



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2019

10,423: Framing and Policy Change

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (80%)

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[10,423,1.00 Framing and Policy Change](#) -- Englisch -- [Baumgartner Frank R.](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Students should have a basic familiarity with the international literature in comparative politics, public policy, and / or public administration. There are no specific course requirements.

Course content

This class will focus on the process by which policies get framed, or defined in public discussion. Framing is focusing attention on some elements of a complex public problem rather than others. Politicians constantly attempt to frame issues in ways that are advantageous to their side of the debate, and we often refer derisively to this as "spin." But framing is inevitable. Furthermore, frames sometimes change over time. Smoking was once seen as glamorous and the tobacco industry was held up as one of the most powerful lobbies in American politics as well as in other countries. Today you can't smoke in most public places. The concept of gay marriage was not discussed in public in 2000, but today it is the law in many nations. So the course will focus on something you see around you every day, at least if you read the newspapers and pay attention to politics.

We will begin with a review of a number of theories from political science and psychology about how we frame things, about why some frames are more powerful than others, and about how the brain processes information when it makes us comfortable and secure as compared to when it is unwelcome or challenging to our prior beliefs or expectations. We'll start with a range of foundational literature laying out these theories. Then, with this background, each student will develop a research project applying those and related ideas to a particular example of public policy. The final paper will analyze how frame change and how policy actors struggle and compete over the power of the different frames that make them winners or losers in determining the direction of public policy.

Course structure

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Course literature

A complete syllabus with a list of readings will be made available before the course. Indicative of the literature covered in the course are:

Stone, Deborah A. 1989. Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas. *Political Science Quarterly* 104, 2: 281-300.

Schneider, Anne, and Helen Ingram. 1993. Social Construction of Target Populations: Implications for Politics and Policy. *American Political Science Review* 87, 2: 334-47.

Tversky, Amos, and Daniel Kahneman. 1973. Judgment under Uncertainty: Heuristics and Biases. *Science* 185 (4157): 1124-31.



Slovic, Paul. 1987. Perception of Risk. *Science* 236 (4799): 280-85.

Baumeister, Roy F., Ellen Bratslavsky, Catrin Finkenauer, and Kathleen D. Vohs. 2001. Bad Is Stronger Than Good. *Review of General Psychology* 5: 323-370.

Huntsinger, Jeffrey R. 2013. Anger Enhances Correspondence Between Implicit and Explicit Attitudes. *Emotion* 13, 2: 350-7.

Lerner, J.S., and D. Keltner. 2001. Fear, anger, and risk. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 81, 1: 146-49.

Lord, Charles G., Lee Ross, and Mark R. Lepper. 1979. Biased Assimilation and Attitude Polarization: The Effects of Prior Theories on Subsequently Considered Evidence. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 37 (11): 2098-2109.

Ditto, Peter H. and David F. Lopez. 1992. Motivated Skepticism: Use of Differential Decision Criteria for Preferred and Nonpreferred Conclusions. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 63 (4): 568-84.

Kunda, Ziva. 1990. The Case for Motivated Reasoning. *Psychological Bulletin* 108(3): 480-98.

Aaroe, Lene. 2011. Investigating Frame Strength: The Case of Episodic and Thematic Frames. *Political Communication* 28: 207-26.

Iyengar, Shanto. 1990. Framing Responsibility for Political Issues: The Case of Poverty. *Political Behavior* 12, 1: 19-40.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (80%)

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.
- 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. (2017), *Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien* (12th ed., Cornelsen Schweiz).
- 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. (2018), *Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende* (6. Auflage), Zürich: Schulthess, or the recommendations of the Law School).

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 - Active participation (20%)

Remark

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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

Examination content

- Active participation in course seminars.
- Agreement with professor by the end of the seminar on a topic for research applying themes from the readings to the public policy debate of interest to the student. Term paper written on the agreed topic, 3,000 words, due two weeks after the completion of the seminar.

Examination relevant literature

The relevant literature will be provided to course participants in April.

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 24 January 2019
- Information about decentral examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): after the 4th semester week on 18 March 2019
- Information about central examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): from the start of the enrolment period for the examinations on 08 April 2019

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