina.kirsch@biologie.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	21	00LE62S-LAS-LS0007
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III		Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III	
Prerequisites	Required: Introduction to Life Sciences		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Self-Paced Online Seminar Optional Practice Sessions Fri, 22.11., 10-12h, Biologie II/III SR 00 043 Fri, 17.01., 10-12h, Biologie II/III SR 00 043 Fri, 31.01., 10-12h, Biologie II/III SR 00 043 Final Exam: Fri, 07.02., 10-12h, Biologie II/III Computerpool		
Course Description	<p>Self-paced online studying with recorded videos and a script. For each topic, you will complete e-learning modules in ILIAS and model the brain structures at home using plasticine (yes, your hands will get dirty!). These plasticine models will help you to understand the relative location of different parts of the brain. Feedback will be provided through video files and during the optional check-in meetings in person.</p> <p>In this course different components of the vertebrate brain and associated functions will be presented one by one. In particular, these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ General structure of the vertebrate brain▪ Spinal cord▪ Medulla oblongata▪ Cerebellum▪ Midbrain▪ Thalamus▪ Hypothalamus▪ Basal ganglia▪ Limbic system▪ Cerebral cortex		
Remarks	This class is a self-paced online class with optional practice sessions.		
Examination	You will only be admitted to the exam, if you have completed all e-learning modules by Jan 31, 2025. Final Exam: Fri, 07.02.2025, 14-16h, Biologie II/III Computerpool		
Recommended Reading	Two SOMSO Brain models as well as the script (English and German) are available in the reading room for self-study! Kandel, Schwartz, et al. (2012) Principles of neural science. (Reading Room: NT/Kan/1)		

Basic Chemistry and Biochemistry			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Christoph Howe (C.Howe@gmx.net)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0002
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Biochemistry		Foundational Chemistry	
Prerequisites	none		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 10-12h, KG 1032 Thu, 10-12h, BT 106		
Course Description	<p>In this course the students will learn the basics in molecular chemistry while addressing questions such as: How to read the periodic table (PSE)?; How to draw chemical structures (LEWIS); What are the key features of Carbon-Carbon bonds? and What is the importance of functional groups in the field of Biochemistry? Additionally, students will gain basic insights into stereochemistry and thermodynamics performing essential chemical calculations to be able to navigate in a lab environment. Key aspects of electron transfer (Redox) and proton transfer reactions will be elucidated from the angle of biochemistry to prepare the students for more advanced life science classes such as cellular biology in the future.</p> <p>The chemical concepts of this lecture will be trained by solving exercise sheets between the sessions and will be reviewed in dedicated exercises in class. During the course the students will be able to show their course training by presenting a self-chosen molecule, its chemical properties and its role in the field of life science.</p>		
Examination	Midterm exam on Nov 19, 2024 (50% of final grade) and final exam on Jan 30, 2025 (50%) and an ungraded presentation during the class.		
Recommended Reading	Theodore E. Brown, H. Eugene LeMay, Bruce E. Bursten & Catherine Murphy (2017) Chemistry: The Central Science (MasteringChemistry), 14th edition, Pearson. Crowe & Bradshaw (2010) Chemistry for the Biosciences. (Reading room: NT/Cro/2,a)		

Computational Genomics			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy (senthilkumar.ramamoorthy@uniklinik-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	15	00LE62S-LAS-LSEE0001
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Computer Science, Data Processing and Modeling in the Sciences, Methods (LS) Specialization Option LS I or II		Methods I or II (LS - quantitative) Specialization LS I or II	
Prerequisites	Required: Introduction to Life Sciences. Prior knowledge of computer programming is not required, but an advantage.		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, KG 1034 Wed, 10-12h, BT 104		
Course Description	<p>The code of life is written with a combination of 4 letters (A, T, G, C). The ~3 billion characters containing text is stored in the form of ~2-meter-long DNA in every cell (~10-100 µm size) of our body. This complex genetic information is decoded by several molecular machineries of the cell to establish its function. The advancement of next-generation technologies helped scientists to sequence the genome, transcriptome, proteome and metabolomes of various model organisms. In the post-genomics era, computational methodologies are extensively used for analyzing and interpreting such complex biological data. It is essential for a biologist to have adequate knowledge of bioinformatics to explore and interpret data-intensive genome research.</p> <p>The following topics will be covered during the course in the form of lectures, lab exercises, group discussions, and assignments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Genome organization and regulation; Genome evolution; Gene structure and regulatory modules; Next generation sequencing technologies.Primary and secondary data resources for genome information; Functional annotations of the genome; Techniques for genome analysis; Algorithms for sequence analysis.Computational methods for comparative genomics; Phylogenomics.Epigenomics; Gene expression regulation; Transcriptomics (Microarray and RNASeq).Clinical genomics; Population genomics; Genome-wide association studies.Genomics at single cell level; Methods for studying the 3D architecture of the genome. <p>The course participants will be trained to use genome analysis software in a problem-based learning approach.</p>		
Remarks	<p>You need to bring your personal laptop for the exercise sessions. Also, you can make use of the computer labs at the university computer center: https://www.rz.uni-freiburg.de/services-en/pc-en/pcpools-en</p> <p>The study materials will be provided during the course for each topic.</p>		
Examination	Two written assignments (70%), last one due on 29.02.2024 and a presentation during class (30%).		
Recommended Reading	"Bioinformatics - Sequence and Genome analysis" by David W. Mount and "Bioinformatics" by Andreas D. Baxeavanis, Gary D. Bader and David S. Wishart		

Human Physiology			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Dieter Kunz (dieter.kunz@unibas.ch)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0010
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Physiology		Physiology	
Prerequisites	Required: Foundational Chemistry and Cell Biology		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture/Seminar Mon, 8-10h, online Thu 8-10h, Ph 2		
Course Description	<p>Physiology is the science of life aiming to understand the mechanisms of living things, from the basis of cell function at the ionic and molecular level to the integrated behaviour of the whole body and the influence of the external environment. Research in physiology helps us to understand how the body works in health and how it responds and adapts to the challenges of everyday life. It advances our understanding of the detailed mechanisms that control and regulate the behaviour of living things. We continue to learn more about fundamental processes, such as the control of heart rate or the sense of vision, through comprehensive exploration of the multiple processes involved.</p> <p>We will have a look at the most basic level, molecular interactions and how the collection of molecules in living organisms' forms cells. We will learn about cells forming tissues and organs, and how groups of organs integrate their functions to create organ systems, that allow us to create energy by food consumption, to store and transfer this energy, to perceive our environment with various senses and how our body protects itself.</p> <p>The course will include presentations of the participants. Tandems will present patients suffering from exemplary and most common diseases. Students will explain the underlying physiology, but also present some data to the pathophysiology of the diseases (https://www.physoc.org/explore-physiology/what-is-physiology/).</p>		
Examination	Final exam in the last week of the semester		
Recommended Reading	Silverthorn (2016) Human Physiology: An Integrated Approach (Reading Room: NT/Sil/1) Brandes, Lang & Schmidt (2019) Physiologie des Menschen: mit Pathophysiologie (electronic license through the university library)		

Introduction to Infectious Disease Epidemiology			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Tjibbe Donker (tjibbe.donker@uniklinik-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	18	00LE62S-LAS-LS0041
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III		Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III	
Prerequisites	Required: Dealing with Numerical Information and Introduction to Life Sciences		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Wed, 8-10h, Ph 1 Fri, 8-10h, HS1036		
Course Description	<p>Infectious diseases can have a profound impact on an individual and public health, with sometimes grave societal impact. To control these diseases, we need comprehensive information about their epidemiology (the study and analysis of the distribution patterns - who, when, and where - and determinants of health and disease conditions in a defined population). However, collecting data on infectious diseases through surveillance and clinical reporting can be challenging for various reasons. By taking a quantitative approach, we will look at the opportunities infectious disease epidemiology has to offer in furthering our understanding of these diseases, and the challenges and limitations that go with it.</p> <p>We will cover the basic principles of infectious disease epidemiology that are needed to make a quantitative description of disease spread and their impact. This will include topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Basic epidemiology▪ Surveillance▪ Nowcasting and Forecasting▪ Control strategies and resource management <p>Students will also go through several practical exercises based on historic epidemic data and example diseases to highlight the actual process of going from data to epidemic response.</p>		
Examination	Will be announced in the first class.		

Nervous System Disorders			
Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Wilf Gardner (w.gardner@tuta.io)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-LS0029
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III, Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II		Advanced Life Sciences I, II or III Specialization Option: Life Sciences I or II	
Prerequisites	"Anatomy and Functions of the Brain" or "Neuroscience: From Brain to Behaviour"		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, AU 01.036a Wed, 14-16h, AU 01.036a		
Course Description	<p>The central nervous system is the biological engine through which humans navigate the world, an expression of nature with the capacity for self-awareness and autonomy in the trajectory of its own evolution. Every modality of the human condition, from the most primitive functions of our survival to our higher-order intelligence and self-awareness, is directed through this complex web of matter that is our nervous system.</p> <p>The classic experiments of antiquity and modern breakthroughs in medical technology have granted us deeper insight into the mechanics of the brain and everything it controls. Modern neuroscience is a diverse and interdisciplinary field, variously engaging elements of biology, chemistry, psychology and philosophy to advance our understanding the nervous system in health and disease.</p> <p>This course explores the nervous system through its disorders, the study of which has long been used to provide insight into healthy function. Drawing from molecular and cellular biology, genetics, physiology and psychology, students will develop an understanding of how neuroscience research utilises tools from a wide range of disciplines to describe the normal functioning of the nervous system, and to diagnose and treat its disorders. Students will go on to develop in-depth knowledge of how disruption of nervous system function at various stages can give rise to disease, and learn to think critically about diseases, treatments, and how they can be understood within a wider societal context.</p> <p>Classes are based on a combination of lectures, seminars, and student presentations, with a focus on interactive learning and discussion. Topics will include neuroscience research methods, infectious and developmental disorders, neurodegeneration, brain injury and psychiatric disorders. Students will learn to interact critically with research methodology and scientific literature, allowing them to engage with material beyond that specifically discussed in the course. The course endeavours to equip students with specialised neuroscientific knowledge and offer a basis for those who would choose to further pursue basic or clinical research, in neuroscience or the wider biomedical sciences.</p>		
Examination	Presentation (30% of final grade) + exercises (20% of final grade) + end-of-term essay due on Feb 24, 2025 (50% of the final grade; max 2500 words)		
Recommended Reading	Sontheimer, H. (2015). Diseases of the nervous system. Academic Press. (Reading Room: NT/So/1) Kandel, Schwartz et al. (2013) Principles of neural science. McGraw-Hill Medical. (Reading Room: NT/Kan/1)		

4.6 Study Area: Multiple

Bachelor Projects - Student Conference			
Senior Profile/Core			
Dr. Simon Büchner (buechner@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 4	2 (see remarks)	0	00LE62S-LAS-CO0078
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Research Design Across Disciplines		Senior Profile in any major	
Prerequisites	For Senior Profile C&H: Introduction to Culture and History+Theory Of Culture/Theory of History		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Conference Mon, 10.02., 10-16h, Ph 1, 3, 4 Tue, 11.02., 10-16h, Ph 1, 3, 4		
Course Description	In this student-organized conference, you will be able to present your thesis project at whatever stage it is and receive valuable feedback. Many students start working on their thesis mid-February, so for them it is an opportunity to get feedback right before they start working intensely on it. Others are invited to present early ideas for their project or projects that have already been started or even completed. Based on an abstract you will be able to present your project in a talk or as a poster to an audience of peer and other fellow students as well as staff and supervisors.		
Remarks	The conference is a mandatory part of the classes "Planning and Doing Research" as well as "Research Design" and doesn't require separate registration.		
Examination	As indicated in the syllabi of the related classes.		

Can Europe Come to Terms with its Colonial Past in Africa? History, Culture, and Governance of Memory Politics			
Culture & History, Governance		Semester	
Dr. Richard Legay (richard.legay@abi.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHGO0016
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Culture & History Since the Early Modern Period Advanced Culture & History I, II or III Advanced Governance I or II		History: Modern or Contemporary Culture & History I, II or III Specialization Option Governance	
Prerequisites	None		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 12-14h, AU 01.065 Thu, 12-14h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	<p>Over the last few years, we have seen various European countries increasingly engage with political acts of remembering their colonial past in Africa, whether it is a city, such as Berlin, renaming some of its streets or the French head of state asking for an official report on the memory of the colonisation and war in Algeria. Most of the time, these acts occur after a long resistance to face this difficult and violent history and its impact today. Nevertheless, the late 2010s and early 2020s have most definitely seen a change in the ways former colonial powers are now looking at their history and the way they remember it.</p> <p>In regard to this new paradigm, it is now crucial to take stock of current memory politics. Which forms are these memory politics taking and how is Europe's colonial past remembered? Who are the main actors and stakeholders? Who is not part of the conversation and what are the power dynamics and networks at stake? What are the shortcomings of today's practices and where are they headed? To do so, the course will include sessions drawing from colonial and postcolonial history, from public history and memory studies, and from political science.</p>		
Examination	07.02.2025		

Data and Modelling			
EES/ESS, Life Sciences, Governance		Semester	
Sibylle Braungardt (S.Braungardt@oeko.de), Carmen Loschke (C.Loschke@oeko.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOLSEE0004
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Analytical Methods (EES)		ESS Methods I or II Specialization Option ESS I or II Specialization Option Governance Methods (Governance) LS Methods I or II (quantitative)	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, KG 1019 Wed, 10-12h, FMF 01.009		
Course Description	<p>The course provides an overview of different applications of data analysis and model-ling with a focus on environmental- and energy-related applications. However, the course's methods are also useful in other disciplines. Following a set of introductory lectures on the role of data in environmental and energy research as well as different data sets and analysis methodologies, the course focuses on a project-based approach. In a hands-on group work project, students take a deep-dive into one of the data-based analysis techniques covered in the course, where they can choose from the following options: 1) Analysis of text data with natural language processing (NLP) techniques (in different levels of complexity ranging from word counts to machine learning) using python, 2) Analysis of spatial data using QGIS, 3) Energy modelling using excel.</p> <p>Within the course, students gain an understanding of the role of data and modelling for environmental and energy research and are able conduct independent research using one of the methodologies covered in the course.</p> <p>The course cannot replace a beginner Python course, but it will introduce the language and its application in the field of NLP. Students who want to work with Python should have some programming knowledge or be willing to acquire it through assisted self-learning. Basic knowledge in QGIS is an advantage, but an introduction will be provided. Basic knowledge in excel and a problem-solving approach is expected.</p>		
Remarks	Students majoring in EES/ESS have priority.		
Examination	05.02.2025		

Data Science with R			
Life Sciences, EES/ESS, Governance		Semester	
Dr. Thomas Manke (manke@ie-freiburg.mpg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOLSEE0007
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
LS Methods, Analytical Methods (EES) Data Processing and Modelling in the Sciences (LS & EES)		LS: Methods I or II (LS and ESS) Methods (Governance)	
Prerequisites	Required: DNI. Recommended: Maths & Physics, you should have prior experience with vector and matrix multiplication , prior experience with <i>tidyverse</i> is helpful.		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 10-12h, BT 105 Thu, 14-16h, HS 1139		
Course Description	<p>Modern Data Science and Analytics require a wide range of skills from data munging and data exploration to unsupervised analysis and statistical modelling. Ultimately, structured reports have to be written to communicate results in a reproducible manner. This advanced course is designed to equip students with many of these skills using R/Rstudio. The course will cover a broad range of statistical techniques, from foundational concepts to advanced methodologies, providing practical experience through real-world datasets and projects.</p> <p>Content: Data Challenges, Data Munging, Data Exploration, Data Model, Data Limits and Limited Data, Data Reporting.</p> <p>This course will be interactive (laptop required) and collaborative (work in small teams). It will comprise the following blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lecture (1.5h): will provide an introduction and overview of Data Science concepts and R functionality.▪ Home works (1-2h): lecture-based tasks, solved in small teams (2-3 participants)▪ Tutorial (1.5h): Teams present their solutions and lecture material will be reviewed.▪ Final Projects: Up to 4 Data Science projects will be covered at the beginning of the course. Teams will select a task and work towards a reproducible solution in form of a markdown document, shiny app or similar. The solution will be presented and evaluated at the end of this course (~30 min per team). <p>Upon successful completion of this course, students will understand common challenges in data analysis and identify modern solutions. They will be proficient in applying statistical methods to explore, model, interpret, and visualize data.</p>		
Remarks	<p>You need to bring your personal laptop for the exercise sessions. Also, you can make use of the computer labs at the university or borrow a laptop from the university.</p> <p>Access to central RStudio server: Participants should register for free access to a central server: https://posit.cloud/plans/free. With this user account you will be invited to join.</p> <p>Priority for LS and ESS students.</p>		
Examination	<p>SL: regular attendance of lectures and tutorials (homework presentation without evaluation) PL: Presentation and submission of a reproducible data analysis project in an executable markdown format. Submission date to be announced (end of class).</p>		
Recommended Reading	https://r4ds.had.co.nz/ https://swcarpentry.github.io/r-novice-gapminder/		

Environmental Chemistry			
ESS/EES, Life Sciences		Semester	
Dr. Christoph Howe (C.Howe@gmx.net)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	25	00LE62S-LAS-EE0010
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Chemistry		Environmental Chemistry	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 10-12h, KG 1231 Wed, 10-12h, FMF 01.011		
Course Description	<p>In this course, students will be firstly introduced to basic chemical concepts such as LEWIS structures and oxidation states to describe essential molecular compounds in the environment, their involvement and transformation in the biosphere. Further on, insights on acid/base theory, coordination chemistry and hardly soluble salts will provide the necessary fundament to describe environmental systems such as the atmosphere, water bodies and soil. Systematically, material cycles such as the carbon and nitrogen cycle will be described in depth as they play a major role in climate change, agriculture and waste water treatment.</p> <p>Additionally, students will be given the opportunity to work on projects on self-chosen pollutants to eventually forward technological solutions to cope with or mitigate the pollutants' negative effects on the environment. These projects will be graded in the format of reports. A final written exam on the given lecture topics will enclose the course while as a guideline for the written exam, exercises will be provided after each lecture. This course aims to create a rigid fundament to understand various biochemical and biophysical processes in the field of environmental chemistry.</p>		
Remarks	Students majoring in EES/ESS and Life Sciences have priority. For Life Sciences students this class is a good complement to the Foundational Chemistry module and can be taken as an Elective.		
Examination	Midterm-exam 18.11.2024; final exam 29.01.2025		
Recommended Reading	Environmental Chemistry: Fundamentals - http://www.redi-bw.de/start/unifr/EBooks-springer/10.1007/978-0-387-31435-8		

Environmental Psychology			
EES/ESS, Life Sciences, Governance		semester	
Ina Lillich (ina.lillich@wandel-werk.org)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOLSEE0003
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Specialization Option: EES I or II Human and the Environment Advanced Life Sciences I or II Advanced Governance I and II		Specialization Option: ESS I or II Human and the Environment I or II Advanced Life Sciences I or II or III Advanced Governance I and II	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 16-18h, KG 1032 Wed, 16-18h, KG 1032		
Course Description	Several important questions arise, e.g.: What motivates each of us to behave in a way that is – or is not – environmental-friendly? Why are we sometimes unsuccessful in being sustainable within our actions – despite good intentions? And how can we address the important issue of sustainable development to motivate more and more people to act? Why are some sustainability policies more likely to be accepted by people than others? One puzzle piece to successful environmental and climate protection lies in understanding human experience and behavior. Psychological research makes an essential contribution to this. In this course we will get a glimpse into the field of environmental psychology, its theories as well as practical implementations. At the same time, we will critically reflect on the implications of environmental psychological research and discuss limitations. Students will receive weekly readings which form the base for group presentations during the classes. In a group the students will develop their own project in which they will apply the psychological learnings of the course. Additionally, the students receive regular assignments which they will work on individually. Especially students who are politically active in the sustainability domain will benefit from this course since the focus of the application lies in the planning of small projects and larger campaigns, however the course is of course open to everybody.		
Remarks	Students majoring in ESS/EES have priority.		
Examination	Report (50%) due 21.02.2025, continuous assessment during the course.		

Maths and Physics			
Life Sciences, EES/ESS		Semester	
Dr. Benoit Louvel (benoit.louvel@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	40	00LE62VS-LAS-LSEE0003
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Maths and Physics for the Liberal Arts and Sciences		Mathematics for the Sciences	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS and/or Introduction to Life Sciences		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Lecture Mon, 8-10h, AU HS 2 Wed, 8-10h, AU HS 2 Tutorial WG 1: Fri, 10-12h, KG I 1140 WG 2: Fri, 12-14h, KG I 1140		
Course Description	In this course, Mathematics will be introduced from two points of view: Mathematics as a tool in Science, and Mathematics in the context of Number Theory. The first part of the course will present Mathematics as a necessary tool in the formalism of any scientific approach. In the second part, basic concepts of Classical Mechanics necessary for the understanding of nature will be introduced as an application of the first part. In the third part, fundamental concepts in Number Theory - from ancient Maths to most challenging problems not yet resolved - will be addressed in order to put the student in contact with the abstraction of pure Mathematics.		
Remarks	Pre-Block course Maths and Physics recommended		
Examination	Mid-term and final exam. Dates will be announced in the first session.		

Planetary Health – Global Illness			
EES/ESS, Life Sciences		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Michael Müller (michael.mueller@pharmazie.uni-freiburg.de), Johanna Greinke			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3,4	6	15	00LE62S-LAS-LSEE0010
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Humans and the Environment Specialization Option EES I or II		Humans and the Environment I or II Specialization Option ESS I or II Senior Profile: LS	
Prerequisites			
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 11-12h, HS Pharmazie, Wed, 16-18h Seminarroom OKH (Pharmazie)		
Course Description	<p>This course introduces the basics of sustainability, discusses them in the context of disease and health, and addresses the seemingly paradoxical contradiction of growing awareness of the problem and “apocalypse blindness”.</p> <p>Humans have a major impact on nature and at the same time depend on it, as human health is inextricably linked to the health of our planet. The aim of this course is to understand the link between pollution, biodiversity loss, climate change and human health and to discuss its wider implications. It should provide incentives to become aware of our own impact (positive and negative) and to recognize our responsibility as a society and as individuals, as well as the scope and limitations of individual behavior. And it should reflect our goals and actions, because past solutions often become problems later on. Ethical discussions will take place and we will not avoid one of the biggest issues: The (current) standard of living in Europe is unattainable for people worldwide.</p> <p>We will look at the difference between the concepts of disease and health and discuss the impact of greenwashing, rebound effects and moral self-licensing to revise some perceived solutions and raise awareness of the possibility of misuse.</p>		
Examination	Oral presentations during the course, policy paper due 31.01.2025		
Recommended Reading	Meadows, Donella et al.: The Limits to Growth Meadows, Donella: Thinking in Systems		

Planning and Doing Research			
Senior Profile		Semester	
Dr. Simon Büchner (buechner@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0042
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Research Design Across Disciplines		Senior Profile in any major	
Prerequisites	Prerequisites for Senior Profile apply (check your Major specifics)		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 14-16h, AU 01.036a		
Course Description	<p>In the fourth year of LAS studies it is time to take stock of your knowledge on how to plan and conduct an independent research project which you may or may not turn into your bachelor thesis. The course 'Planning and Doing Research' exposes you to the expectations to high quality research and encourages discussion on the differences and similarities across the areas of intellectual interests that you and other students will bring to the course. We will summarize, analyze and improve your ability to plan and manage a small-scale research project. The goal is to come up with a proposal including a research plan which you can then discuss with a (potential) supervisor.</p> <p>For this, we will run through all phases of a research project and discuss and practice related activities involved in each step. This includes, finding an interesting and feasible research topic, developing a manageable research question, ethical considerations when doing research, selecting an appropriate method or approach, coming up with a suitable research design, approaching a potential supervisor, collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data (written, verbal, and numerical), drawing conclusions, critically discussing your own work, and presenting your plans and results effectively.</p> <p>The course will be a mix of instructor presentations, reading-based discussions, individual and group exercises, and student presentations. The starting point will be content from previous courses in order to extend your skills and knowledge, so that you can apply them to your research project and eventually turn it into a thesis. There is no topical focus in this course and students from all majors are warmly invited as a large diversity of students from different majors will improve the learning of every member of the class.</p>		
Remarks	<p>The course is open to all Majors and is not content-oriented. Instead students prepare a potential bachelor or other research project. Intellectual openness is both, a prerequisite and a desired outcome.</p> <p>Mandatory participation in the bachelor project student conference (Feb 10 & 11, 2025 all day) is included in this class.</p>		
Examination	<p>30% of the final grade: draft research proposal due on Jan 6, 2025</p> <p>70% of the final grade: final, polished research proposal based on the draft, due on 17.02.2025</p>		
Recommended Reading	<p>Booth, W., Colomb, G. & Williams, J. (2008). The Craft of Research. 3rd edition. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press (Reading room: EDU/Boo/1)</p> <p>Snieder, R., & Lerner, K. (2009). The Art of Being a Scientist: A Guide for Graduate Students and Th</p>		

Reading Ecology: History, Literature, Films			
Culture & History, ESS		Semester	
Dr. Farha Noor (farhanoor3@gmail.com)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHEE0007
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Art, Literature, Aesthetics, or Music Advanced Culture & History I, II, or III EES: Human and the Environment, Specialization I or II		Culture: Arts, Culture & History I, II, or III ESS: Human and the Environment I or II, Specialization I or II	
Prerequisites	Introduction to Culture and History		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, KG 1019 Thu, 14-16h, AU 01.065		
Course Description	<p>This course is aimed to introduce students to reading ecology in literature and cinema (amongst other narrative and visual art-forms like documentary). Ecology and its representations are increasingly significant in our understanding of how humans have forged relations with their surroundings, with the planet and its cohabitants. These deliberations in their modern formulations have historically gained prominence in literary-cultural movements like Romanticism in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, while they have also shaped recent cultural and literary genres like science fiction and fantasy.</p> <p>Although discussions on the ‘Anthropocene’ are seen as central to our understanding of the planet at the present, the historical trajectory of ecological thought and expression is highlighted in this course by locating ‘ecoliteracy’ in conjunction with modernity. By focusing on significant expressions of ecological thought in modern and recent literature and films, the course aims to equip students with ways of reading the power struggles and relations between humans and their surroundings – earth, rocks, insects, weather conditions, water, space. Simultaneously, the course is designed to train students in ‘close reading’ of literature, films, paintings, as well as introduce some significant theoretical texts of the topic. Engagement with the recent history of reading ecology is also encouraged to inculcate the practice of addressing cultural turns from wider and inclusive perspectives.</p> <p>Some important works to be discussed are Mary Shelley’s <i>Frankenstein</i> (1818), Ursula Le Guin’s <i>The Word for World is Forest</i> (1972), Amitav Ghosh’s <i>The Nutmeg’s Curse</i> (2021), Stanley Kubrick’s <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> (1968), Ridley Scott’s <i>Blade Runner</i> (1982), David McIlvride and Roger Williams’s <i>River Blue</i> (2017) and Shaunak Sen’s <i>All that Breathes</i> (2022).</p>		
Examination	10.02.2025		
Recommended Reading	Students should purchase copies of the following novels: Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> (1818) Ursula Le Guin, <i>The Word for World is Forest</i> (1972) Amitav Ghosh, <i>The Nutmeg’s Curse</i> (2021)		

Research Design			
All Majors		Semester	
Dr. Mila Mikalay (mikalay@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 4	8	20	00LE62S-LAS-CO0012
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Research Design Across Disciplines		Senior Profile in any major	
Prerequisites	Prerequisites for Senior Profile apply (check your Major specifics)		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 14-16h, KG I 1136 Thu, 12-14h, AU 01.036a Final student conference: Conference on 10./11.02., 10-16h, Ph 1, 3, 4		
Course Description	<p>The course exposes you to the expectations to high quality research in different disciplines and encourages discussion on the differences and similarities across the areas of intellectual interests that you and other students will bring to the course. We will summarize, analyze and improve your ability to formulate a research goal, select an appropriate theory and method, and plan and manage a research project.</p> <p>Upon completing this course, you should be able to understand the principles of developing a viable research project, following the criteria of solid research design, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ formulating and refining a research goal / research question,▪ understanding the principles of selecting a suitable theory and method for answering your research question,▪ knowing how to define the data necessary to answer the research question, how to gather, systematize and analyze it,▪ formulating a convincing relevance statement by contextualizing your research as an informed position in an existing academic debate,▪ improving the capacity to efficiently and correctly use sources,▪ improving the ability to clearly and convincingly communicate your research, both in writing and oral presentations;▪ improving the ability to provide constructive feedback on research of other scholars. <p>The course consists of two parts: in the first one we cover the topics on the example of academic papers of interest to you and your own course papers. In the second part, you will apply the knowledge to develop a research proposal within a small team. The course finishes with a student conference where you present your proposals.</p>		
Remarks	This course includes organization and participation in a final Student Conference, together with the students from the Planning and Doing Research course. Please note that this is an 8 ECTS course and comes with a corresponding workload.		
Examination	Graded: Research Outline due mid-January, Research Proposal due end of February. Pass/fail: Research diary due mid-January, setting up and participating in the student conference, report on academic talks due mid-February.		
Recommended Reading	Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb & Joseph M. Williams (2008). <i>The Craft of Research</i> . 3rd edition. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Turabian, K., revised by W. C. Booth, G. G. Colomb, J. M. Williams, J. Bizup, W. T. Fitzgerald, and the University of Chicago Press editorial staff (2018). <i>A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations</i> . 9 th edition. Chicago UP.		

Visualizing Environmental Crises and Sustainability			
Culture & History, ESS		Semester	
Dr. Ana-Clara Alves (ana-clara.alves-de-oliveira@philosophie.uni-tuebingen.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-CHEE0004
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Sociocultural Anthropology or Area Studies Advanced Culture & History I, II or III Human and the Environment		Culture: Peoples and Practices Culture & History I, II or III Human and the Environment I or II ESS Methods II	
Prerequisites	none		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 10-12h, VF 00.003 Thu, 10-12h, KG 1032		
Course Description	This course offers an anthropological overview of the impact of climate change and natural disasters on people's lives worldwide, from the recent floods in Brazil and the wild-fires in Chile to the earthquakes in Taiwan. During the classes, students will learn how to conduct visual ethnography, using photography and video as research tools, with the goal of developing a photo essay by the end of the course. To visualize times of environmental crisis, we must reflect on the intersection between nature and culture, and the terms of this relationship in different societies around the world. Practices of sustainability will be a recurring theme in the classes, seen both as a form to address crises and as a social practice that envisions a future for the world. To engage with these themes, we will do readings, participate in group discussions, and learn how to produce and use images as research tools.		
Examination	06.02.2025		

Wicked Problems in Socio-Economic Systems: An Introduction to System Dynamic Modelling			
EES/ESS, Governance		semester	
Dr. Stefanie Klose (stefanie.klose@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	00LE62S-LAS-GOEE0017
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Global Cycles of Matter and Materials, Advanced Governance I or II		Sustainability Sciences Advanced Governance I, Advanced Governance II	
Prerequisites	Introduction to EES/ESS or Introduction to Governance		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Tue, 14-16h, KG 1134 Thu, 14-16h, Ph 1		
Course Description	<p>Problems that cannot be solved with existing modes of inquiry and decision-making are often called "wicked problems". They usually represent complex issues for which no final solution exists, since any resolution generates further issues. In the first part of this course, we will explore why many sustainability issues are wicked problems and look into some examples of resource use and the associated challenges. You will get to know methods used for system thinking and how these methods can help us to understand the underlying issues. In the final phase of this course you will apply these methods on sustainability problems of your choice and try to find solutions while exploring the strength and shortages of these solutions.</p> <p>Learning goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Students understand stock and flow dynamics and apply them in socio-economic systems.▪ Students analyze different sustainability problems and the underlying conflicting dilemmas.▪ Students explore different aspects of sustainable consumption and production.▪ Students understand the basic principles of causal loop diagrams and can apply the concept to real-world sustainability problems.		
Remarks	Students majoring in EESE/ESS have priority. This course is offered as an EPICUR course and might therefore take place hybrid.		
Examination	Pass/fail: Submitting the weekly exercises. Graded: Form of assessment: The final grade will be based on the final written assignments (poster (due beginning of February) and reflection (due on 23.02.2025))		
Recommended Reading	Meadows, D. H. (2008). Thinking in Systems: A Primer. Earthscan.		

5 Courses of Other (Degree) Programs

Afropolitanismus im Musikvideo			
Culture & History		Semester	
Mirja Riggert			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	20	05LE54S-380
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Art, Literature, Aesthetics, or Music Advanced Culture & History I, II or III		Culture: Arts Culture & History I, II, or III	
Prerequisites	Introduction to Culture and History		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Mon, 14-16h, Ph 4		
Course Description	<p>Das Konzept des Afropolitanismus, mit Achille Mbembe verstanden als eine politisch-ästhetische Situation des afrikanischen In-der-Welt-Seins, erfreut sich in der multimedialen Popkultur des 21. Jahrhunderts großer Beliebtheit. Globale Kulturgüter aus Literatur, Musik, Film und digitalen Medien inszenieren mitunter afrikanisch-kosmopolitische Schauplätze, künden von diasporischen oder Migrationserfahrungen und werden auf dem globalen Kulturmarkt breit rezipiert und vermehrt ausgezeichnet: wie bspw. die Verleihung des Literaturnobelpreises im Jahre 2021 an den tansanischen Autor Abdulrazak Gurnah oder der Nummer Eins-Hit des nigerianischen Afrobeat-Musikers Burna Boy mit Ed Sheeran 2019 zeigen.</p> <p>Das Seminar nimmt dies zum Ausgangspunkt, um sich dem Thema im Musikvideo der Gegenwart zu widmen. Analysiert werden sollen vorrangig Videoclips von afrikanischen Afrobeats-Künstler*innen wie u.a. Wizkid oder Kizz Daniel, aber auch afroamerikanische Hip Hop-Videos. Die Teilnehmenden lernen in medienkomparatistischer Perspektive die multimodale Analyse des audiovisuellen Mediums kennen, indem Bild-, Text- und Tönelemente in ihrem Zusammenspiel untersucht werden. Zudem werden im Seminar medienwissenschaftliche Theorien mit post- und dekolonialen Fragestellungen verbunden. Diskutiert werden sollen medienästhetische Konzeptionen kultureller Hybridität und globalisierter Identitäten, aber auch gesellschaftspolitisch relevante Fragen nach Zugängen zu einer sog. ‚Weltkultur‘ sowie nach kultureller Aneignung (wie sie z.B. in Bezug auf Peter Fox‘ Musikvideo Zukunft Pink aufkamen), die im zeitgenössischen Musikvideo verhandelt werden.</p>		
Examination	SL Mündliche Präsentation und Moderieren einer Diskussion (15-20 Min.) PL Schriftliche Seminararbeit (15-20 Seiten), Abgabetermin: 31.03.2025.		

Circular Economy			
EES/ESS, Life Sciences		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Venkatram Prasad Shastri			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 3-4	3	25	08LE05V-ID050433
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Elective Joker		Elective Joker	
Prerequisites	Background in chemistry or materials science, or materials engineering or chemical engineering or civil engineering		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Wed, 13-15h, Seminarraum 3. OG, Makro		
Course Description	The lecture covers concept and paradigms of circular economy, sustainability paradigms, sustainability consideration in materials (synthetic and natural materials) vis-à-vis their use space (building and architecture materials, consumer products, automotive industry, biomedical), regulatory framework, paradigms for incorporating sustainability and reduced carbon foot print.		
Remarks	Active participation in all sessions is strongly recommended to all students.		
Examination	Presentation and report on a topic.		

Visionen der Nachhaltigkeit: Der Klimawandel im internationalen Dokumentarfilm			
Culture & History		Semester	
Prof. Dr. Alexa Weik von Mossner			
Open to Students	Credit Points	Max. Enrollment	Course Number
Year(s) 2-4	6	25	
Module(s) StuPo 2015		Module(s) StuPo 2020	
Art, Literature, Aesthetics, or Music Advanced Culture & History I, II or III		Culture: Arts Culture & History I, II, or III	
Prerequisites	Introduction to Culture and History		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Seminar Thu, 12-16h, Vortragsraum (Rosastraße 17-19) (only on six dates – see HISinOne)		
Course Description	Dieses Seminar ist inhaltlich verknüpft mit dem transdisziplinären Forschungsprojekt „ Visionen der Nachhaltigkeit “, das im Institut für Medienkulturwissenschaft angesiedelt ist und ab Oktober 2024 lösungsorientierte Dokumentarfilme zu Nachhaltigkeitsthemen im Harmonie Arthouse Kino Freiburg zeigen wird. Im Seminar werden wir zum einen die Geschichte des internationalen Dokumentarfilms zum Thema Klimawandel und die Entwicklung des „Impact Producing“ aufarbeiten, zum anderen werden wir exemplarisch vier ausgesuchte Filme im Detail analysieren. Studierende erhalten darüber hinaus eine Einführung in die Fragestellungen und Methoden der transdisziplinären Nachhaltigkeitsforschung, bei der Wissenschaftler:innen aus verschiedenen Disziplinen gemeinsam mit nicht-akademischen Akteuren auf eine Transformation zu einer ökologisch nachhaltigeren Gesellschaft hinarbeiten. Bei Interesse besteht darüber hinaus auch die Möglichkeit, sich im Rahmen des Projekts aktiv in solche Forschungsprozessen einzubringen.		
Remarks	Die Teilnahme an den „Visionen der Nachhaltigkeit“ Filmscreenings im Harmonie Arthouse Kino wird erwartet: 22.10.2024; 19.11.2024; 10.12.2024; 14.01.2025, jeweils um 20 Uhr.		
Examination	Kurzpräsentation oder ein Response Paper und zusätzlich eine kurze (8-12 Seiten, exklusive Bibliographie). Abgabetermin für Hausarbeiten ist der 24.03.2025.		

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