



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

8,474: International Human Rights in Practice

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (75%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Active participation (25%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,474,1.00 International Human Rights in Practice](#) -- Englisch -- [Burri Nina](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

There is no specific prior knowledge required. However, participants should be prepared to participate actively in the (online) class discussions.

Learning objectives

1. Students will know the basic concepts, the most relevant treaties and mechanisms of international human rights protection.
2. Students will understand tools and techniques for human rights investigations and different approaches to human rights litigation.
3. Students have a solid knowledge of various ways NGOs, individuals and groups can and do seek to have their rights recognized, restored and fulfilled.
4. Students are able to analyse past and current rights struggles and critically examine the human rights dimensions of ongoing public debates.
5. Students will know different profiles of practitioners and organizations working in the field of human rights.

Course content

This course examines basic concepts of international human rights protection with a focus on practice: It covers investigation tools and techniques (e.g. open source intelligence, interviewing witnesses) as well as different approaches to litigation (e.g. strategic human rights litigation). Through the use of practical examples and case law from a variety of jurisdictions and thematic areas, students will familiarize themselves with challenges and opportunities of human rights practice.

The purpose of the course is to acquaint students, on an advanced level, with fundamental concepts and questions of human rights practice, and to analyze its strengths and weaknesses.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

A kick-off of the course takes place in the first week of the semester together with Dr. Claire Fenton-Glynn (lecturer of the course 'International Human Rights'). In this kick-off session, we will explain the different concepts and approaches of the two courses.



The course 'International Human Rights in Practice' will focus on two main aspects:

1. Investigating human rights violations (from basic investigation standards to open source intelligence) and
2. Litigating human rights violations (from mass atrocities to climate change).

A detailed structure of the course will be made available on StudyNet in March 2022.

Course literature

Please find below some recommended books on human rights, strategic litigation and human rights investigations. However, it is not compulsory to buy a book as we will be using texts, podcasts and videos from many different sources.

- Steven Wheatley, *The Idea of International Human Rights Law*, Oxford University Press, 2019
- Daniel Moeckli, Sangeeta Shah, Sandesh Sivakumaran, *International Human Rights Law*, Oxford University Press, 2018
- Walter Kälin, Jörg Kunzli, *The Law of International Human Rights Protection*, Oxford University Press, 2019
- Helen Duffy, *Strategic Human Rights Litigation - Understanding and Maximising Impact*, Hart Publishing 2018
- Philip Alston and Sarah Knuckey, *The Transformation of Human Rights Fact-Finding*, Oxford University Press, 2016
- San Dubberley, Alexa Koenig and Daragh Murray, *Digital Witness - Using Open Source Information for Human Rights Investigation, Documentation, and Accountability*, Oxford University Press, 2020

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 Zoom.
- The recordings of the course are available for 30 days.
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet and e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course.
- There are no changes necessary to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (75%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Essay on a human rights case.

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 - Active participation (25%)

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

All materials discussed in class and listed in StudyNet.

Examination relevant literature

The literature relevant to the exam will be made available on StudyNet.



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).