



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

4,746: Verantwortung/Responsibility: Corporate Responsibility In Sub-Saharan Africa - Health Care, Technology & Human Rights

ECTS credits: 6

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Oral examination (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[4,746,1.00 Verantwortung/Responsibility: Corporate Responsibility In Sub-Saharan Africa - Health Care, Technology & Human Rights](#) -- Englisch -- [Wodajo Kebene Kejela](#) , [Ngosso Mathieu Thierry](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

NONE

Learning objectives

Students:

- know two normative theories on Corporate Responsibility: Functionalism and Capacitarism,
- know situations specific to sub-Saharan Africa that would justify a need for CR,
- know the specific nature of CR issues as they arise in Sub-Saharan Africa,
- are able to look critical and reflect on the role of the firm in societies where political and economic institutions are significantly weak like in Sub-Saharan Africa,
- understand CR as related to health care, human rights, technology and climate change in the specific context of Sub-Saharan Africa,

Course content

The notion of Corporate (Social) Responsibility generally refers to as a set of ethical standards or codes that firms adopt to address effectively several challenges they face in doing business. Yet, there is less emphasis on the context-sensitive aspect of this concept, whose facets are as numerous as the interpretations are different. This course on Corporate Responsibility (CR) in Sub-Saharan Africa takes seriously the contextual dependence of reflections regarding Corporate Responsibility.

In fact, the economic and political situation of most sub-Saharan African countries poses very specific challenges to CR. If most Sub-Saharan African countries are among the most lucrative growth markets for business compared to Western economies, they are also the most exposed to environmental and social crisis. Their economic attractiveness coupled to their very weak political infrastructure makes them more vulnerable and leaves them a very small margin of maneuver when bargaining with increasingly powerful firms.

In this respect, the course will discuss both the legitimacy for asking firms to share the burdens for fighting against poverty, climate change, unemployment, for equal access to health care or contributing to equal access to education, digital freedom and



security, respect for fundamental human rights and which actions and steps this implies concretely. The course will also discuss the difference, if any, that exist between local and foreign firms, as well as between small-size firms and multinationals in terms of CR in this context.

At the end of this course, the students must be able to take a critical and reflexive view on the role of the firm in societies where political and economic institutions are (or assumed to be) significantly weak like in sub-Saharan Africa. The students should also be able to integrate humanistic and ethical values into their daily personal action within and/or in interaction with these economic organizations inside these societies.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Introduction: Specificity of Corporate Responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa

1. Introduction to the normative basis of corporate responsibility
2. Identification and discussion of specificity of corporate responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa

1. Corporate Responsibility and Health Care
 1. Understanding corporate responsibility in the context of health care
 2. Understanding and critique of corporate responsibility in health care within the context of Sub-Saharan Africa
 3. Case studies

1. Corporate Responsibility and Technology
 1. Basics of technology companies' responsibility and normative assessments
 2. Understanding the unique nature of tech-companies responsibility in the context of Sub-Saharan Africa
 3. Case studies and critique of emerging narratives on technology and Sub-Saharan Africa

1. Corporate Responsibility and Human Rights
 1. Introduction to normative foundations of rights-based approach to corporate responsibility
 2. Corporate human rights responsibility in the context of Sub-Saharan Africa
 3. Assessment of corporate responsibility in light of the The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
 4. Case studies

1. Corporate Responsibility and Climate Change
 1. Introduction to normative foundations of corporate responsibility in climate change and environmental justice
 2. Corporate responsibility for environmental justice in the context of Sub-Saharan Africa
 3. Case studies

1. Conclusion: The future of Corporate Responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa

The course has two parts. The theoretical part will consist in focusing on very specific aspects of Corporate Responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa regarding **Technology, Human Rights, Health care and Climate Change**. The practical part will focus on group presentations of specific case-study.

The course is based on an interactive format, which requires presence by all students.

Contextual Studies are considered part of **Contact Learning**; thus, taking part properly implies **regular attendance**, be it online or in the classroom. In order to fully comply with the distance and hygiene rules applicable at the university, the course can be taught online or in smaller groups. It is the students' own responsibility to ensure that there is **no timetable clash** between the courses they have chosen. A detailed course outline and all relevant documents will be made available on **Studynet**. Only the current timetable as published on **Stundenplan online** does apply.

Course literature

Key and non-exhaustive literature

- Milton Friedman, 1970, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits" *The New York Times*
- Ivar Kolstad, 2007, "Why Firms Should Not Always Maximize profits" *Journal of Business Ethics* 76, pp. 136-145.
- Thomas Kimeli & Patrick Onsado, 2016 "Corporate Social responsibility in Africa: Context, Paradoxes, Stakeholder



- Orientations, Contestations and Reflections", in *Corporate Social Performance in the Age of Irresponsibility-Cross National Perspective*, pages 89-110.
- Wayne Wisser, Malcolm McIntosh, Charlotte Middleton, *Corporate Citizenship in Africa: Lessons From The Past, Path To The Future*, Sheffield: Greenleaf, 2006.
 - Stephen Vertigans, Samuel O. Idowu, René Schmidpeter (eds.), *Corporate Social Responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Springer, 2016.
 - Nien-hè Hsieh, 2015, "Should Business Have Human Rights Obligations", *Journal of Human Rights* 14,2, 218-236
 - Allen Buchanan & Matthew DeCamp, 2006, Responsibility for Global Health, *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* 27, 95-114.
 - Thomas Dunfee, 2006, "Do Firms with Unique Competencies for Rescuing Victims of Human Catastrophes Have Special Obligations? Corporate Responsibility and the Aids Catastrophe in Sub-Saharan Africa" *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 16.
 - John Ruggie, 2008, Protect, Respect and Remedy: A Framework for Business and Human Rights
 - Florian Wettstein, 2012, CSR and the debate on business and human rights: Bridging the great divide, *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 22 (4), 739-770
 - TOFT, K. (2020). Climate Change as a Business and Human Rights Issue: A Proposal for a Moral Typology. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 5(1), 1-27.
 - Emanuel Moss & Jacob Metcalf, 2019, "The Ethical Dilemma at the Heart of Big Tech Companies", *Harvard Business Review*
 - Kebene Wodajo & Isabel Ebert, 2021, Reimagining Corporate Responsibility for Structural (In)justice in the Digital Ecosystem: A Perspective from African Ethics of Duty, *AfronomicsLaw*

Additional course information

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in SpS2022, 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 permanently available;
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet on the changed implementation modalities of the course;

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The group presentation are conducted online and are being recorded;
- There are no major changes necessary to the examination information

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

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



2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Written work must be written without outside help according to the known citation standards, and a declaration of authorship must be attached, which is available as a template on the StudentWeb.

Documentation (quotations, bibliography, etc.) must be carried out universally and consistently according to the requirements of the chosen/specified citation standard such as e.g. APA or MLA.

The legal standard is recommended for legal work (cf. by way of example: FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R., SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (the latest edition in each case), or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The reference sources of information (paraphrases, quotations, etc.) that has been taken over literally or in the sense of the original text must be integrated into the text in accordance with the requirements of the citation standard used. Informative and bibliographical notes must be included as footnotes (recommendations and standards e.g. in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien (latest edition)).

For all written work at the University of St.Gallen, the indication of page numbers is mandatory, regardless of the standard chosen. Where page numbers are missing in sources, the precise designation must be made differently: chapter or section title, section number, article, etc.

Supplementary aids

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Oral examination (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Extended Closed Book

The use of aids is limited; any additional aids permitted are exhaustively listed under "Supplementary aids". Basically, the following is applicable:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and mono- or bilingual dictionaries (no subject-specific dictionaries) without hand-written notes are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models and any electronic dictionaries are inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as notebooks, tablets, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.



Supplementary aids

None.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Written assignment: Students prepare an individual paper (2500-3000 words) on topics related to the course. They can work either on an Issue or on a specific Case of their choice or based on course content. The course director will approve topics as well as cases upstream. In both cases, students will hand in a one-page proposal paper plan with a title, a clear research focus or question (for Issues) or description of the issue/problem underlying a specific case (for Cases) and an abstract underlying the structure of the argument of the analysis. There will be no duplication of topics: application of a first come first serve rule.

Please, note the following: Proposal are due beforehand, the earlier you have your proposal approved, the more time you will have to complete your paper. More detail on examination content will be given during the first class.

Group presentation: Students will also have to prepare a group presentation on one of the topics indicated in the syllabus. Each group will consist in 5 students max. Presentation and discussion will last 45 minutes (around 20 minutes for the presentation and 25 minutes for discussion). All presentation groups must consult with the course director on the content of the presentation.

Oral examination: Finally, students will also prepare an oral examination that will last between 10 and 15 minutes on any of the topics discussed in the course: Corporate responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially as it relates to health, technology, human rights and climate change.

Examination relevant literature

The students will rely on the literature provided during the course but also on the literature they will find relevant for their individual paper and group presentation.

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, 27 January 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 21 March 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 21 March 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 11 April 2022).