



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2024

8,492: International Law in Swiss Practice

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

central - Oral examination and technical discussions, Analog, Individual work individual grade (67%)

Examination time: Lecture-free period

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Individual work individual grade (33%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,492,1.00 International Law in Swiss Practice](#) -- English -- [Portmann Roland](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Basic knowledge of international law.

Learning objectives

The objective of the seminar is to familiarize students with the role of international law in Swiss diplomacy on the basis of specific issues. Students should develop the ability to recognize the international legal dimension of foreign policy problems and to identify possible solutions. The focus is also on the connection and interaction of legal and diplomatic instruments.

Course content

1. Switzerland and the war in Ukraine:
 - a. Application of Swiss neutrality (in particular sanctions and export of war material).
 - b. Register of damages and reparation mechanism
 - c. Dealing with Russian (state) assets
2. Switzerland's role in the international governance of the digital realm:
 - a. Regulation of artificial intelligence
 - b. Strengthening Switzerland's digital sovereignty (access rights to data)
 - c. Swiss countermeasures in the event of cyber operations
3. Enforcement of Swiss legal claims before international courts
 - a. The case of M/T San Padre Pio (Switzerland v. Nigeria)
 - b. Swiss submissions in proceedings before the ICJ (Kosovo, Climate Opinion)
 - c. Dispute settlement in the relationship between Switzerland and the EU
4. Increasing importance of soft law in Swiss practice
 - a. The UN migration pact: Who decides whether Switzerland joins?
 - b. Hybrid instruments: The Paris Climate Agreement
 - c. Does Switzerland still need hard law?

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design



The seminar takes place 5 times over 4 hours. The kick-off meeting will introduce students to the topics and methodology of the seminar. The remaining four meetings will be dedicated to one of the major topics of Swiss diplomacy and its international law dimensions (War in Ukraine, Regulation of digital realm, Enforcement of Swiss legal claims before international courts, Soft Law). Students will be required to prepare presentations on one particular topic.

Course literature

Relevant sources and material will be assigned and made available online.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Oral examination and technical discussions
Responsible for organisation	central
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Lecture-free period
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	67%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

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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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2. Examination sub part (2/2)

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	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	33%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

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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Examination content

Assigned case study for presentation; seminar topics for oral examination.

Examination relevant literature

Assigned sources and material.



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).