



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

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%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

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. 2021 has seen extreme weather events at unprecedented levels, and many people appreciate the need to accelerate climate change mitigation. Yet, global attempts to deliver on a timely transition to a low-carbon economy have yet to live up to the urgency of the climate crisis. 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 and indications of the learning and teaching design

The seminar starts with a kick-off meeting 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. Revised versions of the abstract are to be shared with all participants to facilitate discussion at the following block seminar.

In the middle of the semester, 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 at the end 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: Sabrina Mili <sabrina.mili@unisg.ch>

Students who plan to take this course as an *optional* course and *without an examination* should not register via the bidding system. They should register directly with the lecturer.

Students who plan to take this course as a *regular* course or as an *optional course with an examination* should register via the bidding system. Enrolment in a course is binding: students have to attend the course and take the exam. The grade will be shown on the scorecard.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

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

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids

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Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English



Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (40%)
Examination time: term time

Remark

Presentation of seminar topic (30 min.)

Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids

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Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (10%)
Examination time: term time

Remark

Peer feedback on another presentation (10 min.)

Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids

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Nature of examination

analog

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 only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 26 January 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 10 April 2023).