



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

### 6,319: Ethics and International Affairs

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)  
Decentral - Portfolio (100%)  
Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer  
[6,319,1.00 Ethics and International Affairs](#) -- Englisch -- [Dingwerth Klaus](#)

#### Course information

##### Course prerequisites

Some aspects of the course build on content taught in the IA Basics courses "Political Theory" and "International Relations". Successful completion of these courses will be useful but is not a formal requirement.

##### Learning objectives

- Students know key approaches for addressing normative questions in international affairs and they understand the main differences between these approaches. (Knowledge and understanding)
- Students critically appraise the arguments authors make in response to major normative challenges in international affairs. (Critical engagement)
- Students formulate their own ethical arguments related to specific international challenges (e.g. war, poverty, migration, historical injustice, climate change). (Application / transfer)
- Students practice their writing skills. (Soft skills)

##### Course content

When the Covid-19 pandemic led countries to go in lock-down mode, many states temporarily closed their borders to non-residents and non-citizens. Within Europe, this was a new experience for many young people. As it limited individuals' freedom of movement, it also raised questions about how borders can be justified in the first place. For example, if a justification is based on theories of democracy, then would not everyone affected by a border regime or subjected to the laws of such a regime ought to have a say? Alternatively, when we subscribe to human rights as an overarching set of moral principles, which competing rights justify the curtailment of the freedom of movement through borders? A few months into the pandemic, further debates arose about the "right" distribution of vaccines among countries. Were Western societies entitled to keeping large shares for themselves so that their citizens could be vaccinated first? Or did they have - and ultimately violate - an obligation to share potentially life-saving drugs with poorer nations? In this course, we address questions like these - questions about global justice, about democracy beyond the nation state, or about basic rights. More specifically, we seek to understand how we can best develop, defend, and challenge normative arguments - arguments about "what is the right thing to do" - in international affairs. This realm is special not only because it lacks a central authority, but also because of the considerable pluralism of "comprehensive moral doctrines" we find in it. Faced with this pluralism, which principled approaches can we draw on to formulate valid political and moral arguments? Which specific guiding principles can we derive from various normative approaches? And how does the application of these principles to real-world cases work in practice?

##### Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course is taught on a weekly basis and will be organized in two parts. In the first part, we will get to know key perspectives through a mix of seminal articles and textbook chapters. In the second part, we will apply these perspectives to selected issues like migration ('Can borders be justified?'), international conflict ('Should we intervene?'), and the environment ('What does



climate justice demand?'). As a part of this course, we will collectively develop an Ethics and International Affairs resource page for which students act as editors, authors, and discussants. The page may contain contributions of various formats, including wikis, blogposts, book reviews, podcasts or overviews of literature in a specific subfield. Its main function may either be to document our own progress as a group or to share our most important insights and products with a broader audience (e.g., other students, ethics teachers and students in public schools).

## Course literature

Students will be required to read 1-2 texts per week in preparation for class. Readings cover a mix of (a) classical texts in the field and (b) applications of theoretical arguments to specific topics. The required readings will be made available on Canvas/StudyNet.

## Additional course information

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## 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

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

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## Examination content

Students prepare an individual portfolio of smaller contributions to the Ethics and International Affairs Resource Page. Each student's contributions consist of:

- 1) Two 'shorter products' (max. 800 words or equivalent length for each of the two) of a core reading (33,33% of the final grade; students can choose which one is to be graded)
- 2) One 'longer product' addressing a specific question that builds on, but goes beyond the core readings (max. 3.500 words or equivalent length, individually or in groups of two students) (66,66% of the final grade);
- 3) Written feedback on the draft version of the 'longer product' of one fellow students (not graded);
- 4) A short reflection paper on students' own learning journey in this course (from one paragraph to 2 pages, not graded).



In terms of the format for the two papers, students can choose between different options (wiki entries, blogposts, scripts for audio podcasts, academic papers), and we will also offer a choice between papers written individually and papers co-authored by two students (three if necessary) for some options.

The opportunity to practice writing skills is a central part of this course. To create this opportunity, peer feedback as well as feedback from lecturers and teaching assistants form key elements of the course. Students will be able to take the feedback they receive on board and submit their final portfolios until 09 June 2023.

## Examination relevant literature

Students will be required to read 1-2 texts per week in preparation for class. Readings cover a mix of (a) classical texts in the field, (b) textbook chapters, and (c) applications of theoretical arguments to specific topics. The required readings for part 1 of the course will be made available on Canvas/StudyNet until 23 February 2023. The required readings for part 2 of the course will be made available on Canvas/StudyNet until 06 April 2023.

### 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).