COURSE TITLE: INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Bachelor course (for students in the final year of study) & Master course
ECTS credits: 5

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Aims of the course:
The purpose of this course is, firstly, to introduce students to the broader issue of (ethno-national) diversity management in the contemporary international community, and in this context, to the development, contents and implications of the international regime/system for the protection of minorities as it has developed since the end of the Cold War. The analysis of diversity management in general and minority protection in particular will be put in a historical perspective, and hence carried out in the context of state-formation and nation-building processes. The second aim of this course is to understand the impact of broader political changes in the international system on diversity management and minority protection. As these processes have challenged international stability, as well as security in some cases, many international actors (international institutions, individual states or groups of states) have adopted a set of principles, norms, rules and monitoring mechanisms for addressing the challenges posed by heterogeneous state populations.

The course aims to; thirdly, study these principles, norms, rules and monitoring mechanisms. Fourthly, the course will examine the implications of such a normative framework as a state-centred approach to addressing diversity and the needs and expectation of various ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities. In this context, students will learn that this has resulted in managing some minority issues, and completely ignoring others. A number of open questions therefore remain as to actual effects of international minority protection and norms on diversity management more generally. It is these open questions and unexpected consequences, as well as implications in different parts of the world that the course will seek to critically address in the end.

Course syllabus:
1. (Ethno-national) diversity and diversity management
2. Which groups are minorities and why some identity groups are not?
3. The ‘minority problem’ as an overwhelmingly dominant perception of minorities in the contemporary international community.
5. Different approaches to addressing minority issues.
6. The present international regime for national minority protection.
7. Open issues and problems.

Bibliography:
- Roter, Petra (2003). Managing the "minority problem" in Post-Cold War Europe within the framework of a multilayered regime for the protection of national minorities. In Arie Bloed, Rainer Hofmann, Joseph Marko,
- Primary sources:
  - Commentaries, recommendations and guidelines on various aspects of minority protection as produced by the OSCE High commissioner on National Minorities and the Secretariat of the Framework Convention.

Teaching methods:
Lectures, (research) seminars, individual research.

Prerequisites:
Basic knowledge of International Relations or general Political Science. Some basic understanding of public international law is a plus.
Examination methods:
An open-book essay (1,500-2,000 words; 60 %)
Research as preparation for in-class discussions (30 %)
In-class participation (10 %)