



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

6,306: Business and Politics: A Risk Perspective

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Group examination paper (all given the same grades) (33%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (33%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (33%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,306,1.00 Business and Politics: A Risk Perspective](#) -- Englisch -- [Habegger Beat](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Students should be interested in the relations between business and politics and have a basic understanding of public policy and management studies.

It is also recommended to attend specific skills training such as Writing Policy Briefs (8,365,1.00) or Effective Writing: Topic Sentences (8,360,1.00) in the context of the "MIA mornings".

Learning objectives

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the perspective of analyzing political developments through the lens of a commercially-minded enterprise. Students will learn

- that companies are embedded in a non-market environment shaped by governments and other political and social actors
- about different forms of political risk and how companies consider them in their (risk) management approaches
- a simple framework for identifying and analyzing political risks and possible mitigation strategies
- about useful information sources and tools that support in assessing political risks.

Course content

Companies are affected by decisions of governments that influence their ability to make profits. Companies engage with their external environments as it is uncertain how policy will look like, how it will change, and how the future will eventually play out. Due to this uncertainty, and the human agency involved in politics, we can conceptualize this situation in the form of risk. The focus on *political risk* thus means looking at politics from the perspective of a commercially-driven enterprise. The lens through which a political risk analyst looks at political developments is therefore different from what the same analyst would do in academia or when working for a government or a non-governmental organization.

In this course, students will learn how companies are embedded in a "non-market environment" and the risks that emanate from actions taken by governments and other social and political actors. They will be introduced to simple frameworks for analyzing political risks, information sources and practical tools, and effective mitigation strategies. The course will feature guest speakers who will introduce various perspectives on political risks. Examples include political risk and security, political risk and trade, or geopolitical risk. Practical applications will be introduced through real-world cases that students will prepare and discuss in class. An individual reflection paper will allow students to document their learning experience.



Course structure

The course will be held as a block seminar in the Spring semester break. It will be preceded by a two-hour kick-off session that will introduce some basic concepts and administrative information. In order to successfully pass the course, attendance throughout the block seminar is mandatory.

Course literature

There is no required textbook. The course instructor will provide recommended references, including journal articles on relevant topics prior to the kick-off session.

Additional course information

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in SpS2021, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

The course is conducted online; it will not be recorded.

The lecturer informs via StudyNet and/or email on the changed implementation modalities of the course.

There might be changes to the course content.

Oral group presentations would be conducted online; all other examination content will be unchanged.

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) (33%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

To be submitted after the block seminar.

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 which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., *Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende*, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts 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., *Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien*, newest edition respectively).

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard. 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.

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 - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (33%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

To be held during the block seminar.

Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

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 - examination paper written at home (individual) (33%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Individual reflection paper

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 which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

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Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

The examination consists in a group paper, an individual reflection paper and a group presentation, each on a specific topic as assigned in class. Information about the required format and length of the group paper and the individual reflection paper will be provided at the kick-off session. The same applies to the group presentation to be held during the block seminar.

Examination relevant literature

There is no required textbook. The course instructor will provide recommended references, including journal articles on relevant topics prior to the kick-off session via Canvas.

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, 28 January 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 14 (Thursday, 8 April 2021).