

**Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Universität
Kassel/Witzenhausen**

6 C
4 SWS

Modul M.SIA. Institutions and the Food System

Learning outcome, core skills:

Students

- Will be able to evaluate the role of institutions and governance in the food system and their link to policies
- Will know public choice approaches to the analysis of constitutions and policies and their change
- Will know theories of decentral and central institutional change in the traditions of New Institutional Economics
- Will be able to evaluate policies in the agricultural and environmental sectors and the food system
- Can apply concepts and theories of the role, performance and change of institutions and governance to a variety of aspects of food systems in different countries in and outside Europe

Weekly lecture hours in total:

Attendance time:

60 h

Self-study time: 120 h

Course: Institutional and Policy Analysis in the Food System

Lecture, Seminar, Group work, Excursion

4 SWS

Contents:

Institutions structure economic exchange and collective action in the food system, for example in the organization of agricultural production, in regulating agriculture and environmental issues and in collective approaches to environmental management and public goods provision at scales, ranging from the farm level to global supply chains. At the same time institutions are expressed in policies. The course first specifies what institutions are and what roles institutions play in food and agricultural systems and in policy making. Approaches will cover the study of institutions from the perspective of New Institutional Economics. Public choice approaches will be presented to explain state-driven institutional change. The role of institutions for performance and change of the food and agricultural sectors will be illustrated through ample recourse to examples drawn from studies of the food and agricultural production systems in and outside of Europe. The module ends with introducing approaches to evaluate policies (being one type of institution) in the food and agricultural sectors.

Examination: oral exam 25 min. (60%) and term paper (15 pages) (40%)

Students will need to demonstrate:

- Understanding of the role of institutions and governance in the food system
- Knowledge of public choice approaches to the analysis of constitutions and policies and their change
- Knowledge of theories of decentral and central institutional change

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to apply concepts and theories of the role, performance and change of institutions and governance to a variety of aspects of food systems in different countries in and outside Europe • Knowledge of policy evaluation • Knowledge of global drivers of food and agricultural production systems 	
Examination prerequisites: submission of questions on 80% of assigned academic journal articles, participation in the excursion and its preparation/evaluation.	

Admission requirements: none	Recommended previous knowledge: Background in agricultural and environmental policy and economics
Language: English	Person responsible for module: Prof. Dr. Andreas Thiel, N.N.
Course frequency: Annually, WiSe (winter term); Witzenhausen	Duration: 1 Semester
Number of repeat examinations permitted: twice	Recommended semester: The course is prerequisite for participation in the module "Policy Field Organic Agriculture in the EU" which takes place in summer term.
Maximum number of students:	

Additional notes and regulations: Literature: Literature and seminar papers will be circulated to students at the beginning of term
