



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

6,325: Spring Project: Designing and Writing a Qualitative Study in the Field of Public Management

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (70%)

Examination time: term time

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

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,325,1.00 Spring Project: Designing and Writing a Qualitative Study in the Field of Public Management](#) -- Englisch -- [Casalini Francesca](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

- The course is part of the "Spring Projects", therefore it should be taken after all BIA core courses have been completed.
- The course is intended to support students in writing the research proposal for their Bachelor thesis, therefore having identified a preliminary topic would be a plus (even if not mandatory).

Learning objectives

In this seminar, students advance their knowledge of social science research methods, with particular focus on qualitative approaches, including case study research. Students apply the tools presented during the lectures to a specific topic or research question of their interest. Developing an applied research project and writing a well-structured research proposal for their Bachelor thesis is one of the most prominent outcome of the course.

At the end of the course, students are able to:

- Interrogate existing knowledge, and conduct a literature review within their field of interest
- Formulate a relevant and interesting research question and develop a research framework
- Have an understanding of qualitative research methods, including main data collection and data analysis methods, and how to apply them to a specific study
- Present their results in a clear, logical and effective way, both visually and verbally.

Course content

This course offers a hands-on approach on how to design and implement a qualitative research study, including case study research, which is one of the most frequently adopted research design in Bachelor thesis. Key contents presented during the lectures include:

- The nature and goals of a typical research project
- How to structure and design a research project
- The difference between qualitative and quantitative research
- Qualitative research approaches: case study, narrative analysis, grounded theory
- Data collection methods in qualitative research
- Data analysis with qualitative data: memos, coding, constant comparison



- Presenting and writing: how to write the introduction, how to present data, how to discuss results and write the conclusions
- Giving and receiving feedback.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

This course takes place every week and is based on hands-on, student-oriented collaborative learning approach. It is designed to offer a mix of lectures, group discussions and applied exercises. At the beginning of the course, students are provided with a set of qualitative data from real-life cases and step-by-step develop an applied study. Under the guidance of the lecturer, students also prepare the research proposal for their Bachelor thesis.

Course literature

- The course is based on the seminal book "The craft of research", which students can either purchase or borrow from the library: Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & Fitzgerald, W. T. (2016). The craft of research, Fourth Edition. University of Chicago press
- A digital reader with further sources is made available on StudyNet.

Additional course information

About the instructor

Francesca Casalini is Contract Lecturer of Public-Private Collaborations and Ph.D. Candidate in Management at the University of St. Gallen. She is also Junior Lecturer of Government, Health and Non-Profit at Bocconi University in Milano. Her main areas of research include Public-Private Collaborations for Infrastructure and Business Development, Business Model Innovation in Government, Social Entrepreneurship and Impact Investing.

Dispositions in the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in SpS2022

The course takes place face-to-face, whenever possible. 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 will not be saved;
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- Students' group presentations are conducted online and are being recorded.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (70%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Bachelor thesis' research proposal

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

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

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

Examination time: term time

Remark

Group project with two in-class presentations

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

Examination content

Group project. At the beginning of the course, students are divided in small groups (2-3 participants) and provided with a set of qualitative data from real-life cases and step-by-step, under the guidance of the lecturer, develop an applied study. Students present their advancements in two presentation sessions, each with a weight of 15%. In total, this group applied project is weighted 30% of the final course grade.

Term paper. Students write a research proposal for their Bachelor thesis and submit it after the end of the course. Further instructions on format and length are made available on StudyNet. The paper is prepared and graded on an individual basis. The paper is weighted 70% of the final course grade.

Examination relevant literature

Examination is based not on the contents and tools learned during the course, but mainly on their application. Therefore, the book "The craft of research" and the additional materials made available through StudyNet serve as a guidance for students while developing their own research project.



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).