Economic Union and Globalization Essay Outline

This course explores how economic globalization fosters the tendency to form regional sub-global economic and political entities. Topics include an analysis of the trajectories of a number of economic unions like the EU, NAFTA, Mercosur and others.

The worldwide interdependence of economies have intensified over the last decades despite some current attempts to disentangle dependencies. Governments aim to set the framework of ‘free trade’ through various regulatory frameworks or they try to steer developments in their region with regional organizations hoping to gain a competitive advantage in the world economy. This course will use a wide range of case studies and theoretical approaches (including neo-Gramscian IR and post-colonial approaches) to analyze the global politics of economic unions. At the global level, the World Trade Organization will be analyzed as a contested institution of neoliberalism, which was met with strong resistance by social movements. At the regional level, the development from NAFTA to USMCA will be analyzed. The EU will serve as an example of a complex economic and political integration. ASEAN and Mercosur will serve as examples for economic unions in the so-called Global South. A discussion of multilateral trade agreements such as CETA between Canada and the EU will highlight the intended and actual consequences of the agreement and its opposition by civil society.

The course will provide an insight into the structure, goals and political paradigms of economic unions, the resistance by social movements, and how economic unions affect the economic, social, and political life of citizens.

Requirement

You will be asked to write two short essays of approximately 7**pages (1500 – max. 2000 words, including bibliography)** each. Assignments are to be double spaced, using a standard 12pt. font such as Times New Roman, Calibri or Arial and 1” margins. You should choose a research question, argument or hypothesis that is connected to the course topic. I expect you to use a collection of **peer-reviewed academic sources**(minimum two), use **correct citations**and referencing (Chicago, Harvard or MLA). If you need help with how to format a bibliography or correctly reference citations