



9 ½ Questions // Fragen ... Prof. Dr. Uwe HOLTZ, 31.03.2021

1. What did you study and what life lessons did your studies teach you?

// Was haben sie studiert und was hat sie ihr Studium fürs Leben gelehrt?

- French, Spanish and History as majors (diploma in the age of 23) and a PhD dissertation (a literary and socio-critical comparative study on a Spanish and French novel - age 25) (both at the University of Cologne)
- For me, foreign languages and the study of history enriched my life and opened the doors for a better understanding of my country and of different cultures incl. mentalities. For me as an academic and a former policymaker on German, European and global levels, they were useful tools to interact with other people, countries and international bodies. The most important lesson I learnt was that whatever one studies all human beings need participatory, democratic framework conditions where human rights are respected and fulfilled laying the basis for ensuring a life in human dignity.

2. What do you need in your job today that you did NOT learn in your studies?

// Was brauchen Sie heute im Beruf, was Sie im Studium nicht gelernt haben?

From my late twenties on, I acknowledged more than before that economic questions play a vital role - in my professional life, too.

The following activities posed many challenges and required an intense work to get familiarised with new topics: The German parliament elected me as chair of its Committee for Economic Cooperation and Development being 30 years old (I held this 'job' for 20 years); for several years I was member of the supervisory board of a steel plant in the Ruhr area, Germany, and of the Board of Trustees of the International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C.

Moreover, my commitments to (inter-)national NGOs widened my perspectives regarding the relevance of civil society organisations (e.g. as official representative of the INGO "Society for International Development/SID" enjoying participatory status at the Council of Europe, Strasbourg/France).

Last but not least, new challenges, I like/d, were/are posed to me during my lectures, based on own research, at the universities of Kiel (Subject: New History) and still of Bonn (Political Science) and H-BRS (International Politics).

I became a long-life learner (not to forget ICTs and online seminars or exams) and a writer of books and articles also on economic and developmental issues – sometimes influencing theory and practice of international activities.

3. In your opinion, which global economic problem could be solved without the direct input of money? // Welches wirtschaftspolitische Problem lässt sich ohne Geld lösen?

Fighting corruption, changing unsustainable life patterns, realising gender equality and respecting diversity, defeating racism

4. What do you teach in the MBA program and what is the reason for your commitment?

// Was lehren sie im MBA-Studiengang und was ist Ihr Grund für Ihr Engagement?



International Politics (IP), an important « External Environment », also relevant for the business sector and civil society organisations. It is one of the most exciting subjects to study and to deal with.

5. What do you expect from a student in your class?

// Was erwarten Sie von einem Studenten in Ihrem Seminar / Kurs?

I hope that the students can ‘digest’ the lectures and discussions among us in a positive way based on own engagement and enjoyment.

The module will give a short general introduction to Politics and, more specifically, to International Politics dealing with foreign affairs and global issues (all affecting more or less our lives on our globe), also including global trends and challenges.

Case studies will focus on specific countries (e.g. Germany), groupings of states (e.g. EU) and the UN by explaining the management of international affairs (‘global governance’), based on pertinent theories.

Core objectives are to enhance critical thinking and social responsibility in ONE WORLD not ignoring the differences on our globe.

I expect the students to discover interesting ‘take home’ messages during all online sessions of the module. Learning and doing research – and your job activities – should contribute to the development of a peaceful, democratic and sustainable world.

6. Reading is a must! Which reading is compulsory and why this one?

// Lektüre muss sein! Welche ist Pflicht und warum?

The following publication/s provide/s theoretical and practical basics of IP, insights into actual politics and explanations for the different stages of countries’ socio-economic development - as well as facilitates interaction in the class:

- a) Ellen Grigsby (2012): Analyzing Politics. An Introduction to Political Science, 5th ed., Wadsworth (6th 2015) [excerpts]
- b) Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) [excerpts]
- c) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- d) Some speeches on International Politics (e.g. A. Guterres_UN, J. Biden_USA, A. Merkel: GER + N.N, N.N. [excerpts])
- e) U. Holtz: Why countries are rich or poor? Discussion Paper (2021)

All publications will be put on LEA in due time.

7. What qualities make a good MBA student?

// Welche Eigenschaften machen einen guten MBA-Studenten aus?

Academic curiosity and joy, the willingness to consider the MBA studies as a stimulus for the further development of the own personality and capacities (+ see number 5)



8. **Your tip for a successful career?**

// Ihr Tipp für eine erfolgreiche Karriere?

Be a good 'manager' of your own professional –and private– life and be open-minded about new opportunities and challenges.

Addendum 2021.04.18:

Well-founded decisions on the basis of your own values (e.g. as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), your own capabilities, interests and experiences.

9. **Take a break? How do you relax after a stressful day?**

// Take a break? Wie entspannen sie sich nach einem stressigen Alltag?

Reading and walking

½ **Your favorite quote? // Ihr Lieblingszitat?**

“Economic growth without investment in human development is unsustainable – and unethical.”

Prof. Amartya Sen (* 1933 – an Indian economist; Professor of Economics, Harvard University, Nobel Laureate in Economics / 1998)