



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2026

10,634: Business Ethics: Concepts and Theories

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (100%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[10,634,1.00 Business Ethics: Concepts and Theories](#) -- English -- [Beschorner Thomas](#), [Wettstein Florian](#)

Course information

Prerequisites

None

Learning objectives

Students will gain a thorough understanding and overview of selected theories in business and economic ethics and engage with them from critical and comparative perspectives.

Students will gain insight into conceptual, theory-based argumentation in business ethics and how to relate it to current developments in practice.

Students learn how to make sense of and 'apply' the course contents and the different theories in particular with respect to their own dissertation projects.

Content

The global financial crisis of 2008 raised the profile of business ethics as a discipline and various corporate 'scandals' in close succession have since underlined and confirmed the public relevance of the field. However, in contrast to the public discussion, which tends to focus squarely on such scandals, this seminar is meant to explore the conceptual and theoretical foundations of business and economic ethics as an academic discipline.

In the seminar, we will explore such theoretical foundations in depth, critically analyze and compare them and, not least, develop them further. For example, we will explore normative conceptions of responsibility or legitimacy and their significance in the economic and business context, e.g. with regard to companies as moral agents or the responsibility of consumers in and for the corporate value chain. Our goal is to not only gain an overview of 'classic' and current approaches to business and economic ethics, but to develop a more thorough understanding of normative scholarship and research more generally.

Structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

1. Introduction to Business and Economic Ethics
2. Comparative Perspectives on Theories and Approaches to Business and Economic Ethics

Literature

There will be an electronic course package



Additional information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/1)

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 | 100% |
| Duration | -- |

Languages

Question language: English

Answer language: German, 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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Content

Comparative Analyses of different theories and foundations of business and economic ethics. A selection of topics will be provided.

Literature

According to the selected topics



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, 23rd March 2026) 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, 22nd January 2026);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 16 March 2026);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 14 (Monday, 30 March 2026);
- 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, 06 April 2026).