

## **M.A. PROGRAMME**

\* M.A. seminars are lectured in English.

\* Students are required to take four elective courses in the fall semester and three elective courses in addition to the compulsory course (Conceptualizing Social Research-Seminar) in the spring semester.

## **FALL SEMESTER**

### **World System Analysis (8 ECTS)**

The course aims to familiarize the students with the basic concepts underlying world-systems analysis and lay the foundation for further independent research. For this purpose, it focuses on the principles and concepts involving world-systems studies as well as the historical development of world capitalism.

### **Middle East in World Politics (8 ECTS)**

This course offers a historical and thematic approach to the understanding of the Middle East in world politics. The goal is to provide a comprehensive account of the causal relationship between both the past and the present, and the global-systemic and the regional-sub-systemic levels by revealing elements of continuity and change in the region. Subjects held in this course cover critical periods for the Middle East such as Colonial era, Cold War dynamics, Gulf war and its aftermath, as well as thematic issues such as identity, regionalism, non-state actors in the Middle East.

### **Comparative National Security Strategies (8 ECTS)**

This course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding on the theoretical and conceptual issues related to national security policy and strategy. Its objective is to enable the students to evaluate the different phases of national security strategy formulation and implementation, as well as to compare different national security strategies.

### **History and Politics of Caucasus and Central Asia (8 ECTS)**

This course aims to explore the main factors that shape the political and economic dynamics in the independent states of the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan) in the post-Cold War period. Following a brief introduction on the historical and geopolitical significance of these two regions for world politics, the course will discuss the main issues (ethnic conflicts,

energy/pipelines, regional organizations, relations with regional and global actors) that continue to influence the domestic and foreign policies of these states in the post-Soviet period.

### **History and Politics of the Balkans (8 ECTS)**

This course introduces students to the history and politics of the Balkans. It aims to review first the history of the region and the legacy of the regimes established in the Balkans with a special reference to the Ottoman period. Then the course provides students with a comprehensive historical evolution in the region. The post-Cold war period's developments and ongoing debates related to the Balkan politics are other important sections of this course.

### **Social and Political Research (8 ECTS)**

This course aims to familiarize the students with the different goals and different strategies of social and political research. It also aims to reveal the connection between research strategies and goals of research. In that sense, case studies form an indispensable part of this course.

### **Global Environmental Politics (8 ECTS)**

This course aims to provide a critical understanding of environmental politics. It explores the linkage between globalization and environmental change and examines local/regional and global policies developed to address the environmental problems, environmental institutions and regimes, actors, and forces involved in the environmental politics.

## **SPRING SEMESTER**

### **Conceptualizing Social Research (Seminar-4 ECTS)**

This course contains description of science and analytical thinking, reporting research, sub-categories of reports, and contents, basic rules of footnotes, quotation and bibliography, research and evaluation process, defining of research subject, surveying literature. The weekly lectures are followed by discussions on the papers presented by the students in line with their research interests.

### **Issues and Theories of World Politics (8 ECTS)**

The goal of the course is to acquaint students about the basic theories of the International Relations (IR) discipline and assist them in analyzing the current issues of the discipline in a theoretical perspective. Weekly lectures are about the mainstream and critical theories (Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Critical Theory, Post- Modernism, Feminist theory, etc.) of the international relations discipline are summarized and analyzed. The important current issues of world politics are also discussed with a theoretical perspective.

### **Conflict Resolution and Crisis Management (8 ECTS)**

The course deals with the sources and nature of conflict and aggression, involves a discussion on the social psychological dynamics of international relations like perpetual processes and images, hidden assumptions, and psychological processes that facilitate and retard escalation of conflict. Solutions and alternatives for diverting, reducing, deescalating and eliminating conflicts and war are discussed.

### **Regionalism in World Politics (8 ECTS)**

The aim of the course is to contribute to the understanding of the concept “regionalism” in international relations via several geographical examples of regionalisms. Political and organizational examples of regionalism are the focal point of the course on regionalism. Various geographical cases of regionalism in varying degrees are put into light to understand today's web of relations among states and societies.

### **Asia in World Politics (8 ECTS)**

The course includes extensive readings on the history of Asia-Pacific countries. Specific focus is on China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Students are introduced to the social, economic and political issues which shaped modern East Asia since the 16th century until today. Topics include Western imperialism, reform and modernization movements in Asia, Second World War and China's economic rise.

### **History and Politics of European Integration (8 ECTS)**

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the conceptual and theoretical evolution of European integration. The course includes important theories explaining the history of the European Union (EU) by also referring to the critical approaches vis-à-vis the EU. Controversial issues related to the integration process are examined through specific case studies.

### **Nationalism and Ethnicity in World Politics (8 ECTS)**

This course is designed to highlight the historical evolution and conceptual framework of nationalism/nation state/ minorities, politicization of ethnicity, and to introduce the recent debates on minority rights, citizenship and challenges to the nation-state in Europe on a comparative basis.

### **Foreign Policy Analysis (8 ECTS)**

This course aims to provide a theoretical-conceptual framework on Foreign Policy making and implementation processes. After providing a conceptual and theoretical framework in understanding the overall structure and the process of foreign policy decision making, it concentrates on how FP decisions are implemented by utilizing political, psychological, economic and military techniques.