



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

8,373: International Organizations

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (35%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (65%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,373,1.00 International Organizations](#) -- Englisch -- [Dingwerth Klaus](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

None.

Learning objectives

- Students know and understand the dominant theories of international organizations and are able to apply them to selected cases;
- Students know and understand different types of international organizations as well as the roles these organizations typically play in global governance, and they are able to analyse such types and roles on their own;
- Students are able to make sense of, critically comment on and make effective use of contemporary academic research on international organizations in their own assignments.
- Students are able to critically assess the potential as well as the challenges international organizations face in pursuing specific mandates in political, legal, and economic environments marked by significant complexity.

Course content

International organisations figure prominently in virtually all areas of international politics. They include general purpose organisations like the United Nations as well as issue specific organisations such as the World Trade Organisation, UNESCO or the World Bank. They comprise universal organisations like the World Health Organisation as well as regional organisations like the African Union and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. And they range from intergovernmental organisations like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to supranational agencies like the International Criminal Court.

In the first part, this course aims to provide students with a systematic overview of the various roles international organisations play in world affairs and to enable them to think analytically about such organisations. Key themes include the *nature* of international organisations (What are international organisations? How can we make sense of them? What types of organizations exist?), their *emergence* (Why have states created international organisations - and why exactly these?), their *change* over time (Why do some organisations gain new members and expand or change their mandates while others do not?), and their *main effects* on member states as well as other elements of world affairs (Do international organisations matter - and if so, how?).

In the second part, we engage with selected contemporary debates in the study of international organizations. Examples could be:

- the 'gridlock' multilateral cooperation has experienced in recent years;
- the politicization of internationalized authority and the populist backlash against international organizations;
- the adjustment of international organizations to global power shifts and the rise of China in particular;



- the ways in which international organizations have responded to the proliferation of global governance instruments since the 1990s;
- the specific role and potential of bureaucratic leadership in international organizations; or
- the way non-Western and post-colonial International Relations scholarship challenges conventional views of international organizations.

Course structure

The course is held as a weekly seminar, if possible as an in-person class. The first part (weeks 1 to 6) provides a foundation. In the second part (weeks 7 to 12), we will examine selected debates in contemporary research on international organizations.

Course literature

The literature will be made available on canvas. In most weeks, it will include one handbook article and one research article (weeks 1 to 6) or two research articles (weeks 7 to 12).

Additional course information

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in Spring Semester 2021, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course will be conducted online via the platform Zoom.
- The recordings of the course will not be saved.
- The lecturer informs via Canvas/StudyNet on the changed implementation modalities of the course.
- Course content such as excursions will be cancelled.
- There will be no changes to the exam format.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (35%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Article presentation OR Reading response

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

--

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) (65%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Book Review OR Literature Review OR Policy Brief

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

--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Reading Response: Students write a summary and critical response to the readings covered (max. 2.000 words) for one of the course weeks. In this summary, students will be expected to clearly explain the arguments in the articles in their own words and offer critical reflections on the strengths and weaknesses of the readings. Students upload their response two days in advance of the class for which they have signed up and briefly present their arguments in class. This assignment can be delivered in the first or second part of the term, and students can choose between a reading response and an article presentation.

Article presentation: Students present an academic article on a topic of their choice but related to international organizations. In their presentation, students summarize the research question, the theoretical approach, the research design and major results of the study and critically comment on the merits of the study. They complement their presentation (5 minutes) with a written



summary and assessment of max. 2.000 words (including references), to be handed in after the presentation. This assignment can be delivered in the first or second part of the term, and students can choose between a reading response and an article presentation.

Policy Brief: Students write a policy brief (max. 5.000 words) offering a recommendation on a specific challenge an international organization is currently facing. To do this, students identify a recent newspaper or magazine article from a reputable publication (e.g. Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The Guardian, Le Monde, The Economist, New York Times) that discusses a policy problem international organizations either face or might be able to address. They will then prepare a policy brief that introduces the problem, explains the challenges current efforts to address it face, offers a potential solution to this problem (a "reform" or "innovation" of some kind), and, most important, reflects upon the problems that the international organization might encounter in trying to implement this solution. Students are expected to draw on course materials, on academic articles related to the problem they choose, and on a limited number of original sources (e.g. interviews or relevant policy documents). Students may draw up a 1-page memo outlining their plan and discuss it during weekly office hours anytime. Individual papers will be due on 06 June 2021.

Book Review: Students who choose a book review select a recent book in the field of international organizations (publication date 2019 or 2020) for which academic reviews do not yet exist. They follow the book review template of an academic journal (e.g. Perspectives on Politics) or of a popular science journal or review magazine (e.g. the New York Review of Books). They will summarize key arguments in their own words and, more importantly, critically assess the merits of the book in view of the existing literature on the subject. Book reviews are limited to 4.000 words and will be due on 06 June 2021.

Literature Review: Students summarize and critically assess the "state of the art" on a specific topic in the study of international organizations. Literature reviews will cover 8-12 publications in a given field and be limited to 5.000 words. The literature review (OR book review OR policy brief) will be due on 06 June.

Examination relevant literature

For the "reading response": Based on core readings identified in the course syllabus.

For the "article presentation": Selected either from the "further reading" sections of the course syllabus or from relevant academic journals in the field.

For the "book review" / "literature review" / "policy brief": Based on students' own literature research.

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).