



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

8,373: International Organizations

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (35%)

Examination time: term time

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Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,373,1.00 International Organizations](#) -- Englisch -- [Dingwerth Klaus](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

The course is a core elective in the MIA programme. It presumes basic knowledge of the major theories of International Relations (i.e., neo-realism, institutionalism, constructivism, critical theory). Students who plan to attend the course but lack basic knowledge in IR theory are strongly encouraged to read up before term starts.

Learning objectives

- Students are able to apply major IR theories to selected cases;
- Students know and understand different types of international organizations as well as the roles these organizations typically play in global governance, and they are able to analyse such types and roles on their own;
- Students are able to make sense of, critically comment on and make effective use of contemporary academic research on international organizations in their own assignments.
- Students are able to critically assess the potential as well as the challenges international organizations face in pursuing specific mandates in political, legal, and economic environments marked by significant complexity.

Course content

International organisations figure prominently in virtually all areas of international politics. They include general purpose organisations like the United Nations (UN) as well as issue specific organisations such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO), UNESCO or the World Bank. They comprise universal organisations like the World Health Organisation (WHO) as well as regional organisations like the African Union (AU) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). And they range from intergovernmental organisations like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to supranational agencies like the International Criminal Court (ICC).

In the first part, the course aims to provide students with a systematic overview of the various roles international organisations play in world affairs and to enable them to think analytically about such organisations. Key themes include:

- The nature of international organisations: What are international organisations? How can we make sense of them? What types of organizations exist?;
- The emergence of international organizations: When and why do states create international organisations - and why exactly these?
- Change over time: Why do some organisations gain (or lose) new members, expand (or disappear) or adjust their mandates while others do not? What makes institutional reform possible?
- The effects of international organizations: Do international organisations matter - and if so, when and how?



In the second part, we engage with selected contemporary debates in the study of international organizations. Examples could include: the relation between bureaucratic apparatuses and member states; the 'gridlock' multilateral cooperation has experienced in recent years; the politicization of internationalized authority and the populist backlash against international organizations; the adjustment of international organizations to global power shifts and the rise of China in particular; the ways in which international organizations have responded to the proliferation of global governance instruments since the 1990s; the way non-Western and post-colonial International Relations scholarship challenges conventional views of international organizations.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course is held as a weekly seminar, if possible as an in-person class. The first part (weeks 1 to 6) provides a foundation. In the second part (weeks 7 to 12), we will examine selected debates in contemporary research on international organizations.

Course literature

The literature will be made available on canvas. In most weeks, it will include one handbook article and one research article (weeks 1 to 6) or two research articles (weeks 7 to 12).

Additional course information

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in Spring Semester 2022, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course will be conducted online via the platform Zoom.
- The recordings of the course will not be saved.
- The lecturer informs via Canvas/StudyNet on the changed implementation modalities of the course.
- Course content such as excursions will be cancelled.
- There will be no changes to the exam format.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (35%)
Examination time: term time

Remark

Article presentation OR Reading response

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

none

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (65%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Book Review OR Literature Review OR Policy Brief

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).

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Supplementary aids

none

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Students will be asked to complete two assignments. In relation to each assignment, they may choose among three options.

The first assignment is a contribution to class discussion. Based on a written paper (1.000-2.000 words) submitted two days before class, students present their arguments in class (5-8 minutes).

For this assignment, students can choose between (a) a reading response, (b) an application of the reading to an international organization of their choice or (c) an article presentation.

(a) Reading Response: Students provide a summary and critical response to the readings covered for one of the course weeks.



They briefly summarize the arguments of the articles/chapters in their own words and then critically reflect upon specific aspects they find particularly interesting for class discussion. These aspects could relate to specific strengths and weaknesses of the readings, to interesting ways in which the readings relate to arguments we have come across in previous weeks, or specific ideas that may be worth discussing further. In some weeks, the authors of a reading response may also be asked to focus on a specific aspect or question or to adopt a specific position that we can then use in class discussions.

(b) Application of an argument to a selected IO: In this assignment, students present an international organization of their own choice in class. This will help us to get a better idea of the variety of international organizations that exist (or have existed). In their presentation, they not only describe the organization but also link their presentation to the theories and/or issues we discussed in the week before.

Example: In week 3, we discuss when and how states create international organizations. In week 4, a student introduces us to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and discusses how the arguments we examined in week 3 apply to the creation of the ICC in 1998/2002.

(c) Article presentation: Students present an academic article on a topic of their choice but related to international organizations. In their presentation, students summarize the research question, the theoretical approach, the research design and major results of the study and critically comment on the merits of the study.

The second assignment can be completed after term. Based on our overview of issues and debates, it is meant to add some depth to students' knowledge about international organizations. Students will have received feedback on their first paper during term so that the second assignment can also be used to further practice and improve academic writing skills. For the assignment, students can choose between (d) a policy brief, (e) a literature review, and (f) a book review. This paper will be due on Monday, 06 June 2022 and may range from 2.500 to 5.000 words including references.

(d) Policy Brief: Students write a policy brief in which they identify a specific challenge an international organization is currently facing and then assess alternative response options ("How should the [ORGANIZATION] respond to [CHALLENGE]?"). Challenges can be drawn from the academic literature or from recent newspaper or magazine article from a reputable publication (e.g. Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The Guardian, Le Monde, The Economist, New York Times) that discusses a policy problem international organizations either face or might be able to address. The policy brief introduces the challenge, describes the alternative options to address it, and assesses these options based on a conceptual and theoretical framework. Students may draw on course materials for their paper, but they will need to their own literature research on top.

(e) Literature Review: Students summarize and critically assess the "state of the art" on a specific topic in the study of international organizations. Literature reviews will cover 8-12 publications in a given field. Students may draw on course materials for their paper, but they will need to their own literature research on top.

(f) Book Review: Students select a recent book in the field of international organizations (publication date 2020 or 2021) for which academic reviews do not yet exist. They follow the book review template of an academic journal (e.g. Perspectives on Politics, International Studies Review) or of a popular science journal or review magazine (e.g. the New York Review of Books). They will first summarize key arguments in their own words and then critically reflect upon these arguments as well as upon the merits of the book.

Examination relevant literature

For the "reading response": Based on core readings identified in the course syllabus.

For the "article presentation": Selected either from the "further reading" sections of the course syllabus or from relevant academic journals in the field.

For the "application to an IO": Based on the core reading and students' own literature research (or "further reading" section of the syllabus).

For the "book review" / "literature review" / "policy brief": Based on students' own literature research.



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).