

New interdisciplinary courses

Fall semester 2018

Where and when?

An interdisciplinary view on mercury pollution in Switzerland:

Date: 17.09 – 15.12.2018

Time: Mon 16:15 -18:00 (weekly)

ECTS: 5 Room: Seminarroom 002, GIUB

Please register for the course via KSL

Registration period: 13.08 – 24.08.2018

Introduction to the Swiss Political System:

Date: 20.09 - 20.12.2018

Time: Thu 14:00-16:00 (weekly)

ECTS: 4 Room: Seminarroom B201, vonRoll

Please register for the course via ILIAS

Registration period: 15.08 – 20.09.2018

Global Intimate Economies:

Date: 20.09 – 20.12.2018

Time: Thu 14:00-16:00 (weekly)

ECTS: 5 Room: tbd

Please register for the course via KSL

Registration period: 01.08 – 08.10.2018

An interdisciplinary view on mercury pollution in Switzerland : from local issues to international agreements (444725)

Lecturers: Dr. Béla Filep, Institute of Geography
University of Bern

This seminar will deal with the consequences of mercury (Hg) pollution and actions to stop it. We will discuss much-debated Swiss and international cases of Hg pollution and study the UN Minamata Convention, named after an Hg pollution in Japan that killed thousands. The seminar considers the physico-chemical processes involved in Hg pollution and how they adversely affect health. Moreover, it looks at how understanding environmental processes and stakeholder conflicts can lead to possible solutions for this problem. The course will include a one-day field trip to Visp and a student conference with invited experts.

Introduction to the Swiss Political System(s) (104417)

Lecturer: Dr. Sean Müller, Institute of Political
Science, University of Bern

This course introduces students to the basic institutions, processes and actors of the Swiss political system(s). Priority will be given to the four *bedrocks* of Swiss politics: direct democracy (initiatives and referenda), consensual decision-making (proportionality and collegialism), federalism (cantons and communes), and the multi-party system. Throughout the course, comparisons will also be made with how the same or conceptually equivalent institutions, processes and actors operate at the cantonal and local levels, hence the plural: "systems"..
Prerequisites: Good knowledge of English

Global Intimate Economies (445853)

Lecturer: Dr. Veronika Siegl
Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies,
University of Bern

The intimate and the economic are often believed to belong to different spheres of life that must not intersect. However, intimate economies – e.g. sex, care, and reproductive work – have always existed and are becoming increasingly globalized. People, services, affects, objects, discourses, money, etc. travel the globe, following the law of supply and demand. There is a lively debate about the rights and wrongs of these economies. Many regard the commodification of intimacy as potentially exploitative and damaging to human dignity. Taking these critiques as starting point, the course offers an introduction to feminist perspectives on global intimate economies.

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Fall semester 2018

Where and when?

Antibiotec-resistant bacteria and one health :

From the plate to the bedside:

Date: 03.10-19.12.2018

Time: Wed 14:00-16:00 (weekly)

ECTS: 3

Room: IFIK-Hörsaal (1st floor)

Please register for the course via KSL

Registration period: pls. see KSL, at the latest till 01.10.2018, 5pm.

All courses will be held in English, further information on KSL: www.ksl.unibe.ch

Antibiotec-resistant bacteria and one health : From the plate to the bedside (446839)

Lecturers: Prof. Dr. med. Andrea Endimiani
Institute for Infectious Diseases (IFIK)
University of Bern

The spread of multidrug-resistant bacteria (MDRB) drastically limits our antibiotic armamentarium. Hospitalized patients can become colonized with MDRB due to transmission from carriers and then develop infections. MDRB can also be responsible for colonization and/or infection of people and animals in community, or even contamination of environment and food. This course is targeting BA, MS and PhD students who will acquire the basic knowledge regarding antibiotics, mechanisms of action, and resistance. Moreover, the current epidemiological situation, the possible strategies to combat MDRB, and the most advanced methods implemented to characterize bacteria will be described.

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