University of St.Gallen

Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

8,200: Research in Management (SIM)

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s
(binding regulations see below)
decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (30%)
Examination time: Term time
decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (40%)
Examination time: Term time
decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (30%)
Examination time: Term time

Attached courses
Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer
8,200,1.00 Research in Management (SIM) -- English -- Berghaus Benjamin

Course information

Course prerequisites

There are no course requirements.

Learning objectives

This course teaches capabilities and builds topical awareness in management research in order to enable students to independently, consciously, and thoughtfully conduct student research projects in academic settings (e.g., their thesis projects) as well as navigate a successful transition of their research skills and ambitions from the academic to the practical working context.

To achieve this overarching objective, this course will

- instruct students on the key tasks and related solution spaces when conducting individual research projects,
- offer interactive workshops on commonly ambiguous and discussion-worthy topics in management research,
- instruct and require student teams to explore and discuss a choice of academic debates in management research,
- instruct and require students teams to develop and present well-reasoned positions on one of two critical topics relevant to student researchers as conference posters, papers, and presentations,
- instruct and require individual students to develop a suitable research proposal and engagement profile in order to help secure master's thesis supervision and ensure a successful starting point for their final academic project, and
- offer students the opportunity to learn from guest contributions by management practitioners (in many cases SIM alumni) who contribute their experiences and answer questions on how to translate academic research capabilities into practical workplace performance and how to avoid "transitional culture shock".

Course content

Lectures and lecture-like modules include contributions on scoping a field and choosing a research gap, designing a research project, collecting and analysing quantitative data, collecting and analysing qualitative data, synthesizing and discussing insights, and academic writing.

Workshops will focus on ambitions and quality in management research, ethics in management research, setting up a social support structure for research, critiquing other's work, and making your work heard.

Examinational student performances will contribute discussions ("The Big Debates") on topics like the theory crisis in management research, legitimation in management research, or bad management theories (full list to be provided in the kick-off session) as well as ("2 Burning Topics") on AI in management education and sustainability in student research.

Guest lectures will contribute perspectives on how the critical capabilities trained by academic research become valuable at the workplace and what to keep in mind when transitioning from an academic and into a practical work environment.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

This course consists of nine four-hour long sessions, generally on Wednesdays in the afternoon.

- The first session will introduce the course and kick off the central examinational projects.
- Then, three regular teaching sessions make up for the first half of the main teaching.
- A midway session will provide additional space for students' examinational performances.
- Another three regular teaching sessions will provide the second half of the main teaching.
- The closing session will provide the final additional space for students' examinational performances.

Each main teaching session consists of four academic hours or modules. In regular sessions, the first and second modules will generally be a combination of lectures, interactive lectures, and workshops. The third module will provide regular space for student presentations of "The Big Debates". The fourth module generally provides space for guest speakers who share their insight into research in management from a practitioner perspective.

Besides the introductory session, there are two further special sessions:

- In the Midway Session, all four modules will be devoted to the presentation of posters on the "Two Burning Topics" (one module per topic) and their discussions (one module per topic).
- In the Closing Session, two modules will be devoted to the delivery and discussion of the final presentation on the "Two Burning Topics" (one module each). The final two modules of the closing session will be devoted to discussing questions about "Your Research Proposal" and an overarching wrap-up.

Course literature

There is no overarching, mandatory course literature. Mandatory (e.g., for examinational performances), recommended, and optional sources will be announced / are referenced in the teaching material presented during the course.

Additional course information

There is no additional course information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

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
"The Big Debates"

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	40%
Duration	--

Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark
"Your Research Proposal"

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	Presentation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous

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Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	30%
Duration	--

Remark
"Two Burning Topics"

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

Each examination performance is driven in quality by all knowledge gathered and skills adopted throughout the entire course (lectures, workshops, student presentations and projects). However, as student presentations occur throughout the semester, these insights are only relevant to the degree that they have already been covered in class at the time of delivery.

"The Big Debates" require a) having read and understood the respective core paper announced during the introduction session (depending on group assignment), b) being able to set the core paper in context of its (immediate or indirect) academic discussion (other papers), c) systematically developing a discussion on the core statement and competing arguments, and d) presenting findings in a creative and dialectic way.

"Two Burning Topics" (AI in management education and sustainability in student research, depending on group assignment) requires a) having read and understood the respective core papers for their topic announced during the introduction session, b) being able to set the core papers in context of self-explored, related literature. Students' will not only be split by topic but also, within the topic, split in two groups. The first group will produce three "competing" academic conference posters on their topic and the second group will condense the content of greatest merit of all three poster presentations into one common conceptual academic paper, one common conceptual academic presentation, and one implemented strategy to communicate the generated results. This leads to one further requirement (depending on group assignment): "Two Burning Topics" requires either c.1) developing (exploring, ideating) a well-reasoned and multifaceted position (motivating, guiding) in form of a conference poster type presentation on the team's topic or c.2) refining a conceptual academic paper (sub-team 1), developing a final presentation (sub-team 2), or pragmatically but suitably communicating the generated insights (sub-team 3).

"Your Research Proposal" requires all course contents (commonly except data gathering and analysis) to inform and qualify your development of a research proposal that you would send to a professor to secure supervision by them.

Examination relevant literature

Mandatory, recommended, and optional sources will be announced / are referenced in the teaching material presented 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 (Monday, 25 March 2025) 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, 23 January 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 17 March 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 14 (Monday, 31 March 2025);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before ending with de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 07 April 2025).