



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2024

8,391: Consultancy Project: Tackling the Transnistria Problem

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,391,1.00 Consultancy Project: Tackling the Transnistria Problem](#) -- English -- [Heusgen Christoph](#) , [Davis James Warren](#)

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 relevant MIA Morning courses 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 find 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:

- understand the origins and contemporary obstacles to solving the ongoing conflict over the Western Sahara;
- 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;
- reflect critically on the links between theory and practice and how each relates to the other in the field of international affairs.

Course content



Participants in this "consultancy project" will be tasked with designing constructive approaches to promoting progress in resolving the problems presented by the break away region of Transnistria in Moldova. The Ukraine War has only enhanced the geopolitical relevance of the region, as Russia uses its influence in Transnistria to destabilize Moldova politically, complicate Moldova's efforts to join European and Transatlantic institutions, and engage in shady economic activities.

Our "client," Iruie Leanca, is a former Prime Minister of Moldova with direct experience in dealing with this challenge.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Students will work in small groups on a challenge presented to them by their 'client'. 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) and one-to-one meetings between lecturers and 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 their client and are 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, their 'client' 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 toward the end of the course.

Course literature

Course instructors will provide recommended references, including academic journal articles, on relevant topics during the course.

Additional course information

This course will be supervised by Professors James W. Davis and Christoph Heusgen.

Prof. Davis is Professor of International Politics in the Department of Political Science. His research focuses on questions of international security and international organization.

Prof. Christoph Heusgen was the German Ambassador (Permanent Representative) to the United Nations where he successfully managed Germany's candidacy for a rotating seat on the Security Council where he has twice served as President.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/4)

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	Group work group grade
Weighting	30%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Final written report of group

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

--

2. Examination sub part (2/4)

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	20%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Individual reflection 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

--

3. Examination sub part (3/4)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Presentation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog



Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	20%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Midterm presentation of group projects

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

--

4. Examination sub part (4/4)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Presentation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	30%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Final presentation of group projects

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

--

Examination content

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

Midterm Presentation (20%): 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%): 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 during 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).