



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2020

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%)

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (40%)

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (10%)

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 3 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 lecturer 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 8 (second 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

Hoffman, Andrew J. (2015): *How Culture Shapes the Climate Change Debate*, Stanford University Press.

Hardisty, D. J., Johnson, E. J., & Weber, E. U. (2010). A Dirty Word or a Dirty World?: Attribute Framing, Political Affiliation, and Query Theory. *Psychological Science*, 21(1), 86-92.

Rinscheid, A., Wüstenhagen, R. (2018): Divesting, Fast and Slow: Affective and Cognitive Drivers of Fading Voter Support for a Nuclear Phase-Out, *Ecological Economics*, 152, 51-61.

<https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2019/02/why-the-polarization-in-u-s-on-climate-change/>

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

Additional course information

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

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

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 (2/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (40%)

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%)

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.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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 this fact sheet alone is binding and has priority over any other information such as StudyNet (Canvas), personal databases or faculty members' websites and information provided in their lectures, etc.

Any possible references and links within the fact sheet to information provided by third parties are merely supplementary and informative in nature and are outside the University of St.Gallen's scope of responsibility and guarantee.

Documents and materials that have been submitted no later than the end of term time (CW21) are relevant to central examinations.

Binding nature of the fact sheet:

- Information about courses and examination time (central/decentral) and examination type starting from the beginning of the bidding on 23 January 2020
- Information about examinations (examination aid regulations, examination content, examination-relevant literature) for decentral examinations after the 4th semester week on 16 March 2020
- Information about examinations (examination aid regulations, examination content, examination-relevant literature) for central examinations as from the starting date for examination registration on 6 April 2020

Please consult the fact sheet again after these deadlines have expired.