



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2018

7,388: Political Science Fundamentals of International Relations

ECTS credits: 6

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Active participation (25%)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (45%)

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (30%)

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

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

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. On the one hand, the recent Russian annexation of Crimea, the territorial conflicts in the South China Sea, the complex conflict in Syria and the intense conflicts in international trade initiated by the USA are but examples for the re-emergence of military and economic confrontation as a perennial topic of international relations. On the other hand, the lethal activities of Daesh and Bo Haram indicate how 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. The well over 55'000 international treaties, conventions and other forms of agreements indicate that adversarial constellations in one area do not necessarily hinder cooperation in other areas. The degree of complexity of international relations makes it ever more necessary to be equipped with sound analytical and methodological tools to identify and analyse regularities.

In order to capture the dynamics of contemporary international politics, the course is structured in the following way. First, one portion of our meetings is devoted to present and discuss some fundamental concepts of the study of international politics. Second, beyond the provision of some fundamentals of different issue areas of international relations, the understanding of topic of the respective day will be deepened by discussing important readings that address issues central to the core of the topic. Third, students are invited to apply their newly learned knowledge to contemporary issues. Experience shows that once sensitised, the attention to international events as documented in different media outlets increases significantly.

Thematically, the course is organised in three blocks: The first block focuses on war and peace, the second on international political economy and the third discusses transnational politics including the role of international organisations. Three learning objectives guide the course: To get acquainted with basic concepts of political science approaches to important areas of international affairs; to deepen the analytical understanding of the dynamics and empirical patterns, and last but not least, to improve the capacity for applying a conceptually guided analysis of international affairs. All these learning objectives may make the course interesting also for all those students who want to deepen their expertise and who want to keep up to date with contemporary international developments.



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

The purchase of the following textbook is strongly recommended: "World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions" by Frieden, Lake and Schultz (third edition, 2015, New York, W.W. Norton). Further literature 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 - Active participation (25%)

Remark

active involvement in classroom discussions

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 (2/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (45%)

Remark

3 short papers on topic of the bloc 1, 2, 3

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

3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (30%)

Remark

oral input on current case

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 structure of the assignments follows the three objectives of this 6 ECTS course. First, all students are expected to have read all mandatory readings, which include the respective chapters of the textbook "World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions" by Frieden, Lake and Schultz (third edition, 2015, New York, W.W. Norton) as well as a series of designated articles. The preparation for the seminar involves the preparation to these articles of questions and the readiness to engage in the discussion. Students are expected to be prepared. Second, students (if student numbers permit individually) are expected to make at least one oral presentation in class on a designated topic (30% of the final grade). Finally, students have to hand in three small essays after each block, in which they apply concepts and theories of the respective thematic blocks to a contemporary case (45% of the final grade).

Examination relevant literature

World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions" by Frieden, Lake and Schultz (third edition, 2015, New York, W.W. Norton) as well as the additional readings made available on StudyNet (no later than 20 September 2018).



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.