



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

### 8,392: Consultancy Project: UN Security Council Reform

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Examination time: term time

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

Examination time: term time

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

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,392,1.00 Consultancy Project: UN Security Council Reform](#) -- Englisch -- [Heusgen Christoph](#), [Davis James Warren](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

Prior to taking this course, students must be well versed in the disciplines of International Affairs and have some experience in working in diverse teams towards an agreed upon resolution. It is beneficial to have knowledge in project management as well as some experience in presentation skills.

It is strongly recommended that students complete the MIA Morning course prior to taking the Consultancy Project course. The knowledge and skillsets acquired in the MIA Morning workshops will be extremely relevant and applicable in obtaining a successful outcome in this course.

Students are encouraged to consider enrolling in the following "MIA Mornings" modules, where they can further develop skills that will be useful for this project: "Elevator Pitch," "Making a Compelling Case" (I and II), "Writing Policy Briefs," and "Democratic Culture in Teams."

#### Learning objectives

During a Consultancy Project course, students

- demonstrate ability to evaluate and classify a problem and source a solution from its onset to its conclusion;
- acquire and foster skills in the application of theoretical concepts to real-life situations;
- gain experience with actual issues in the practitioner's world that arise in the course of the consultancy project;
- foster their creativity and various skills, including teamwork, project, communication, research, writing, presentation.

Students who participate in this course will, afterwards, be able to:  
succinctly present the history, structure and processes governing the United Nations Security Council;  
summarize the key aspects of the debates surrounding Security Council Reform.

#### Course content



This Consultancy Project course will focus on United Nations Security Council Reform. Designed at the San Francisco Conference in 1945, the current composition and rules governing the operation of the Security Council reflect bargains made among the allied powers after the Second World War. As we begin the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the framework increasingly appears outmoded and illegitimate: the distribution of power in the international system has shifted; large portions of the globe have no permanent representation on the Security Council; and many blame the veto power of the permanent five (P5) for the Security Council's inability to meaningfully address the most pressing threats to world peace and security. Many reform initiatives and processes have been launched during the past decades, but none were crowned by success.

Participants in this consultancy will work with a theoretician and practitioner of international relations to: 1) assess the need for Security Council reform; 2) identify the obstacles to Security Council reform; 3) devise a possible structure and rules for a reformed Security Council; 4) devise a strategy for the adoption of the reform plan. The proposed strategy has to take into account today's political realities and must not be construed on the assumption of an ideal world.

## Course structure

Students will work in small groups on a challenge presented to them by their 'client'. Students are responsible for a mid-term presentation which should introduce students' approach as well as highlight and discuss any roadblocks or difficulties faced. At the end of the course, students will present an in-depth analysis of the problem and a recommended solution.

**This course mainly consists of independent study (in groups). However, there will be several in-class lectures and presentations:**

- The course starts off with an introduction lecture that discusses in-depth the expectations of the course. Students are also introduced to the practitioner and be briefed on the problem. This kick-off session will be held in the first week of the Semester during which we will assign students to their respective groups.
- Students then work independently on their project, in their groups.
- At mid-term student groups present their progress (as well as roadblocks and difficulties) to the academic lecturer, their 'client' and other student groups. Students receive feedback.
- Groups then continue to work independently and present an in-depth analysis of the problem and their recommendations toward the end of the semester. Depending on the development of the COVID pandemic, this may include a visit to the United Nations in Geneva.

## Course literature

Course instructors will provide recommended references, including academic journal articles, on relevant topics in the first session.

## Additional course information

This course will be supervised by Professors James W. Davis and Christoph Heusgen. Prof. Davis is Professor of International Politics in the Department of Political Science (<https://ipw.unisg.ch/de/institut/areas/international-relations/current-projects/prof-james-w-davis>). His research focuses on questions of international security and international organization. Prof. Christoph Heusgen is currently the German Ambassador (Permanent Representative) to the United Nations where he successfully managed Germany's candidacy for a rotating seat on the Security Council where he has twice served as President (<https://new-york-un.diplo.de/un-en/botschaft/permanent-representative/919732>).

Ideally, meetings of the entire class and individual groups will take place in person on campus. If the ongoing corona pandemic prohibits in person meetings, course discussions and presentations will take place online via Zoom or MSTeams. In this case, presentations will be delivered live with students taking advantage of screen share option on Zoom.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/4)



## Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Examination time: term time

## Remark

Short status report before class and professors.

## 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

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## 2. Examination sub part (2/4)

### Examination time and form

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

Examination time: term time

### Remark

Final presentation before class and professors.

### 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

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## 3. Examination sub part (3/4)

### Examination time and form

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

Examination time: term time

### Remark

Final report (5,000 word maximum.)

### 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

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## 4. Examination sub part (4/4)

#### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

#### Remark

Reflection Paper (1,000 word maximum)

#### 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

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## Examination content

Students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of the course including group work and presentations.

**Midterm Presentation (20%, 15min.):** Student groups present their approach in solving the problem, brief on their progress,



including any roadblocks or difficulties that may have been encountered. All group members will be given the same grade.

**Final Presentation (30%, 20 min.):** Student groups present an in-depth analysis of the problem and their recommendations to the client. All group members will be given the same grade.

**Final Report (30%, max. 5'000 words):** Structured as a policy brief targeted at Amb. Heusgen, reports typically give summaries of relevant research, suggest possible policy options, and propose particular courses of action. Next to an explanation of the problem and the results of the research undertaken, it outlines the methods used and the theories applied to analyze the problem. The brief might include graphs, charts, or other visual aids that make it easier to digest the most important information. All group members will be given the same grade.

**Reflection Paper (20%, max. 1'000 words):** Targeted at Prof. Davis, this paper invites students to reflect on their groups' individual journey, from defining the problem to coming up with a solution. It allows them to consider the challenge to apply what they have learned in a classroom setting to contemporary problems in a real-world setting. The reflection paper should be submitted individually and will be graded on an individual basis.

## Examination relevant literature

A reading list with recommended readings will be distributed in the first session of the class. Groups will identify additional literature relevant to the class and their specific approach to United Nations Security Council Reform.

### 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).