



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2022

8,683: Medien/Media: The Impact of Covid-19 on China's Media and Society

ECTS credits: 3

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Portfolio (100%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,683,1.00 Medien/Media: The Impact of Covid-19 on China's Media and Society](#) -- Englisch -- [Cozzi Guido](#), [Berg Daria](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

none

Learning objectives

Upon the successful completion of the course, students will

- be familiar with the key elements of China's economic and political system;
- understand the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on China's media and society
- understand the theoretical debates around the subject;
- be aware of China's new mediascape, in particular the new digital media and their impact on rapid cultural, economic and social changes taking place in contemporary China.

Course content

This course proposes to analyse the impact of Covid-19 on China's media and society, with particular reference to digital innovation. China's political economy will be affected by the Covid-19 experience. According to influential recent political economy theories (Acemoglu and Robinson, "The Narrow Corridor", 2020), China's legalistic school of thought, rooting back to Lord Shang Yang's doctrine during the Qin dynasty (221-207 BC), still permeates political leadership. In such a view, the state is strong when society is weak. Covid-19 intervenes as a quasi-natural experiment in this context because it forces an increase in the state capacity at the expense of society's ability to mobilize and control the state. Multiple possible consequences ensue. On the bright side, massive state capacity permits the immediate implementation of rapid and efficient pandemic containment policies. The impact on health and the economy is enormous and positive. On the other side, the intrusion of an already authoritarian state into people's lives and the massive loss of social capital implied in social distancing will negatively impact freedom. How will this affect the economy in the long run? It may reduce knowledge exchange and creativity, two essential ingredients of innovation. Will this direct China's economy towards the middle-income trap? On a related dimension, social distancing is mainly physical, while digitally speaking, people can interact. Indeed Covid has spurred digital innovations, from distance learning to Fintech and more. This innovative boost is positive for the economy and has enormous social media repercussions. People increasingly use social media, thereby increasing the market and stimulating demand and innovation in this critical direction. At the same time, censorship will be stress-tested during this process. The effects on society's virtual mobilization ability could be ambiguous. We propose to analyse such issues from the unique interdisciplinary platform of macroeconomics and Chinese Studies in light of recent theory and evidence.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course is taught completely **online** and structured by four workshops. Each workshop has a duration of 6 x 45 minutes.



Contextual Studies are considered part of **Contact Learning**; thus, taking part properly implies **regular attendance**, be it online or in the classroom. In order to fully comply with the distance and hygiene rules applicable at the university, the course can be taught online or in smaller groups. It is the students' own responsibility to ensure that there is **no timetable clash** between the courses they have chosen. A detailed course outline and all relevant documents will be made available on **Studynet**. Only the current timetable as published on **Stundenplan online** does apply.

Course literature

An online reader will be available on Studynet by Teaching Week 2.

Additional course information

The course is taught completely **online**.

Daria **Berg**, DPhil (1995) in Chinese Studies, University of Oxford, is Chair Professor (Ordinaria) of Chinese Culture and Society at the University of St.Gallen. She has published extensively on Chinese literature, popular culture and cultural history. Her latest monograph, entitled *Women and the Literary World in Early Modern China, 1580-1700* (Routledge, 2013), won the International Convention of Asia Scholars Book Prize 2015 Specialist Publication Accolade. Her current research explores urban culture in contemporary China, including the new digital media, literature, art, gender, audio-visual culture and Internet culture.

Professor Guido **Cozzi**, PhD (NYU), is Chair Professor (Ordinarius) of Macroeconomics at the University of St. Gallen. He has published extensively on macroeconomics, economic growth theory, and political economy. He also consults private and public institutions, such as more recently the European Commission. He is currently researching elites power and value orientation in different economies and recently ranked 32 countries (including China) in the Elite Quality Report 2020.

For queries, please contact Nicole Reich Weber Nicole.ReichWeber@unisg.ch

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/1)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Portfolio (100%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Portfolio

A portfolio is a mixed examination form (not a selective individual examination), which is made up as follows:

- The portfolio examination comprises at least three individual examination parts;
- The individual components are connected with each other or build on each other, at least one component is dedicated to self-reflection and the learning process;
- The examination parts also function as a collection of material or artefacts;
- They must cover a period of at least one semester;
- The portfolio contains written and oral examination parts (e.g. essays, term papers, presentations, moderation, written work);
- Performances can be provided individually or in groups; a combination of individual components and group performances is possible;



- The examination parts can be graded or ungraded;
- Ungraded components are either pass/fail (according to certain criteria) or submitted/not submitted (without criteria);
- The combined examination parts result in an (overall) grade.

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 (e.g. APA or MLA).

The legal standard is recommended for legal work (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende, newest edition respectively, 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 can be found, for example, in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien, newest edition respectively).

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.

Presentations/Moderation: In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the faculty members.

Practical examination: There is no provision for an examination aid regulation for this examination form. The rules and regulations of the University of St.Gallen apply in a subsidiary capacity.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

One portfolio (100%) (to be submitted as one PDF file via Studynet) including the following parts:

1. One individual **essay** on a topic of your choice related to the main lecture topics (2500 words; weighted **50%**);
2. Written evidence of **individual contributions to the group tasks** (weighted **50%**) in the form of:
 - a. One PowerPoint group presentation on a selected topic, which is also presented in class (weighted **40%**).
 - b. Contributions to the group work (online discussion forum and peer feedback) as evidence of active contribution to the group tasks (weighted **10%**);
 - c. A **self-reflection on the course and your learning** experience (ca. 200 words) (marked for inclusion; contents not marked, but a deduction of 0.2 Points will apply if it is missing).

Late submission will be penalised with a deduction of 0.2 Points per day off the final mark. This might also affect the final rounding.

Examination relevant literature

Key Readings will be provided in the Online Reader available on Studynet by the end of Teaching Week 2.



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).