

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Universität Kassel/Witzenhausen Module M.SIA.E36: Institutions and the food system	6 C 4 WLH
Learning outcome, core skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will become familiar with the role of institutions and governance in the food system • Will be familiar with public choice and political science approaches to the analysis of constitutions and policies and their change • Will be familiar with theories of decentral and central institutional change in the traditions of economics, political science and sociology • Will apply this conceptual knowledge concerning the role, performance and change of institutions and governance of a variety of aspects of food systems in different countries in and outside Europe • Will review global drivers of change of food and agricultural production systems 	Workload: Attendance time: 56 h Self-study time: 124 h
Course: Institutions and the food system (Lecture, Excursion, Seminar) <i>Contents:</i> Institutions are core elements structuring economic exchange in the food system. The course starts out with a discussion of what institutions are and what roles a stratified, multi-disciplinary concept of institutions has in food and agricultural systems and their change. Approaches will cover the study of institutions in classical and new institutional economics, in evolutionary economics, in economic sociology and in political sciences. Subsequently, discussions will be organized along public choice and constructivist approaches to understanding centrally driven institutional change on the one hand and economic and constructivist approaches to understanding decentral institutional change on the other. Discussions of the role of institutions for performance of the food and agricultural sectors and their change will be illustrated through ample recourse to examples drawn from studies of the food and agricultural production systems in and outside of Europe. That way, principal drivers of the change of food systems will be reviewed. In this regard, as far as possible examples will be drawn from one particular cultural, national or regional context. Ending the module, potentials and limits of researching the role of institutions in the food and agricultural sectors will be evaluated and corresponding research designs will be discussed.	4 WLH
Examination: Oral exam (about 25 min., 60%) and term paper (max. 15 pages, 40%) M.SIA.E36: Institutions and the food system Examination requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the role of institutions and governance in the food system • Knowledge of public choice and political science approaches to the analysis of constitutions and policies and their change • Knowledge of theories of decentral and central institutional change in the traditions of economics, political science and sociology • Application of conceptual knowledge concerning 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 global drivers of change of food and agricultural production systems 	6 C

Admission requirements: none	Recommended previous knowledge: Background in agricultural and environmental policy and economics
Language: English	Person responsible for module: Prof. Dr. Andreas Thiel
Course frequency: each winter semester; Witzenhausen	Duration: 1 semester[s]
Number of repeat examinations permitted: twice	Recommended semester:
Maximum number of students: not limited	
Additional notes and regulations: Further examination prerequisites: Participation in the excursion/ thematic day and its preparation/ evaluation Literature: Literature and seminar papers will be circulated to students at the beginning of term	