



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2018

7,372: Asia-Pacific Security in Focus: The South China Sea

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Group examination paper (all given the same grades) (60%)

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,372,1.00 Asia-Pacific Security in Focus: The South China Sea](#) -- Englisch -- [Hänggi Heiner](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Good knowledge of basic International Relations (IR) concepts and theories.

Course content

The conflict in the South China Sea represents an exceptional agglomeration of Asia Pacific security issues. It exposes the remarkably wide-ranging securitization of spheres not traditionally viewed as pertinent for national and regional security, from the economy to food supply. Nevertheless, the conflict concurrently demonstrates the continued importance of traditional security, as evidenced by the expansion of naval fleets and security alliances, putting on full display the inter-connected nature and consequent spill-over effects of these security issues with their sweeping potential to uproot Asia Pacific security and stability. The South China Sea serves as an 'arena' in which regional and extra-regional states are competing for territorial and maritime control, as well as unconstrained access for varied self-interested geostrategic and national security purposes. These are related to wider Asia Pacific security developments, such as great power rivalry and the struggle for regional hegemony, the shaping of a regional security order, and achieving comprehensive security. The 2016 South China Sea ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration signals a new era of geopolitical relations in the region, breaking the delicate 'balance of ambiguity'. With the US intent on denuclearising the Korean peninsula under the new administration, China sees many opportunities to fill the void in the South China Sea and to embrace a leadership role on global issues. Refining our understanding of Asia Pacific security using the case of the South China Sea is therefore particularly insightful for practical, policy-oriented, and theoretical perspectives of International Relations. This course familiarises participants with Asia Pacific security, while allowing students to gain a deeper understanding of one of the most challenging regional 'hot spots'.

Topics covered in the course include:

- How has China justified its stance towards the conflict in the South China Sea?
- What are the views of the other claimant countries?
- What is the position of the U.S. towards the South China Sea conflict?
- How could the South China Sea conflict be explained from the perspective of the Regional Security Complex Theory?
- To what extent is the conflict in the South China Sea considered to be a traditional or non-traditional security issue?
- Are states involved in the South China Sea conflict engaging in an arms race?
- Does greater economic interdependence among South China Sea claimant countries have a positive impact on regional security?



-- Does ASEAN act as a Security Community in the South China Sea conflict?

Course structure

The course is structured into two parts:

Part I: 2 hour kick-off session at the beginning of the semester): general introduction by the course director; paper assignments.

Part II: 3 day external blockseminar in Geneva during the semester break): introduction of key course topics by the course director; presentation of papers by course participants; guest lectures by security experts from the region; visit to an international organisation in Geneva; concluding role play on a specific course topic.

Course literature

Required readings and a list of electronically accessible recommended readings related to the topics proposed for the papers will be made available on StudyNet prior to the kick-off session.

Additional course information

Students will be expected to complete and present before class a research paper (of 5,000-6,000 words) and to participate in class discussion. Papers are due one week before the blockseminar.

The blockseminar will be held at the premises of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) at the "Maison de la paix", located next to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

It is recommended that participants share rooms at the Geneva Youth Hostel at 30, rue Rothschild or at City Hostel Geneva at 2, rue Ferrier, both within walking distance from the main railway station and the seminar venue.

The costs of one dinner and the visit to an international organisation will be covered by the University of St.Gallen (School of Economics and Political Science). All other meals and accommodation as well as transportation costs are at the expense of the participants.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Group examination paper (all given the same grades) (60%)

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 - 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

3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (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

General: the concepts of "security" and the "Asia Pacific"; overview of the conflict in the South China Sea.

Paper-specific: depending on the paper topic (see document "topics proposed for papers")

Examination relevant literature



1. Required readings (see StudyNet)
2. Recommended readings as appropriate (depending on the paper topic: see "topics proposed for papers")
3. Research papers.

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 23 August 2018
- Information about decentral examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): after the 4th semester week on 15 October 2018
- Information about central examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): from the start of the enrolment period for the examinations on 05 November 2018

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