



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2019

### 9,274: Firms in the Global Economy

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Written examination (50%, 60 mins.)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (50%)

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[9,274,1.00 Firms in the Global Economy](#) -- Englisch -- [Pisch Frank](#)

#### Course information

##### Course prerequisites

Students are expected to have some background in international trade (e.g. International Trade or International Economics at undergraduate or graduate level). A good command of microeconomic theory and basic econometrics is essential.

##### Course content

The objective of this course is to create a comprehensive overview of current research regarding the role of firms in the global economy, i.e. the "hot topics" and main insights from landmark empirical and theoretical research that deals with the international supply side. In particular, we will examine firms as *traders* of goods and services, as *investors* in other countries, and as *organizations* that require strategic management approaches. We will also analyse the role of firms with respect to central questions of our time, e.g. inequality, international taxation, or global value chains.

By the end of the course students will have reached the research frontier in some areas of international trade. Along the way, we will develop a good working knowledge of the essential patterns and mechanisms in international trade and FDI, and a decent understanding of how a few firms shape our modern globalised economies.

In this course, students will acquire and/or develop a broad set of skills typically associated with economists and increasingly valued not only by governments and other bodies of the public realm, but also by companies. First, we will use formal analysis to think about complex economic behaviour of firms, their employees, and their customers. Second, we will use these insights to inform various types of empirical analyses (a.k.a. testing model assumptions and predictions). Third, students will read state-of-the-art articles, extract their main findings and arguments, and present them to the course - all of which are bread-and-butter skills in our modern world.

##### Course structure

This course is taught in two parts. The first consists of 6 lectures on the role of firms in international trade and FDI as well as on the organizational/management ideas that try to explain why (multinational) firms exist and what factors shape their boundaries.

The second part comprises two (potentially three) days of presentations, when students either introduce a single important research paper or present an overview article that outlines the main ideas and research questions in a particular area of the field. Students can pick their own topics (subject to approval by the course manager) or work on material provided. Examples of topics include management; financial constraints; offshoring/global value chains; culture and institutions; gains from trade; transfer pricing; misallocation; inequality; within firm adjustments to the global environment.

##### Course literature



A detailed list of optional readings will be made available on the course page.

## Additional course information

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## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Written examination (50%, 60 mins.)

##### Remark

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##### Examination-aid rule

Extended Closed Book

The use of aids is limited; any additional aids permitted are exhaustively listed under "Supplementary aids". Basically, the following is applicable:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and mono- or bilingual dictionaries (no subject-specific dictionaries) without hand-written notes are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models and any electronic dictionaries are inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as notebooks, tablets, PDAs, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

##### Supplementary aids

no supplementary aids allowed

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (50%)

##### 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

no supplementary aids allowed

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English



## Examination content

There will be an exam after six weeks, which will cover the material discussed in the lectures.

The presentations will be assessed by the lecturer. They involve submitting the slides at least a week before the presentation and a short meeting to make sure everything is understood properly. They will either be in groups or individual, depending on attendance.

## Examination relevant literature

None of the literature provided is examinable (it is purely supplementary for understanding the material we cover)

### 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 (CW51) 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 22 August 2019
- Information about examinations (examination aid regulations, examination content, examination-relevant literature) for decentral examinations after the 4th semester week on 14 October 2019
- Information about examinations (examination aid regulations, examination content, examination-relevant literature) for central examinations as from the starting date for examination registration on 4 November 2019

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