



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

### 8,922: Business Ethics in Turbulent Times

ECTS credits: 5

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (80%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,922,1,00 Business Ethics in Turbulent Times \(CEMS Exclusive Course\)](#) -- Englisch -- [Wettstein Florian](#)

#### Course information

##### Course prerequisites

None

##### Learning objectives

The goal of this course is to develop a sound normative standpoint from which to assess the moral purpose and legitimacy not only of economic systems and organizations as well as of our own role and activity within and through them.

The specific course objectives include:

- Fostering awareness and sensitivity for the moral dimensions of (doing) business and developing reflective competence in order to recognize, understand, and discuss systematically the ethical dimensions of situations and decisions with which professionals are faced in business.
- Building the competence to navigate normative discourses surrounding the role and responsibility of business and managers in society.
- Developing a professional ethos, which is based on integrity and on the principled commitment to moral and professional responsibility.
- Understanding and navigating the particular challenges of ethics, corporate and professional responsibility in the international context.

##### Course content

This course takes an international perspective on business ethics and blends a general introduction to the subject with a more specific focus on some of the particular challenges and issues as they have emerged in the global arena particularly in the past few years. In a time of global turmoil, with right-wing populist movements on the rise and democracy under threat, with growing inequality and human rights under pressure, and with global corporations rivalling states in size and power, we will reflect on what this all means for the field of business ethics. What new issues and problems of ethical relevance have emerged in recent years and are emerging at the horizon? And what does business ethics as a field have to offer in tackling and solving them?

In this course, conceptual reflections on the foundations of business ethics will be complemented with the discussion of more specific issues and problem areas, ranging from human rights responsibilities of business to new regulatory approaches in the global economy to very concrete questions relating to corruption, digitalization, or ethical finance. The course balances reflections on the ethics of individual conduct within organizations and the market (micro perspective) with such on the institutional ethics of the market economy itself (macro perspective). Special emphasis will be given to the ethical analysis of corporate actors, that is, to questions of corporate responsibility (meso perspective).



Students' learning will take place in an interactive course format, which combines the discussion of case studies and specific management dilemmas as well as structured debates on controversial topics with complementary lecture parts and project presentations by students.

## Course structure

- I Introduction to Business Ethics
- II Business Ethics and Corporate Responsibility
- III Organizational Ethics
- IV Business and Human Rights
- V Business Ethics in Turbulent Times: Issues and Cases

## Course literature

An electronic course packet will be provided.

## Additional course information

The course will be held online. Contents and assignments have been adjusted to an online format. A potential lockdown during the course period will therefore not affect the course.

Students are required to read the papers of all students prior to the case presentations in the second part of the course.

Florian Wettstein is chair and professor of business ethics and director of the Institute for Business Ethics at University of St. Gallen. He is the author of *Multinational Corporations and Global Justice: Human Rights Obligations of a Quasi-Governmental Institution* (Stanford University Press, 2009) and Editor-in-Chief of the *Business and Human Rights Journal* (BHRJ), published by Cambridge University Press.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (80%)

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

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

#### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (20%)  
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

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#### Examination content

Cases and issues in corporate responsibility and international business ethics

#### Examination relevant literature

Participants are expected to gain an adequate understanding and overview of the relevant literature on their assigned research question.

Advice and support in regard to relevant literature for the respective topics will be given by the instructors upon participants' requests.



## 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).