



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2024

8,358: Silk Roads, Old and New: China, Europe, and Central Asia in Historical, Economic, Sociocultural, and Geopolitical Contexts

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (50%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Analog written examination, Analog, Individual work individual grade (50%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,358,1.00 Silk Roads, Old and New: China, Europe, and Central Asia in Historical, Economic, Sociocultural, and Geopolitical Contexts](#) -- English -- [Frei Christoph](#), [Van Drongelen Wesley](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

None beyond an interest in Central Asia, the historic Silk Road, and the current Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

Learning objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Have a thorough understanding of the geopolitical, economic and socio-cultural dynamics of Central Asia (*knowledge, understanding*);
2. Be familiar with core concepts that enable them to analyse the dynamics mentioned under learning objective 1 (*analysis*);
3. Have applied the knowledge and analytical tools mentioned above by researching a specific country in the region (*transfer, individual assignment*);
4. Have honed their writing *skills* by dint of a written assignment.

Course content

As Peter Frankopan once put it: "To understand the world, the best place to look is not in the centre of the West nor in the heart of the East, but on the old Silk Road where the two come together." Over the course of one full semester, we will focus upon a largely unknown, yet important region in terms of geopolitical and geoeconomics exposure - Central Asia. In the process, we develop an interdisciplinary approach as found in various "area studies" programmes, including economic, political, and socio-cultural perspectives. Broadly speaking, the course will contextualise Central Asia in light of its long history at a crossroads of peoples, faiths, cultures and geostrategic interests. At the same time, we will consistently look at the current stakes in the regions, of which the BRI forms an important element.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

To begin with, we take a good look at the countries and societies in Central Asia. Next, we address how the region is perceived by China and by Western Europe. In a third step, we discuss in greater detail the economic, geopolitical, and sociocultural



dynamics at play in the region. As we proceed, myths and stereotypes will make way for a better, more adequate and multi-faceted understanding.

Every week, we will convene for two hours for lectures and discussion. Self-study will play a major part by dint of mandatory readings on the one hand and a written assignment on the other. In fact, two out of four credits will be conferred based on the written assignment.

Course literature

We read and discuss current scholarly literature on the dynamics of Central Asia as mentioned above - as well as some classics. At the beginning of the semester, mandatory readings will be available at the students' Script Commission and on StudyNet.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Written work
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written work
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	50%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Analysis of a selected country

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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2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination modalities



Examination type	Analog written examination
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written exam
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	50%
Duration	90 mins.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

A few open questions

Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids, apart from the following restrictions:

- pocket calculator models which are not part of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series, as well as any programmable electronic devices that are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, smartphones, headsets, additional screens, etc. are not admissible;
- there is an option for faculty members to explicitly define exceptions under supplementary aids.

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

Supplementary aids

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Examination content

Part 1. - Term paper (individual assignment). At the end of the semester, students will submit a term paper on one of the countries in the region, discussing guiding questions as provided by the instructors (geopolitical, economic, and sociocultural context).

Part 2. - Final exam (decentral, open book). The final exam will include a small number of open questions and embrace the totality of the material covered in the course (lectures, discussions, mandatory readings).

Examination relevant literature

None beyond the reader: it includes what is relevant. At the beginning of the semester, mandatory readings will be available at the students' Script Commission and on StudyNet.



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 13 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, 25 January 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 18 March 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 13 (Monday, 25 March 2024);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: Starting with de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 08 April 2024).