



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

6,264: Introduction to Normative Economics

ECTS credits: 3

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Active participation (10%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (40%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,264.1.00 Introduction to Normative Economics](#) -- Englisch -- [Piacquadio Paolo Giovanni](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Microeconomics II is recommended

Learning objectives

- Critical understanding of the economic tools of normative economics
- Ability to apply these tools to investigate ethical questions

Course content

This course deals with the part of economics that is concerned with "what ought to be," that is, normative economics.

An important role of modern economics is to comparatively assess alternatives (policies, countries, changes over time, etc.) in terms of their ethical desirability. Economists are often asked to advise policymakers and inform the general audience about important questions like: Is there too much inequality? How progressive should the tax schedule be? Should we tax robots? Should we invest in AI? How to best tackle climate change? Is the world population too large? How important is animal welfare? How to optimally react to a pandemic or a war? A unique answer to these question requires making value judgments. Yet, economists can show the answer for a large set of ethical views and let the policymakers and general audience choose.

The main part of this course addresses the theory of social preferences. It includes a critical discussion of standard welfare criteria, such as utilitarianism and maxi-min. It also discusses frontier research on: i) how to account for liberties, rights, and opportunities; ii) how to deal with risky settings; and iii) how to assess situations involving several generations and different population sizes.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course is structured around group discussions, interactive debates, and lectures, which build on short home readings. Student presentations on topics of interest complete the course.

Course literature



Lecture notes and the extra material posted on Canvas

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (10%)

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 - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (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



3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (40%, 90 mins.)

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

1. Active participation: Students participate in the discussions based on the readings (10%).
2. Group paper with presentation and discussions: Each group can choose a normative issue and apply formal reasoning (similar to the one we will study in class) to propose and discuss solutions (50%).
3. Written closed-book exam: some problems and open questions similar to the one considered in class (40%).

Examination relevant literature

Lecture slides, readings, and extra material posted on Canvas. All material will be available before the end of the lecture period.



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).