



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

8,390: Consultancy Project: Sustainable Finance - Global Positioning and Policies

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,390,1.00 Consultancy Project: Sustainable Finance - Global Positioning and Policies](#) -- Englisch -- [Stünzi Anna](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Prior to taking this course, students must be well versed in the disciplines of International Affairs and have some experience in working in diverse teams towards an agreed upon resolution. It is beneficial to have knowledge in project management as well as some experience in presentation skills.

It is strongly recommended that students complete the MIA Morning course prior to taking the Consultancy Project course. The knowledge and skillsets acquired in the MIA Morning workshops will be extremely relevant and applicable in obtaining a successful outcome in this course.

Learning objectives

During a Consultancy Project course, students

- demonstrate ability to evaluate and classify a problem and source a solution from its onset to its conclusion;
- acquire and foster skills in the application of theoretical concepts to real-life situations;
- gain experience with actual issues in the practitioner's world that arise in the course of the consultancy project;
- foster their creativity and various skills, including teamwork, project, communication, research, writing, presentation.

Students who participate in this course will, afterwards, be able to:

- describe different aspects on how finance is related to global sustainability challenges and the role of Switzerland therein;
- choose and apply an appropriate method to analyze specific problem settings;
- translate academic findings to the policy world by learning how to write a policy brief

Course content

The role of finance for addressing major sustainability challenges has become a central topic for policymakers and the financial industry. In 2015, the Paris Agreement underlined the responsibility of governments to align finance flows with climate change mitigation. Industrialized countries also agreed to support developing countries with financial resources to achieve their mitigation and adaptation targets. And finally, a growing demand drives financial actors to offer sustainability-aligned products and impact investing.



Multiple financial centers, including Switzerland, try to position themselves as hubs for sustainable finance. The number of policies and regulations in this regard is growing. In this Consultancy Project, and together with the Finance Programme of the think tank foraus, we will work on different aspects of sustainable finance in a global world and how Swiss actors (policymakers, industry etc.) could or should react to them. Students can then choose one specific research and policy question to work on.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Students will work in small groups on the challenge presented to them by foraus. Students are responsible for a mid-term presentation which should introduce students' approach as well as highlight and discuss any roadblocks or difficulties faced. At the end of the course, students will present an in-depth analysis of the problem and a recommended solution.

This course mainly consists of independent study (in groups). However, there will be several in-class lectures and presentations:

- The course starts off with an introduction lecture that discusses in-depth the expectations of the course. Students are also introduced to foraus (their client) and be briefed on the problem. This kick-off session also serves the formation of student groups.
- Students then work independently on their project, in their groups.
- At mid-term student groups present the chosen approach to analyze the question and their progress (as well as roadblocks and difficulties) to the academic lecturer, foraus and other student groups. Students receive feedback.
- Groups then continue to work independently and present an in-depth analysis of the problem and their recommendations towards the end of the course (to the lecturer, foraus and the other students).

Course literature

Recommended references, including academic journal articles, will be provided at the beginning of the class.

Additional course information

Dr. Anna Stünzi studied Psychology and Economics at the Universities of Zurich and Copenhagen and did her PhD at the Center of Economic Research at ETH Zurich in the field of Climate and Resource Economics. She works as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of St.Gallen and is an affiliated researcher to the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK). Anna Stünzi also works at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), co-leading the Finance for Nature Unit. Since 2019 Anna Stünzi is president of foraus.

foraus, the Swiss think tank on foreign policy, advocates a constructive foreign policy and an informative dialogue. It offers young talents access to the discourse, where they can contribute with their ideas to foreign policy - outside the traditional framework of political parties. foraus publishes scientific-based policy recommendations in the form of discussion papers, policy briefs and blog posts, as well as organizes high-level debates with the aim of creating innovative solutions for foreign policy.

Link: www.foraus.ch

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Mid-term presentation (15mins)

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 (2/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Final presentation (20mins)

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 (3/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Final report (Policy Brief)

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

Term papers

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.

Nature of examination



analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

4. Examination sub part (4/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Reflection paper (1,000 words max.)

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

Term papers

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.

Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of the course including group work and presentations.

Midterm Presentation (20%, 15min.): Student groups present their approach in addressing the question, brief on their progress, including any roadblocks or difficulties that may have been encountered. All group members will be given the same grade.

Final Presentation (30%, 20 min.): Student groups present an in-depth analysis of the problem and their recommendations to the client. All group members will be given the same grade.

Final Report (30%, max. 5'000 words): Structured as a policy brief targeted at the client, reports typically give summaries of relevant research, suggest possible policy options, and propose particular courses of action. Next to an explanation of the problem and the results of the research undertaken, it outlines the methods used and the theories applied to analyze the problem. The brief might include graphs, charts, or other visual aids that make it easier to digest the most important information. All group members will be given the same grade.

Reflection Paper (20%, max. 1'000 words): Targeted at the academic lecturer, this paper invites students to reflect on their groups' individual journey, from defining the problem to coming up with a solution. It allows them to consider the challenge to apply what they have learned in a classroom setting to contemporary problems in a real-world setting. The reflection paper should be submitted individually and will be graded on an individual basis.

Examination relevant literature

Course instructors will provide recommended references, including academic journal articles, on relevant topics. All material will be available before the end of the lecture period. Additionally, students may have to do research on their own while working



on a problem.

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).