



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2017

### 7,388: Political Science Fundamentals of International Relations

ECTS credits: 6

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

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

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (20%)

Decentral - examination paper written at home with presentation (individual) (30%)

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,388,1.00 Political Science Fundamentals of International Relations](#) -- Englisch -- [Dingwerth Klaus](#)

#### Course information

##### Course prerequisites

The course does not imply any prerequisites. A general interest in a conceptually guided analysis of international politics is taken for granted.

#### Course content

The analysis of international affairs has become ever more perplexing over the past decades as old types of conflicts are gaining new momentum and new challenges are requiring our attention. The Russian annexation of Crimea and the territorial conflicts in the South China Sea are but two examples for the re-emergence of military confrontation as a perennial topic of international relations. On the other hand, transnational terrorism has contributed to a blurring of the distinction between the domestic and the international sphere. And yet, although security or geostrategic interest-related conflicts continue to be an important pattern in the relationship between states in the 21st century, the range of both conflicts and cooperation is significantly more complex. Not only that civil wars rather than interstate confrontations have become a more frequent source of violence, displacement and death. What is more, the degree of international interdependences between states, economies and societies is mirrored in a plethora of formal and informal forms of cooperation at the regional and the global level. With well over 55'000 the sheer number of international treaties, conventions and other forms of agreements, international relations has moved significantly beyond the classical assumption of international relations theorizing according to which security related concerns would trump any other interests of states, be they economic, environmental, financial, human rights related or educational. If we add the transnational dimension, i.e. the manifold economic, cultural and other societal forms of cross-border interaction to the picture, we arrive at a degree of complexity of international relations that makes it more necessary than ever to be equipped with sound analytical and methodological tools to identify and analyse regularities.

Given these considerations, the objective of the course is threefold:

- First, we want to familiarise students, especially those students who lack a political science education in international relations, with some fundamental concepts of the study of international politics. For this purpose, we will usually start with a lecture into the topic of the respective day.
- Second, we want to deepen the topic of the respective day by discussing important readings that address issues or structures of international politics central to the core of the topic.
- Third, we invite students to apply their newly learned knowledge to either historical or contemporary issues in short



assignments. While the historical knowledge is often key to understanding current events, experience shows that once sensitised, the attention to international events as documented in different media outlets increases significantly.

Thematically, we will cover key historical as well as contemporary developments in the fields of international security, economic, environmental and human rights politics.

All three learning objectives may make the course interesting also for all those students who want to deepen their knowledge in internationally oriented political science and who want to keep up to date with contemporary international developments in the context of the international affairs master programme.

## Course structure

The course structure is split into three elements: 1 hour lecture, 2 hours seminar, 1 hour individual studies. See the examination information for more information on the assignments.

## Course literature

I will provide further information my choice of textbook on StudyNet by the end of August. Further readings will be provided on StudyNet at the beginning of the course.

## Additional course information

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## 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

Term paper (3.000 to 6.000 words)

##### 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

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## 2. Examination sub part (2/3)

#### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (20%)

#### Remark

2 comments on other students' assignments

#### 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

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## 3. Examination sub part (3/3)

#### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home with presentation (individual) (30%)

#### Remark

2 short assignments (1.000 words each)

#### 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).
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## Supplementary aids

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## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## Examination content

The structure of the assignments follows the three objectives of this 6 ECTS course.

First, all students are expected to have read all mandatory readings. Each student will write two short assignments (up to 1.000 words, 30% of the final grade combined ) in which they will discuss and apply a theoretical concept from the reading for the respective week to a contemporary situation in international politics. The first assignment will be due before the term break; the second one after the term break. Papers will need to be handed in by Monday evening before the course and the authors will briefly introduce (not more than 5 minutes) the key argument of their paper in class.

Second, students are expected to make two oral presentations (5-7 minutes, 20% of final grade combined) in which they discuss the papers their fellow students have written for the respective week. Again, each student will hold one presentation before the term break and the second one after the term break.

Third, students will write a term paper (up to 6.000 words, 50% of final grade) at the end of the term. The term papers are meant to train students' skills in thoroughly applying theoretical ideas, developing appropriate research designs and in writing succinctly and with precision. To this end, term papers will normally address a research question that applies one or two theoretical perspectives to an issue or issue area we have dealt with in the course. Papers will be due by Sunday, 21 January 2018.

## Examination relevant literature

I will provide information about the choice of textbook on StudyNet. Additional readings will also be made available via StudyNet (no later than 21 December 2017). For the term papers, identifying and selecting the relevant literature is a part of the assignment and therefore falls to each student.



### 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 August 2017
- Information about decentral examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): after the 4th semester week on 16 October 2017
- Information about central examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): from the start of the enrolment period for the examinations on 06 November 2017

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