

Dr. Peggy Wittke
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Model UN/Model EU
Faculty of Law

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The United Nations and the Situation in Afghanistan

**Model United Nations and Seminar
(Course No. 096914)**

Summer Semester 2023

On 15 August 2021, the Taliban reached the Afghan capital of Kabul and thereby completed a rapid takeover of the country, which they had ruled before from the late 1990s to 2001. The Afghan Government as well as the Afghan Army and Security Forces collapsed; President Ashraf Ghani left the country. The takeover came amidst the withdrawal by NATO allies and other countries related to the *2020 United States-Taliban Accord*, which former US-President Trump had negotiated with the Taliban. The international evacuation operation ended as the last US military and diplomatic personnel left Afghanistan on 30 August 2021. Since then, humanitarian and economic crises prevail in Afghanistan. The World Food Programme reported in February 2023 that 19,9 million Afghans – almost half the population – is facing acute, 6 million even emergency-level food insecurity. The economy is on the brink of collapse and essential services like the health sector are under considerable stress. The human rights situation is worsening daily, especially for women and girls. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) notes in its most recent report of 20 July 2022 that the UN has received more than 160 credible allegations of extrajudicial killings of former government employees, security forces or former staff members of international military forces.

We like to invite you to a **simulated Special Session of the Security Council** to discuss these and other issues involving the Situation in Afghanistan and the main organ responsible for international peace and security according to the Charter of the United Nations: the Security Council. **Class sessions (Tuesday, 16.00 – 18.00 h, c.t.) prior will give you an ample overview of the topic.** With this class we hope to deepen your knowledge about the functioning of an international body, various aspects of international diplomacy, negotiation techniques, and also hopefully the roots and causes of the diverging opinions on the subject among UN-Member States.

You will be asked to represent one of the members of the Security Council or Afghanistan and take an active part in the class and negotiations. Participants are expected to research their respective countries position independently and to provide a Briefing on a selected topic relating to the situation in Afghanistan. Delegations are also asked to prepare a one-page Position Paper. Each Delegation will consist of 1-2 persons.

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Please note that the seminar/conference language will be **English**. It is possible to receive 5 ECTS-credits (Schlüsselqualifikationsschein, FB Rechtswissenschaft). **All faculties are invited to apply.**

Applications are to be sent via email until **12 April 2023** to Peggy Wittke

Your application should include:

- Personal Details (Name, Phone, Email, Field of Study, Student ID Number)
- Short letter of motivation (3-4 sentences only)
- 3 country preferences

Members of the Security Council 2023: Albania, Brazil, China, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and Afghanistan (NOT Taliban-affiliated)

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Preliminary Schedule

Class takes place Tuesdays, 16-18h in Room 4404, Boltzmannstr. 3, (if not announced differently).

Date	Session
18 April 2023	Introduction to the United Nations System <i>Peggy Wittke</i>
25 April 2023	Researching the United Nations and Information on Position Paper Writing <i>Peggy Wittke</i>
2 May 2023	Peace and Security I <i>Peggy Wittke</i>
9 May 2023	Peace and Security II
16 May 2023	The Situation in Afghanistan – Part One <i>Briefings by Participants</i>
23 May 2023	The Situation in Afghanistan in 2023 – Part Two <i>Briefings by Participants</i>
30 May 2023	The Situation in Afghanistan in 2023 – Part Three <i>Briefings by Participants</i>
6 June 2023	The Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Security Council
6 June 2023	<i>Deadline Position Papers – please send to peg@zedat.fu-berlin.de</i>
15 June 2023 Thursday 10.00 h – 17.00 h Conference Room <i>TBC</i>	Special Session of the United Nations Security Council: The Situation in Afghanistan
16 June 2023 Friday 10.00 – 16.00 h <i>TBC</i>	Special Session of the United Nations Security Council: The Situation in Afghanistan

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Further Internet Research

The United Nations in Afghanistan: <https://afghanistan.un.org/>

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA): <https://unama.unmissions.org/>

The United Nations Security Council: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

UN Security Council – Meeting Records (look for Meetings on Afghanistan and find the Press Releases with summary of statements and/or the word protocols:
<https://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/quick/meetings/2022>

United Nations News on Afghanistan: <https://news.un.org/en/tags/afghanistan>

International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect: <http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/>

Security Council Report (see countries): <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/index.php>