



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2024

8,373: Transnational Governance and the Green Transition

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

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

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Active participation, Analog, Individual work individual grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,373.1.00 Transnational Governance and the Green Transition](#) -- English -- [Seabrooke Leonard](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

There are no formal pre-requisites for this course.

Learning objectives

Students will gain...

- Comprehensive knowledge of the issues, institutions, and actors involved in the green transition topic in question,
- Knowledge and understanding of theories and concepts that are relevant to analysis of green transition issues,
- An ability to link the theories to the empirical material in a reflexive manner.

Course content

Climate change is transforming our economies and societies. Addressing climate change through the green transition ushers in a series of distributional conflicts, with clear winners and losers. Standards and regulations are being established to negotiate and settle these redistributions. The *Transnational Governance and the Green Transition* course focuses on who wins and who loses through the lens of professional and organizational competition as markets change to bring in the green transition.

The course uses theories and approaches from International Political Economy and Sociology to examine how actors advance or impede the green transition needed to mitigate climate breakdown. We will develop conceptual and methodological skills to analyze how actors coordinate and compete, tracing how they develop networks across different types of organizations. Students will apply theoretical frameworks and practical tools to a range of green transition issues. The course includes issues such as: environmental standards; carbon markets; green accounting, taxation, pensions and investment, among others. International organizations, NGOs, firms and financial institutions, consultancies, and expert groups are considered as key actors in how green transition issues are controlled. The course bolsters students' capacity to locate actors who influence key issues, as well as their case knowledge of green transition issues and change dynamics in the international political economy.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course will be delivered as a block seminar over four days (Fridays & Saturdays). Individual seminars will be 90 minutes in length, with 45 minutes of lecture and 45 of discussion. The exercise sessions will be longer. The course begins with a couple of sessions on theories, covering some key concepts relevant for the course. We will also test out methodologies for studying



professional and organizational competition. Thereafter we will have a series of cases and students will have time to develop their own cases of interest and get feedback from the professor and their peers.

First day, *Morning*

1. Green Transition as Field, Network, Ecology
2. Setting Green Standards

First day, *Afternoon*

3. Network Analysis + exercise
4. Sequence Analysis + exercise

Second day, *Morning*

5. European Green Finance
6. Corporate Climate Activism

Second day, *Afternoon*

7. Tax and Climate Breakdown
8. Green Accounting

Third day, *Morning*

9. Plastics
10. Food

Third day, *Afternoon*

11. Greening Global Value Chains
12. Greening Global Wealth Chains

Fourth day, *Morning*

13. Student Presentations
14. Student Presentations

Fourth day, *Afternoon*

15. Student Presentations
16. Conclusion

Course literature

You will notice in the readings that we have a balance to be achieved between three elements: i) work on the international political economy; ii) calls for environmental advocacy and policy change in the context of the international political economy; and iii) ways of studying how such policy change can occur. All three are of interest. A detailed reading list will be made available at the beginning of the course. Indicative and preparatory reading is as follows:

- Colgan, J. D., Green, J. F., & Hale, T. N. (2021). Asset revaluation and the existential politics of climate change. *International Organization*, 75(2), 586-610.
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/0963988860A37F6988E73738EA93E0A1/S0020818320000296a.pdf/asset-revaluation-and-the-existential-politics-of-climate-change.pdf>
- Henriksen, Lasse Folke and Leonard Seabrooke (2016) 'Transnational Organizing: Issue Professionals in Environmental Sustainability Networks', *Organization* 23(5): 722-741.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1350508415609140>
- Paterson, M. (2021). Climate change and international political economy: between collapse and transformation. *Review of International Political Economy*, 28(2): 394-405.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/09692290.2020.1830829>
- Seabrooke, Leonard and Lasse Folke Henriksen (2017) 'Issue Control in Transnational Professional and Organizational Networks', in Leonard Seabrooke and Lasse Folke Henriksen (eds) *Professional Networks in Transnational Governance*,



Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1 and 4.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316855508.004>

- Seabrooke, Leonard and Annika Stenström (2023) 'Professional Ecologies in European Sustainable Finance', *Governance* 36(4): 1271-1292. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/gove.12739>
- Thistlethwaite, J., & Paterson, M. (2016). Private governance and accounting for sustainability networks. *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 34(7), 1197-1221. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0263774X15604841>

Additional course information

Len Seabrooke is Professor of International Political Economy and Economic Sociology in the Department of Organization at the Copenhagen Business School. His work is known for its interdisciplinarity – drawing on political economy, economic sociology, international relations, and organization studies. Len's current research concentrates on transnational professionals across a range of cases, from finance and tax experts, to consultants, sustainability experts, and others. Seabrooke's work has appeared in leading journals, including *American Sociological Review*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *Governance*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Organization*, *Public Administration*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Review of International Political Economy*, and many others. Len is a recipient of grants from the European Research Council (x2), European Commission (x3), Independent Research Fund Denmark, the Norwegian Research Council, the Velux Foundation (x2), the Institute for New Economic Thinking, and Transparency International-EU. Len is the Program Director of the International Business and Politics (IBP) BSc. and MSc. degrees at the Copenhagen Business School, as well as the Chairperson for the Ethics Council. Within the Department of Organization, Len is the group leader of the Organization, Markets and Governance unit (25 faculty). His ORCID ID is 0000-0001-5581-3293.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

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	30%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Two reviews of readings

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 (2/3)

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

Final 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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3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Active participation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	20%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Discussion of the readings

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

Cell phone use is not allowed in class.

Examination content

Active Participation (20%):

Students are required to come prepared to discuss the required readings. Active informed participation is highly encouraged. Students may use laptops to take notes. Cell phone use is not allowed in class.

Reviews of Readings (30%):

Each of the two reviews should be up to 1,000 words and address major themes in the assigned readings. A list of themes that can be chosen for review will be made available in the syllabus on StudyNet/Canvas at the beginning of the course. You are strongly encouraged to read the recommended readings very closely for the topic you chose to write a review. Additional instructions will be provided in class.

Final Paper (50%):

Students will write a final research paper (up to 3,000 words) on one of the 'essay questions' that will be made available in the syllabus on StudyNet/Canvas at the beginning of the course. Topics can be changed after consultation with (and approval by) the instructor. Students are expected to continue working on the paper in consultation with me. The final paper is due in June 2024. The exact date will be given during class resp. via Canvas. Late papers will be penalized.

Examination relevant literature

A full list of compulsory and recommended readings will be made available in the syllabus on StudyNet/Canvas at the beginning of the course.



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).