



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

8,266: Economics in Practice

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Group examination paper (all given the same grades) (70%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8.266.1.00 Economics in Practice](#) -- Englisch -- [Lechner Michael](#) , [Föllmi Reto](#) , [Rinaldo Angelo](#) , [Brown Martin](#) , [Knaus Michael](#) , [Bühler Stefan](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

This course aims at MEcon and MiQE/F students. Solid background in micro- and macroeconomics is required.

Learning objectives

In this course, students learn how to

1. organize themselves into effective project teams,
2. apply economic analysis to real-world problems,
3. produce a concise project report about their work, and
4. present their results in a plenary session.

Course content

Students in economics master programs acquire powerful analytical skills, but often miss the opportunity to apply economic analysis to interesting real-world problems. This course offers students in our MEcon and MiQE/F programs the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in applying (both theoretical and empirical) economic analysis to challenging real-world projects, which are proposed by members of the HSG Alumni Economists Club. Students work in groups on one of six real-world projects and are supervised by a faculty member and the HSG Alumna/Alumnus who proposed the project.

Tentative List of Project Fields and Supervision Teams

1. Competition Policy

Alumni: Dr. Niklaus Wallimann, Secretariat of the Swiss Competition Commission (Chief Economist)

HSG Faculty: Prof. Stefan Bühler

2. Public Policy

Alumni: Dr. Fabian Schnell, SNB (Delegate for Economic Relations)

HSG Faculty: Prof. Reto Föllmi



3. Foreign Exchange

Alumni: Dr. Barbara Stahel, SNB (Head Team FX Analysis)

HSG Faculty: Prof. Angelo Ranaldo

4. Pricing & Sales Optimization

Alumni: Dr. Berit Gerritzen, Deloitte (Senior Manager)

HSG Faculty: Prof. Michael Knaus

5. Data Science

Alumni: Dr. Massimo Mannino, Novalytica (Partner)

HSG Faculty: Prof. Michael Lechner

6. Economic Nowcasting & Consumption

Alumni: Dr. Adriel Jost, WPuls AG (Partner & CEO)

HSG Faculty: Prof. Martin Brown

Course structure

The course consists of three parts:

1. Kickoff meeting at the beginning of the semester
2. Groups (ideally composed of 3-4 students) working on their projects under the guidance of the supervision teams
3. Presentations of the projects held during the plenary session at the end of the semester

We will have a kickoff meeting at the beginning of the semester and a plenary session at the end of the semester. In the kickoff meeting, the various projects and supervisor teams will be presented. Thereafter, the students will decide which project to take on. Most of the work will be done by the project groups (ideally composed of 3-4 students), under the guidance of the supervision teams. Towards the end of the semester, each group submits a project report to its supervisor team and makes a presentation in the plenary session.

Course literature

There is no mandatory reading for this class. Students work "free style" on their projects, using any literature and materials that they find helpful.

Additional course information

At present both the kick-off meeting as well as the plenary session - including the group presentations - are planned to take place on campus.

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 above will be changed as follows:

- The kick-off meeting as well as the plenary session are conducted online via the platform Canvas and Zoom;
- The recordings of the course are available for 30 days;
- The lecturer informs via Canvas on the changed implementation modalities of the course.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The group presentations are conducted online and are being recorded.

Examination information



Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Group examination paper (all given the same grades) (70%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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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 - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

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

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English



Examination content

Students are expected to work in groups on one of the six real-world projects proposed by the supervisor teams consisting of one HSG faculty member and one HSG Alumna/Alumnus. The project report accounts for 70% of the grade. In addition, students are expected to present their results during the plenary session. The presentation accounts for the remaining 30% of the final grade.

Examination relevant literature

To understand the project assigned, students are required to perform literature research on their own.

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).