

EcoS Newsletter, February 2015



Dear EcoS students,

Before the official start of the summer semester 2015, we would like to provide you further information on our new and exciting course program.

We are also organizing an **Orientation Day** on 3 March, 2–3 pm (OAW), both for new and “old” students. Afterwards, the student representatives have planned a come-together.

As you already know, Prof. Frank will be on sabbatical leave in the summer semester. We have therefore adjusted our course program and included four new courses taught by four new lecturers. As we cannot guarantee that these courses will be offered in the next semesters, we highly recommend that you consider to enroll now.

This semester, we have a “*Focus International Relations*”. The aim is to provide a sound theoretical and methodological base for the study of IR and thematically cover a broad range of key dimensions of both traditional (military) and non-traditional security. In addition, our highly interactive strategic gaming offers the opportunity to practice your theoretical knowledge, i.e. to build alliances and negotiate possible conflict resolutions, in a controlled setting. Ideally, you should enroll in two (or all three) of the following courses:

- In his **SE “International Relations in East Asia”**, Dr. Alfred Gerstl will cover the main IR theories, focusing both on Northeast and Southeast Asia and inter-regional cooperation mechanisms established by ASEAN.
- Dr. Maria Strasakova (Metropolitan University Prague) will in her **VU “Non-traditional security threats in East Asia”** (blocked course) deal with water, energy, food and health security. Other topics are financial crises, transnational crime and terrorism as well as the respective regional cooperation mechanisms.
- The **VU “Strategic Gaming: The South China Sea Conflict”** (Alfred Gerstl/Josef Falko Loher) is designed as a strategic gaming (blocked course). Simulating the territorial disputes in the South China Sea, participants form groups representing states (e.g. China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan, US ...) and ASEAN. Groups (4–6 people) simulate the role of their respective actor and interact with other actors with the aim of fulfilling a set of objectives utilizing different means.

In addition, Dr. Fiona-Katharina Seiger's VU "**Migration in East Asia**" will cover the reasons and effects for transnational migration from various theoretical perspectives, including the dimensions of gender, ethnicity and social class. The focus will be on the profound consequences of migration both for sending and receiving countries. As there are no presentations planned in this course, you will have to write four assignments in total.

Nina Witjes and Philipp Olbrich in their SE "**Science, Technology and Innovation in East Asia**" will deal with another fascinating comparatively new policy field that affects domestic and foreign policy alike. Special attention will be paid to techno-political aspects of social media, science diplomacy, knowledge for development, national systems of innovation and knowledge economies. (No substitution, no approval – it can be directly used as M2 or M3.)

Furthermore, you can visit the SE (150076) "**Cross-disciplinary approaches to culture and economy in China**" (no substitution, no approval – it can be directly used as M2a or M2b). For further information check the online course directory.

The "**Research Seminar and Monitoring Class for the Master's and PhD Thesis**" will be taught by Dr. Alfred Gerstl. In case you are planning to write your Master thesis under his supervision, attendance is highly recommended. In order to gain as much as possible from this course, you should be in the third or fourth semester and have already written at least one major assignment in an EcoS seminar.

The **language courses** will be offered by the same lecturers as last year: Christian Pernegger and Akiko Siedenburg (Japanese), Dr. Veronika Shin and Sun Young Sun (Korean) as well as Dr. Shaolian Cai, Jing Zhai and Yuangyuan Wang (Chinese; please enroll in the Group 1 classes).

All courses will start in the **first week of March** and **attendance of the first unit is compulsory**.

We are also very grateful that Jörg Thiele and Olga Gornovska have taken the initiative to offer two tutorials: Jörg Thiele's **International Relations tutorial** will be held each Thursday, 4:45–6:15 pm (OAW), while Olga Gornovska's **Japanese language tutorial** will take place Friday, 10–12 am (OAW). The tutorials will help you to deepen and practice your knowledge gained in the respective EcoS courses. However, we cannot award any ECTS for attending the tutorials, thus participation is completely voluntary but highly recommended.

There is a private facebook group for EcoS students only, which is a perfect place to exchange information on your studies, job opportunities and events. You can find it here: www.facebook.com/groups/ecos.univienna/

Finally, we would like to introduce our new student assistant Martin Mandl (martin.mandl@univie.ac.at) who will be happy to assist you.

We wish you an exciting summer semester!

The EcoS team