



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2020

3,312: Model WTO

ECTS credits: 6

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Written examination (40%, 60 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Group examination paper (all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[3,312,3.00 Model WTO](#) -- Englisch -- [Malacrida Reto](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

No prerequisites. Students should, however, bring an interest in interdisciplinary work, and more specifically trade policy, trade law, trade economics and trade diplomacy. As the WTO is all about governments working together to achieve common international goals, an interest in international government affairs is also desirable. In addition, strong oral and written English skills are needed.

For information on how to apply, see <https://www.model-wto.org/home/application-as-chair/>

The deadline for applications to join the course is 1 September 2020. Candidates need to send their CV and a motivational letter in English. The e-mail address is: application@model-wto.org.

There is no bidding for this course.

Learning objectives

Through this course and the Model WTO event, students will acquire fundamental knowledge about, and insight into, the functioning and challenges of an intergovernmental international organization like the WTO and international economic diplomacy. Students will develop an understanding of the unique challenges of economic cooperation between countries. They will be able to analyse related problems and identify context-appropriate solutions. Students will also learn to examine issues from different countries' perspectives and to identify options for successful international cooperation. Finally, students will deepen their intercultural skills through interacting with Model WTO participants from all over the world and their negotiating skills as chairpersons of negotiating groups in the context of the Model WTO event.

Course content

The Model WTO

The Model WTO (www.model-wto.org) is a simulation of WTO negotiations. The event has been organized by student teams from the University of St.Gallen since 1997. To get a better understanding of the event, take a look at these short videos: www.model-wto.org/model-wto/videos/. The Model WTO 2021 is expected to take place just before Easter in the first half of April 2021. The precise dates have yet to be confirmed. Attendance is required. The organisers of the Model WTO indicate on their



website (www.model-wto.org/model-wto/vision-and-mission) that the simulation serves to provide an opportunity for students to engage with important global issues in the simulation framework of the WTO. The active involvement of WTO officials, trade professors, institutes and well known NGOs in the field allows for a vivid debate and exchange of creative ideas in the realistic context of the World Trade Organization in Geneva. Next year's topic has yet to be determined. For the topics of past editions and pictures, see www.modelwto.org/participants/past-editions/. The Model WTO ordinarily takes place in St.Gallen and Geneva. Please note that alternative arrangements, including an event that is virtual (online) in whole or in part, may need to be adopted if the COVID-19 makes this necessary. The organizers also reserve the right to cancel the event for the same reason.

Objectives of the Model WTO course of the University of St.Gallen

The Model WTO course offered at the University of St.Gallen prepares a small group of 12-14 Bachelor students for their role as Chairpersons of the simulation. In the autumn term, the main focus of classes will be on giving the selected students a general introduction to the objectives of the WTO, its various areas of work and structure, and the various challenges faced by the organization. One of the sessions will be held at the WTO in Geneva, with invited trade diplomats from various WTO Members. In the spring term, classes will focus on next year's topic for the Model WTO and on preparing students for the event. The participation of students as Chairpersons of the Model WTO simulation is an integral (and exciting) part of the course. They prepare for one specific committee, meaning one precise sub-topic of next year's overarching topic, and are going to chair that committee's negotiations.

For more information on the Chairpersons' roles, see <https://www.model-wto.org/home/chairs/> and the videos at www.model-wto.org/model-wto/videos/.

Course structure

The course extends over two semesters, the autumn semester 2020 and the spring semester 2021. Credits are earned only upon completion of both parts of the course, at the end of the spring semester 2021. The number of participants is limited to between 12-14 students.

The schedule of classes for the autumn semester 2020 is basically as follows: Seven sessions will be held (four hours for each session), mainly in lecture format. Some of the time, for scheduling reasons, sessions may be held once a week, at other times in the term the sessions will be further apart. Around mid-November, a session is planned to be held at the WTO Secretariat in Geneva (an online alternative may need to be considered in case the COVID-19 situation prevents a visit at the WTO). Please refer to the Stundenplan online for specific dates. The schedule of classes for the spring term 2021 has not yet been established, but it is expected that there would be at least two sessions (one in early February, the other in March; four hours each), probably with an additional telephone conference with the course lecturer for each Chair team. The second semester of the course will mainly involve working in small groups of two to three students.

The Model WTO (to be held in spring of 2021) extends over a full week. Full attendance during the Model WTO week is not optional, but a course requirement. It will not be possible to attend other classes during that week.

Course literature

At the beginning of the semester, mandatory readings (compiled in a reader) will be available at the Skriptenkommission and/or on Canvas. A useful introductory book is David Collins, *The World Trade Organization: A Beginner's Guide* (Oneworld Publications, 2015).

Additional course information

Participation in the Model WTO course is possible only through a special application process (see above and <https://www.model-wto.org/home/application-as-chair/>).

For the WTO visit, if it can be organized at the WTO, students are responsible for their own expenses (transportation, food, and possibly accommodation, although usually it is possible to travel to Geneva and return to St.Gallen within the same day).

Participants in the Model WTO course students are exceptionally exempt from paying fees to participate in the Model WTO event (and food and accommodation in Geneva will likewise be covered).

For additional information, contact the course lecturer, Dr. Reto Malacrida (reto.malacrida@unisg.ch).

Teaching modalities



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

- Some or all classes may need to be delivered online. For any classes that are delivered face to face, consistent with current government guidance, this will be done with the proper social distancing measures in place. If students are unable because of the COVID-19 situation to attend face-to-face classes, classes will be recorded, and any group not present in the classroom will be provided login access to view the recorded classes for 30 days following those classes.
- The visit to the WTO might be cancelled or organized online. The Model WTO might likewise be cancelled or organized online.
- The course lecturer would provide further information, as appropriate, about the changed implementation modalities of the course.

Alternative examination arrangements

- In case that classes are delivered online, all examination formats will remain the same, with the exception of the written examination, which may change to online format as well.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Written examination (40%, 60 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Remark

60 minutes' duration

Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids but will have to comply with the following restrictions:

- All the pocket calculators that are not of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series are explicitly inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Group examination paper (all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

The Group paper is called the Chair paper.

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 (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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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

Examination content

1. Students will have to write a Chair paper in pairs on a topic that will depend on the topic for the 2021 Model WTO and the committee for which the two students are preparing. They will have 4-6 weeks to write the papers. Chair papers will have to be prepared about a specific topic that is expected to be assigned in December 2020 or early in 2021 on the basis of the topic for the 2021 Model WTO simulation and linked to the committee for which the students are preparing. Students may express preferences concerning the topics, but the final decision about allocating topics to students is made by the lecturer. Each Chair team will be asked to provide an outline for the assigned topic, and the lecturer will meet with each Chair team to answer questions. In addition, there is expected to be a telephone conference with each Chair team. Papers will have to be submitted early in the spring semester (probably in late March 2021), at least a week before the start of the Model WTO simulation.
2. The written exam will include typically three practical and/or theoretical questions (possibly, but not necessarily,



including one extensive multiple-choice-type question) and covers the totality of the material covered in the course (lecture content (including slides), discussions, mandatory readings). Examples of previous examinations will be provided. The topics likely covered will be: Trade policy; The WTO's mission, structures, principles and agreements; international trade statistics and current trends; WTO trade negotiations; the WTO negotiating agenda; RTAs; WTO dispute settlement; GATS (services); TRIPS; "Trade and ..." issues (environment, PPMs, labour rights); Development issues; WTO reform; and/or related topics. The written examination will take place in the last session of the autumn term 2020 (second half of December 2020). Examination questions will be based on class work (including the Geneva visit) as well as mandatory readings.

3. Active participation will be assessed in terms of attendance in class, preparation for class, the quality and quantity of active participation in class in the autumn and spring terms, and full attendance at, and participation in, the week-long Model WTO simulation itself.

Examination relevant literature

The list of mandatory readings for the written examination will be provided at the beginning of the semester. It corresponds to the texts indicated in the course reader as mandatory readings. If adjustments have to be made to the list of mandatory readings, a revised list will be circulated. No further changes will be made to the list beyond mid-November.

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).