



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2020

10,170: Research Seminar on Corporate Sustainability Strategy: Theories and Methods

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (15%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (55%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[10,170,1.00 Research Seminar on Corporate Sustainability Strategy: Theories and Methods](#) -- Englisch -- [Walls Judith Louise](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

No prerequisites. A general interest in sustainability-related research topics is appreciated.

Learning objectives

This seminar will expose participants to the key theoretical and methodological approaches used in research on corporate sustainability strategy. You will explore established frameworks in sustainability and major theories such as the natural-resource based view, institutional theory, and stakeholder theory. In addition, you will become familiar with recent theoretical developments like governance perspectives of corporate sustainability including micro-foundational approaches that combine executive-level socio-cognitive drivers of firm-level outcomes of sustainability, and new streams of thought like social entrepreneurship, paradox theory or, complex approaches like systems thinking. Finally, you will also learn how to measure social and environmental performance and apply such measures and methods in a research paper that has the potential to be submitted to a conference or academic journal.

Course content

Sustainability is no longer a peripheral topic for business strategy. In fact, in 2020 a survey of corporate and political leaders conducted by the World Economic Forum indicated that the top five risks that businesses should address are all related to the natural environment, such as climate change and biodiversity loss. In addition, Grand Challenges like poverty and global inequality require business to be part of the solution. This seminar explores both established and emerging theoretical and empirical approaches applied to study the business strategy and sustainability.

Course structure

The course consists of four sessions, each lasting for three hours.

The grading elements are weighted as follows (see examination content for further details):

Class discussion & research notes: 20 % of final grade



Peer review (of first draft): 15% of final grade

Research paper

Proposal (presentation): 10% of final grade

First draft (written): 15% of final grade

Second draft (written): 15% of final grade

Final paper (written): 25% of final grade

Course literature

Please see the syllabus for a detailed list of literature.

Additional course information

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in AS2020, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course is conducted online via the platform CANVAS/Zoom.
- The recordings of the course are available until the end of the semester;
- The lecturer informs via CANVAS and email on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- Course content such as guest lectures will be conducted online; excursions will be cancelled;
- There are no changes necessary to the course information. In the event of moving to an online platform, we will follow the course content as planned on the original dates. There are no changes necessary to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Class participation and research notes.

Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (15%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Peer review (of first draft)



Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., *Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende*, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C., *Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien*, newest edition respectively).

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard. Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

3. Examination sub part (3/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Proposal presentation

Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

4. Examination sub part (4/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (55%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

1st draft 15%, 2nd draft 15%, finished version 25%

Examination-aid rule

Term papers



Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

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Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

This course is a research seminar. As such, you are expected to come to class fully prepared, having read all the required reading and taken extensive notes to help you to internalize what you have read. You must bring all your notes to class. **You must attend all seminar sessions.**

You should bring your laptop and ensure that you have a functioning statistics software installed that can be used during class and for assignments.

Grading consist of three key elements:

Class discussion and participation: you should come to class prepared (including to the first class) by taking notes on the assigned readings. You will be assessed on the quality of your discussion of the reading material.

Research paper: you will be asked to prepare a research paper in several stages.

1. During session 2 you will give a short presentation of your research paper idea.
2. One week *before* session 3 will consist of a first written draft of your paper; you will receive my feedback on your work during session 3.
3. One week *before* session 4 you will provide a second written draft of your paper; you will receive peer feedback during session 4.
4. You will write a final version of your paper due by the end of teaching term.

Peer review: one week before session 3, you will receive two of your classmates' papers. You will read and review their papers and provide a 1-page written peer review for each classmate during session 3.

Examination relevant literature

See syllabus for the relevant literature.



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 (CW51) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 42 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 34 (Thursday, 20 August 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 12 October 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 12 October 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 44 (Thursday, 29 October 2020).