



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

4,746: Verantwortung/Responsibility: Corporate Responsibility In Sub-Saharan Africa - Health Care, Technology & Human Rights

ECTS credits: 6

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Oral examination (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[4,746,1.00 Verantwortung/Responsibility: Corporate Responsibility In Sub-Saharan Africa - Health Care, Technology & Human Rights](#) -- Englisch -- [Ngosso Mathieu Thierry](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

NONE

Learning objectives

Students:

- know two normative theories on Corporate Responsibility: Functionalism and Capacitarism,
- know situations specific to sub-Saharan Africa that would justify a need for CR,
- know the specific nature of CR issues as they arise in Sub-Saharan Africa,
- are able to look critical and reflect on the role of the firm in societies where political and economic institutions are significantly weak like in Sub-Saharan Africa,
- understand CR as related to health care, human rights, technology and climate change in the specific context of Sub-Saharan Africa,

Course content

The notion of Corporate (Social) Responsibility generally refers to as a set of ethical standards or codes that firms adopt to address effectively several challenges they face in doing business. Yet, there is less emphasis on the context-sensitive aspect of this concept, whose facets are as numerous as the interpretations are different. This course on Corporate Responsibility (CR) in Sub-Saharan Africa takes seriously the contextual dependence of reflections regarding Corporate Responsibility.

In fact, the economic and political situation of most sub-Saharan African countries poses very specific challenges to CR. If most Sub-Saharan African countries are among the most lucrative growth markets for business compared to Western economies, they are also the most exposed to environmental and social crisis. Their economic attractiveness coupled to their very weak political infrastructure makes them more vulnerable and leaves them a very small margin of maneuver when bargaining with increasingly powerful firms.

In this respect, the course will discuss both the legitimacy for asking firms to share the burdens for fighting against poverty, climate change, unemployment, for equal access to health care or contributing to equal access to education, respect for



fundamental human rights and which actions and steps this implies concretely. The course will also discuss the difference, if any, that exist between local and foreign firms, as well as between small-size firms and multinationals in terms of CR in this context.

At the end of this course, the students must be able to take a critical and reflexive view on the role of the firm in societies where political and economic institutions are (or assumed to be) significantly weak like in sub-Saharan Africa. The students should also be able to integrate humanistic and ethical values into their daily personal action within and/or in interaction with these economic organizations inside these societies.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

1. Introduction: Specificity of Corporate Responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa
2. Corporate Responsibility and Poverty
3. Corporate Responsibility and Human Rights
4. Corporate Responsibility and Health Care
5. Corporate Responsibility and Climate Change
6. The Future of Corporate Responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa

This course has two parts. The theoretical part will focus on specific aspects of Corporate Responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa such as climate change, health care, poverty or human rights. The practical part will focus on group presentations.

The course is based on an interactive format, which requires presence and active participation by all students.

Contextual Studies are considered part of **Contact Learning**; thus, taking part properly implies **regular attendance**. 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

Key and non-exhaustive literature

- Milton Friedman, 1970, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits" *The New York Times*
- Ivar Kolstad, 2007, "Why Firms Should Not Always Maximize profits" *Journal of Business Ethics* 76, pp. 136-145.
- Thomas Kimeli & Patrick Onsado, 2016 "Corporate Social responsibility in Africa: Context, Paradoxes, Stakeholder Orientations, Contestations and Reflections", in *Corporate Social Performance in the Age of Irresponsibility-Cross National Perspective*, pages 89-110.
- Wayne Wisser, Malcolm McIntosh, Charlotte Middleton, *Corporate Citizenship in Africa: Lessons From The Past, Path To The Future*, Sheffield: Greenleaf, 2006.
- Stephen Vertigans, Samuel O. Idowu, René Schmidpeter (eds.), *Corporate Social Responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Springer, 2016.
- Nien-hê Hsieh, 2015, "Should Business Have Human Rights Obligations", *Journal of Human Rights* 14,2, 218-236
- Allen Buchanan & Matthew DeCamp, 2006, Responsibility for Global Health, *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* 27, 95-114.
- Thomas Dunfee, 2006, "Do Firms with Unique Competencies for Rescuing Victims of Human Catastrophes Have Special Obligations? Corporate Responsibility and the Aids Catastrophe in Sub-Saharan Africa" *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 16.
- John Ruggie, 2008, Protect, Respect and Remedy: A Framework for Business and Human Rights
- Florian Wettstein, 2012, CSR and the debate on business and human rights: Bridging the great divide, *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 22 (4), 739-770
- TOFT, K. (2020). Climate Change as a Business and Human Rights Issue: A Proposal for a Moral Typology. *Business and Human Rights Journal*, 5(1), 1-27.

Additional course information

Thierry **Ngosso** is a political philosopher interested in global justice and more precisely in three important and interconnected contemporary issues in this field: climate change, human rights and migration. He addresses global justice from both the State/Firm division of labor and the Western/non-Western perspectives. His research has therefore a strong focus on business corporations and on comparative philosophy. Ngosso is currently a Guest lecturer at the University of Maroua and at the department of philosophy of the Catholic University of Central Africa and a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Business Ethics at the University of St. Gallen where he is managing director of the Competence Center for African Research. He was awarded a 4-years Ambizione grant (2019-2023) by the Swiss National Foundation to conduct a research on 'The (human) right to health (care) and the obligations of states and firms in sub-Saharan Africa'.



Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids

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Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids

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Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

3. Examination sub part (3/3)



Examination time and form

Decentral - Oral examination (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Closed Book

The use of aids is prohibited as a matter of principle, with the exception of pocket calculator models of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and, in case of non-language exams, bilingual dictionaries without any handwritten notes. Any other aids that are admissible must be explicitly listed by faculty members in the paragraph entitled "Supplementary aids" of the course and examination fact sheet; this list is exhaustive.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.

Supplementary aids

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Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Written assignment: Students prepare an individual NORMATIVE paper (2500-3000 words) on topics related to the course. They can work either on an Issue or on a specific Case of their choice or based on course content. The course director will approve topics as well as cases upstream. In both cases, students will hand in a one-page proposal paper plan with a title, a clear research focus or question (for Issues) or description of the issue/problem underlying a specific case (for Cases) and an abstract underlying the structure of the argument of the analysis. There will be no duplication of topics: application of a first come first serve rule.

Please, note the following: Proposal are due beforehand, the earlier you have your proposal approved, the more time you will have to complete your paper. More detail on examination content will be given during the first class.

Group presentation: Students will also have to prepare a group presentation on one of the topics indicated in the syllabus. Each group will consist in 5 students max. Presentation and discussion will last 45 minutes. All presentation groups must consult with the course director on the content of the presentation.

Oral examination: Finally, students will also prepare an oral examination that will last between 10 and 15 minutes on any of the topics discussed in the course: Corporate responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially as it relates to health, technology, human rights and climate change.

Examination relevant literature

The students will rely on the literature provided during the course but also on the literature they will find relevant for their individual paper and group presentation.



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, 26 January 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 10 April 2023).