



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2018

8,360: Small States in International Affairs

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Active participation (30%)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (70%)

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,360,1.00 Small States in International Affairs](#) -- Englisch -- [Frei Christoph](#) , [van Drongelen Wesley](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

None.

Course content

In a world where the news is dominated by what great powers do and do not do, small states are often overlooked or neglected. They are supposed to bandwagon in security questions, and to have little or no influence in all other matters. The real world, though, tells a different story. Some small states (say, Norway, the Netherlands, Singapore, or Switzerland) wield much more influence than would be expected in light of their size, whereas others (e.g., Moldova, Fiji, Togo) indeed seem to exist in the shadow of more influential powers. Last not least - and the European integration project notwithstanding - the global trend has been towards smaller states over the last 70 years or so - such that by most definitions, the majority of states in the world can be classified as 'small'.

In this course, we set out to explore largely unfamiliar terrain with the students. What is it that makes a state a 'small state'? What enables some small states to step up and succeed culturally, politically, and economically? What can we learn from them, what's in it for other small states?

Case studies will focus on countries such as Qatar, Bhutan, the Marshall Islands, Andorra or the Vatican.

Course structure

Every week, we meet for two hours. In terms of focus, the course will be divided into two sections. Over the course of the first weeks, we will look at small states from different disciplinary angles (economic, cultural, political, etc.). In the second part of the semester, we will zoom in on micro-states, including specific challenges and opportunities they are confronted with.

Course literature

The course-relevant literature will be included in a reader which, in turn, will be available in the first week of the semester. Here is a small sample selection of texts:



- Browning, Christopher S. (2006). Small, Smart and Salient? Rethinking Identity in the Small States Literature. *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 19(4): 669-684.
- Geldenhuys, Deon. (2009). The continuing allure of statehood. *Politeia* 28(2): 41-59.
- Ingebritsen, Christine. (2002), Norm Entrepreneurs: Scandinavia's Role in World Politics. *Cooperation and Conflict: Journal of the Nordic International Studies Association*, 37(1): 11-23.
- Sack, John. (2000[1959]). *Report From Practically Nowhere* (excerpts). Lincoln, NE: iUniverse.com.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (30%)

Remark

Substance and quality (not quantity) matter.

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

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (70%)

Remark

15 - 20 pages

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.
- The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the APA or MLA standards. The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into the text 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. (2015), *Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien* (11th ed., 4th printing). Aarau: Sauerländer).
- For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers both according to the MLA and the APA standard is never optional.



- 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.
- For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B. (2014, Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (5. Auflage), Zürich: Schulthess, or the recommendations of the Law School).

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

The term paper (decentral, 70% of the final grade) will address either a specific country or else focus on a concept related to small states. Students will submit their proposal prior to the semester break, receive individual feed-back, and flesh out the full paper by the end of the semester.

Examination relevant literature

Every week, students read texts in preparation of our discussions in the classroom. The bulk of the mandatory literature is included in the Reader, additional texts (e.g., news) may be added online (StudyNet) during the semester.

Please note

We would like to point out to you that this fact sheet has absolute priority over other information such as StudyNet, faculty members' personal databases, information provided in lectures, etc.

When will the fact sheets become binding?

- Information about courses and examination time (central/decentral and grading form): from the start of the bidding process on 25 January 2018
- Information about decentral examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): after the 4th semester week on 19 March 2018
- Information about central examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): from the start of the enrolment period for the examinations on 09 April 2018

Please look at the fact sheet once more after these deadlines have expired.