



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

6,308: Political Violence

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

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Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,308,1.00 Political Violence](#) -- Englisch -- [Smidt Hannah](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

None.

Learning objectives

- Students will have developed an overview and a good understanding of the debates in research on political violence.
- Students will learn skills to strategically and critically read scientific studies on political violence.
- Students will understand research designs, methods and data sources utilized to empirically study topics related to political violence and civil war.
- Students will be able to apply theoretical arguments to achieve a better understanding of selected real-world cases of political violence that are also of historical and contemporary relevance to the study of political violence.
- Students will be able to write their own research paper (i.e., develop a research question, build a theoretical argument, deduce empirical implications, and develop a research design).

Course content

This course introduces students to the study of political violence. First, the course discusses how we can recognize political violence and war when we see them in the real world (Part 1). Second, and building on this, the course examines potential causes of political violence in the form of (civil) war like greed, grievances, state capacity, bargaining failure, and nationalism, among others (Part 2). Third and finally, students will learn about efforts to manage and end political violence (Part 3). Students are asked to prepare readings, participate in discussions, complete several short paper assignments and write one longer research paper at the end of the course.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course consists of 12 weekly seminars. The seminars will provide an occasion to deepen the understanding of the literature, including relevant theoretical concepts and explanations as well as empirical research strategies, in the study of political violence. The class discussions in the plenary and smaller groups presuppose that the students have engaged with the week's



readings.

Course literature

The readings for each week are representative of the research on political violence with a focus on positivist and empirical works. Students are expected to have carefully read the required texts. In so doing, students can facilitate their strategic reading experience by (i) highlighting the main question(s), (ii) the key concepts, (iii) the main argument(s), (iv) the data and methods used to evaluate the argument, and (v) the findings and implications.

They will be announced on the syllabus.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/5)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

RESPONSE PAPER I

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 (2/5)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

RESPONSE PAPER II

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 (3/5)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

RESPONSE PAPER III

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

4. Examination sub part (4/5)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (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



5. Examination sub part (5/5)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

RESEARCH PAPER

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

Examination content

RESPONSE PAPER (30%): Students are expected to submit 3 short response papers (about 500 words each, accounting for 10% each) that summarize a reading on the syllabus. The short texts should state: (i) the research question, (ii) the theoretical argument / answer to the research question, (iii) the data and methods used in the article and (iv) the core findings related to the theoretical argument. Last but not least, the short texts should add one piece of negative or positive criticism or one question that remained open after reading. Response papers should be submitted via CANVAS by Sunday (until 23:59) before the seminar, in which the selected reading will be discussed.

RESEARCH PAPER (60%): Students will write their own research paper that include the following elements:

1. a research question related to the course topic;
2. a justification for why the research question is interesting;
3. a literature review about what we already know about the answers to the research question;
4. an original theoretical argument to answer the research questions with two causal mechanisms and at least one observable implication (i.e., hypothesis);
5. a proposal for a methodological approach to empirically test the observable implication(s) which defines the data and sample, the unit of analysis, the variables, and methods to be used; and
6. a conclusion indicating the expected results, possible shortcomings and suggestions for future research.

OUTLINE (10%): In addition, students are requested to submit an outline of their research paper. A template form for the outline of your research paper is on CANVAS. Please use this template and make sure that your outline does not exceed one single page. The outline must be submitted via CANVAS by Tuesday, 16 May, 2023 on CANVAS. The last class will serve the purpose to discuss the outline in a structured manner.

Examination relevant literature

All readings that are on the syllabus. The readings will be online in the week before the start of the term.



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).