Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

10,422: Social Acceptance of Climate Solutions in a Polarized World

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s
(binding regulations see below)
Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)
Examination time: term time
Decentral - Presentation (individual) (40%)
Examination time: term time
Decentral - Presentation (individual) (10%)
Examination time: term time

Attached courses
Timetable – Language – Lecturer
10,422,1.00 Social Acceptance of Climate Solutions in a Polarized World – Englisch – Wüstenhagen Rolf

Course information

Course prerequisites
No formal prerequisites, but an interest in contemporary discussions about polarization, climate change and/or renewable energy is welcome.

Learning objectives
The course will give participants a platform for reflection on climate change, including past attempts by policymakers at international, national and sub-national levels to limit emissions, as well as responses by business and civil society. Course participants will investigate determinants of implementing successful climate solutions, and explore whether increasing polarization in society is part of the problem and/or part of the solution.

Course content
The world is more polarized than ever before in recent history. 2019 has seen extreme weather events at unprecedented levels, and many people appreciate the need to accelerate climate change mitigation. Yet, some influential world leaders are pushing back against the transition to a low-carbon economy. At the national level, countries like Norway and China are witnessing a fast diffusion of electric vehicles, while governments and industry associations elsewhere show less enthusiasm. Some investors are divesting from coal, others are reluctant to change. Meanwhile, central banks warn that growing carbon risk in financial markets could lead to stranded assets (aka the carbon bubble). While a majority of young citizens see wind turbines as symbols of modern technology, others feel threatened by them. The rise of social media, once hailed as an enabler of democratization, appears to make consensus building in society and politics even more difficult.

How can governments and businesses make progress towards decarbonization of our energy and transport systems in this environment? How and when does polarization translate into policy risk, and how can this be managed? What are the positive drivers of change, and how can they be leveraged for innovation? And what can political leaders, firms and other decision-makers do to secure social acceptance of climate solutions?

Course structure
The seminar starts with a kick-off meeting in week 2 of the semester, including an introduction of the topic. Each participant will be asked to suggest a topic that relates his/her thesis to the topic of the seminar.

After the kick-off, participants prepare a short abstract of their seminar topic, on which they receive written feedback by the
In week 4. Revised versions of the abstract are to be shared with all participants to facilitate discussion at the following block seminar.

In week 7 (first week of the semester break), we will meet for a three-day block seminar. Each participant will present his/her seminar topic in a session of approx. 90 minutes (30 min plus 5-10 min feedback by another participant+50 min discussion). After the block seminar, participants will prepare a written seminar paper (8-10 pages), which is due in week 11 of the semester.

Course literature


https://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/rethinking-polarization

Additional course information

Further questions: Jakob Knauf <jakob.knauf@unisg.ch>

Students who plan to take this course as an optional course and without an examination should not register via the bidding system. They should register directly with the lecturer.

Students who plan to take this course as a regular course or as an optional course with an examination should register via the bidding system. Enrolment in a course is binding: students have to attend the course and take the exam. The grade will be shown on the scorecard.

In the case of the President’s Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in SpS2021, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course is conducted online via the platform Zoom
- The recordings of the course are available for 30 days;
- The lecturer informs via e mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course;

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- There are no changes necessary to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form
Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)
Examination time: term time

Remark
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Examination-aid rule
Term papers
Term papers must be written without anyone else’s help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSE, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien, newest edition respectively.

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard. Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination time and form
Decentral - Presentation (individual) (40%)
Examination time: term time

Remark
Presentation of seminar topic (30 min.)

Examination-aid rule
Practical examination
No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English

3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form
Decentral - Presentation (individual) (10%)
Examination time: term time

Remark
Peer feedback on another presentation (10 min.)

Examination-aid rule
Practical examination
No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.
Examination content
The presentation and the paper cover the individual seminar topic chosen by the student at the beginning of the semester, linking his/her dissertation topic to the topic of the seminar. The third element of the grade is the oral feedback on another student's presentation.

Examination relevant literature
See above. Further literature will be presented at the kick-off meeting.

Please note
Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 28 January 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 14 (Thursday, 8 April 2021).