



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

6,325: Spring Project: Designing and Writing a Qualitative Study in the Field of Public Management

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (70%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,325,1.00 Spring Project: Designing and Writing a Qualitative Study in the Field of Public Management](#) -- Englisch -- [Schedler Kuno](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

- This course is part of the "Spring Projects", therefore students need to be either in their 4th or in their 6th term of the BIA curriculum.
- The course is intended to support students in writing the research proposal for their Bachelor thesis, therefore having identified a preliminary topic would be a plus (even if not mandatory).

Learning objectives

In this seminar, students advance their knowledge of social science research methods, with particular focus on qualitative approaches, and apply them to a specific topic or research question of their interest. Using the tools presented during the lectures to develop their own research and writing a well-structured research proposal for their Bachelor thesis is one of the most prominent outcome of the course.

At the end of the course, students are able to:

- Interrogate existing knowledge, and conduct a literature review within their field of interest
- Formulate a relevant and interesting research question and develop a research framework
- Have an understanding of qualitative research methods, including main data collection and data analysis methods, and how to apply them to a specific study
- Present their results in a clear, logical and effective way.

Course content

This course deals with how to design and implement a qualitative research study.

Key contents presented during the lectures include:

- The nature and goals of a typical research project
- How to structure and design a research project
- The difference between qualitative and quantitative research
- Data collection methods in qualitative research
- Data analysis with qualitative data: memos, coding, constant comparison



- Presenting and writing: how to write the introduction, how to present data, how to discuss results and write the conclusions
- Giving and receiving feedback

Course structure

This course takes place every week and is based on hands-on, student-oriented collaborative learning approach. At the beginning of the course, students are provided with a set of qualitative data from real-life cases and step-by-step develop an applied study. Under the guidance of the lecturer, students also prepare the research proposal for their Bachelor thesis.

Course literature

- The course is based on the seminal book "The craft of research", which students can either purchase or borrow from the library: Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & Fitzgerald, W. T. (2016). The craft of research, Fourth Edition. University of Chicago press
- A digital reader with further sources is made available on StudyNet.

Additional course information

The course takes place face-to-face, whenever possible. 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 via the platform Zoom;
- The recordings of the course are available for 30 days.
- There are no changes necessary to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Group project with two in-class presentations

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 (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (70%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Bachelor thesis' research proposal

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).

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Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Teaching exercise. At the beginning of the course, students are divided in small groups (2-3 participants) and provided with a set of qualitative data from real-life cases and step-by-step, under the guidance of the lecturer, develop an applied study. Students present their advancements in two presentation sessions, each with a weight of 15%. In total, this group applied project is weighted 30% of the final course grade.

Term paper. Students write a research proposal for their Bachelor thesis and submit it after the end of the course. Further instructions on format and length are made available on StudyNet. The paper is prepared and graded on an individual basis. The paper is weighted 70% of the final course grade.



Examination relevant literature

Examination is based not on the contents and tools learned during the course themselves, but mainly on their application. Therefore, the book "The craft of research" and the additional materials made available through StudyNet serve as a guidance for students while developing their own research project.

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).