



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

8,392: Consultancy Project: Resolving the Western Sahara Conflict?

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Examination time: term time

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

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,392,1.00 Consultancy Project: Resolving the Western Sahara Conflict?](#) -- Englisch -- [Heusgen Christoph](#), [Davis James Warren](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Prior to taking this course, students must be well versed in the disciplines of International Affairs and have some experience in working in diverse teams towards an agreed upon resolution. It is beneficial to have knowledge in project management as well as some experience in presentation skills.

It is strongly recommended that students complete the MIA Morning course prior to taking the Consultancy Project course. The knowledge and skillsets acquired in the MIA Morning workshops will be extremely relevant and applicable in obtaining a successful outcome in this course.

Learning objectives

During a Consultancy Project course, students

- demonstrate ability to evaluate and classify a problem and find a solution from its onset to its conclusion;
- acquire and foster skills in the application of theoretical concepts to real-life situations;
- gain experience with actual issues in the practitioner's world that arise in the course of the consultancy project;
- foster their creativity and various skills, including teamwork, project, communication, research, writing, presentation.

Students who participate in this course will, afterwards, be able to:

- understand the origins and contemporary obstacles to solving the ongoing conflict over the Western Sahara;
- choose and apply an appropriate method to analyze specific problem settings;
- translate academic findings to the policy world by learning how to write a policy brief;
- reflect critically on the links between theory and practice and how each relates to the other in the field of international affairs.



Course content

In October 2021, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterrez nominated Staffan de Mistura as his new Personal Envoy for the Western Sahara. De Mistura follows former German President Horst Köhler who stepped down from this post in May 2019. De Mistura will try - as his many predecessors did - to resolve the Western Sahara conflict which dates back to the last century. You are asked to work in groups as consultants to Mr. de Mistura and propose to him a possible way forwards. To do this, you have to understand the complexities of the situation, the history of this conflict and the interests of the parties directly and indirectly involved. It is important that you look at the legal basis for the resolution of the conflict, in particular at relevant Security Council Resolutions.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Students will work in small groups on a challenge presented to them by their 'client'. Students are responsible for a mid-term presentation which should introduce students' approach as well as highlight and discuss any roadblocks or difficulties faced. At the end of the course, students will present an in-depth analysis of the problem and a recommended solution.

This course mainly consists of independent study (in groups) and one-to-one meetings between lecturers and groups. However, there will be several in-class lectures and presentations:

- The course starts off with an introduction lecture that discusses in-depth the expectations of the course. Students are also introduced to their client and are briefed on the problem. This kick-off session also serves the formation of student groups.
- Students then work independently on their project, in their groups.
- At mid-term student groups present the chosen approach to analyze the question and their progress (as well as roadblocks and difficulties) to the academic lecturer, their 'client' and other student groups. Students receive feedback.
- Groups then continue to work independently and present an in-depth analysis of the problem and their recommendations toward the end of the course.

Course literature

Course instructors will provide recommended references, including academic journal articles, on relevant topics during the course.

Additional course information

This course will be supervised by Professors James W. Davis and Christoph Heusgen.

Prof. Davis is Professor of International Politics in the Department of Political Science. His research focuses on questions of international security and international organization.

Prof. Christoph Heusgen was the German Ambassador (Permanent Representative) to the United Nations where he successfully managed Germany's candidacy for a rotating seat on the Security Council where he has twice served as President.

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 until the end of the semester;
- The lecturer informs via e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The midterm and final presentations are conducted online and are being recorded; There are no other changes necessary to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s



1. Examination sub part (1/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Short status report before class and professors.

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

none

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/4)

Examination time and form

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

Examination time: term time

Remark

Final presentation before class and professors.

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

none

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

3. Examination sub part (3/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Final report (5,000 word maximum.)

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

4. Examination sub part (4/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Reflection Paper (1,000 word maximum)

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.

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Supplementary aids

none

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content



Students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of the course including group work and presentations.

Midterm Presentation (20%): Student groups present their approach in addressing the question, brief on their progress, including any roadblocks or difficulties that may have been encountered. All group members will be given the same grade.

Final Presentation (30%): Student groups present an in-depth analysis of the problem and their recommendations to the client. All group members will be given the same grade.

Final Report (30%, max. 5'000 words): Structured as a policy brief targeted at the client, reports typically give summaries of relevant research, suggest possible policy options, and propose particular courses of action. Next to an explanation of the problem and the results of the research undertaken, it outlines the methods used and the theories applied to analyze the problem. The brief might include graphs, charts, or other visual aids that make it easier to digest the most important information. All group members will be given the same grade.

Reflection Paper (20%, max. 1'000 words): Targeted at the academic lecturer, this paper invites students to reflect on their groups' individual journey, from defining the problem to coming up with a solution. It allows them to consider the challenge to apply what they have learned in a classroom setting to contemporary problems in a real-world setting. The reflection paper should be submitted individually and will be graded on an individual basis.

Examination relevant literature

Course instructors will provide recommended references, including academic journal articles, on relevant topics during the course.

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).