



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

### 6,316: Inequality and Redistribution

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

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

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Active participation (10%)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,316.1.00 Inequality and Redistribution](#) -- Englisch -- [Sachs Dominik](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

Students should have a sound understanding of basic statistics as well as micro- and macroeconomic principles.

#### Learning objectives

The first objective of this course is to endow participants with a good understanding of how different dimensions of inequality can be measured and how different inequality measures can be interpreted and compared.

The second objective is that students learn the most important empirical facts about inequality. Further, they will learn which methods are used at the research frontier on this topic.

Third, students learn to use the toolkit of an economist to analyze and assess different redistributive policies, both from a theoretical and an empirical angle. The approach will be quite applied and not too technical.

#### Course content

In the first part of the course, we will focus on the measurement of inequality, empirical facts and trends. For this purpose, we will mainly read (current) research papers. We will structure the first part into three subparts: (i) inequality in income and wealth, (ii) gender inequality and finally, (iii) we also look at social mobility and (in)equality of opportunity. Throughout this part, we will study global trends but also look at differences across countries.

In the second part of the course, we will study policies that mitigate inequality. We will take a normative standpoint and analyze which policies are most efficient in mitigating inequality. Similar as in the first part, we will structure the second part into three subparts: (i) the design of taxes and social insurance to mitigate income and wealth inequality, (ii) the role of gender and family policies to mitigate gender inequality and (iii) the role of education and family policies for social mobility. The second part will be a bit less paper-based and more slides-based than the first part. It will contain some theoretical analysis as well, but in an applied fashion.

#### Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course consists of weekly sessions of two hours. Most sessions will be split into lectures (input by the lecturer), presentations by the students and discussions.



The lecturer will always prepare slides that will be shared with students. Students are also required to read the relevant papers.

The goal is to have an active discussion in the class!

## Course literature

Journal articles, slides and other sources become available on Canvas during the semester.

## 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 available for 30 day;
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet and/or e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- There are no changes necessary to the course information.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The presentations are conducted online and are being recorded;
- Further information are communicated via StudyNet and/or e-mail;
- There are no additional 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) (30%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

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##### Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

##### Supplementary aids

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##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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#### 2. Examination sub part (2/3)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

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

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## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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

### Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (10%)

Examination time: term time

### Remark

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### Examination-aid rule

Active classroom participation

In the "Active classroom participation" examination form, regular participation in class is assessed.

The assessment criteria can be as follows:

- Requests to speak enrich the discussion (productive) / requests to speak disturb the discussion (counterproductive);
- Requests to speak are correct/requests to speak are incorrect;
- Requests to speak are frequent/average/rare;
- No requests to speak, but students follow the lesson/no requests to speak and students do not noticeably follow the lessons.

### Supplementary aids

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### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English



## Examination content

The whole course is worth 4 ECTS and will be graded as follows:

Presentation: Students present in groups of approx. 3 students during class. The presentation counts for 30% of the final grade.

Term Paper: Students work individually on their term papers. The term paper has to be handed in as a pdf-file. The essay counts for 60% of the final grade.

Finally, active classroom participation counts for 10% of the grade.

The presentations as well as the term papers will cover specific problems or questions regarding the following topics:

- inequality in income and wealth
- gender inequality, social mobility and (in)equality of opportunity
- the design of taxes and social insurance to mitigate income and wealth inequality
- the role of gender and family policies to mitigate gender inequality
- the role of education and family policies for social mobility

## Examination relevant literature

All relevant literature for the examination will be posted on Canvas during the semester.

### 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).