



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2020

3,316: Global Water Governance

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Active participation (10%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[3,316.1.00 Global Water Governance](#) -- Englisch -- [Boanada Fuchs Vanessa](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

None

Learning objectives

The Learning objective of this course is equipping students with capacities to understand the plurality of perspectives involved in complex problem-solving and conflict resolution in water governance matters. Beyond the specificity of the subject matter, upon completion of the course, students should be able to critically engage with international debates on sustainability and natural resources management through the lenses of political ecology and other interdisciplinary theories focused on the analysis of the human-nature relationship.

Course content

Water is an essential element for human activities from energy to food production. Water, food and energy are intertwined in a complex network that is central for economic and human development. Yet, the governance of this complex network faces growing challenges in a globalised world. In situations of scarcity, competition for access and control of water as a natural resource can achieve its fiercest expression, leading to socio-environmental conflicts. In contexts of abundance, the widespread belief in endless growth based on the overexploitation of water resources generate a sustainability and a global social justice dilemma. These two contexts are intrinsically related. Local natural resources cannot be considered in isolation from the global set of human-nature dependencies, and transboundary and virtual governance issues affect places marked by scarcity as much as by abundance, including: sovereignty and domestic control over natural resources vs. the global trade of "water and energy intensive" goods; transnational conflicts related to watershed management; migration of environmental refugees, among other challenges.

This course is designed to approach the triple water-energy-food nexus, placing water at the central stage as an object of analysis. Starting from concrete "on-the-ground" issues, water governance is studied from an interdisciplinary perspective, engaging with multi-level focus of analysis that goes from the local, to the national and the international. In that way, the course gives the students access to the different points of view of a plurality of actors and agencies, including governments, international organisations, social movements, local communities, and businesses.

Course structure



The course is organized as a weekly online meeting taking place regularly over the course of the semester. The course requires personal engagement and interactive work via the Zoom and StudyNet platforms.

Prior to the beginning of the semester, the lecturer will circulate recommended readings which will provide the basis for introductory lectures on human-environmental relations, political ecology, hydropolitics and international human rights, followed by discussions about documentary films. Participation and exchange of material through the designated online platforms is highly encouraged (10% of the grade - participation). The second part of the course consists of case studies presented by the students on water governance challenges (40% of the grade - group work). During the last part of the course, students will be individually advised to prepare a consultancy report that addresses an on-the-ground concern of a partner stakeholder, assisting them in designing solutions for water-related problems making use of the theoretical frameworks and knowledge base constructed over the course of the semester (50% of the grade - individual written assignment).

Course literature

Sample Literature

- **General human-nature interactions and natural resources' governance theoretical frameworks**
- Bassett, T.J. and Karl Zimmerer (2003). *Political Ecology: An Integrative Approach to Geography and Environment-Development Studies*. Guilford Press.
- Bryant, R.L. (2015) *The International Handbook of Political Ecology*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Gorz, A. (1980). *Ecology as politics*. Black Rose Books Ltd.
- Moran, E. F. (2016). *People and nature: An introduction to human ecological relations*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Ostrom, Elinor (1990) *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Watts, M. J. (2015). The origins of political ecology and the rebirth of adaptation as a form of thought. *The Routledge handbook of political ecology*, 19-50.

Additional topic-related references

- Abel, G. J., Brottrager, M., Cuaresma, J. C., & Muttarak, R. (2019). Climate, conflict and forced migration. *Global Environmental Change*, 54, 239-249.
- Allan, J. A. (2003). Virtual water-the water, food, and trade nexus. Useful concept or misleading metaphor? *Water international*, 28(1), 106-113.
- Bichsel, C. (2016). Water and the (infra-) structure of political rule: A synthesis. *Water Alternatives*, 9(2).
- Hoekstra, A.Y. & Mekonnen, M.M. (2012) The water footprint of humanity, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(9): 3232-3237
- Hoekstra, A.Y. & Hung, P.Q. (2005) Globalisation of water resources: international virtual water flows in relation to crop trade, *Global Environmental Change*, 15(1): 45-56
- International Energy Agency (IEA). 2016. *Water - Energy Nexus Special Report: excerpt from the World Energy Outlook 2016*.
- Kälin, Walter. 2010. Conceptualising Climate-Induced Displacement (Chapter 5) in Jane McAdam (ed.), *Climate Change and Displacement: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. Oxford: Hart Publishing, pp. 81-103.
- Luetz, J. M., & Merson, J. (2019). Climate change and human migration as adaptation: conceptual and practical challenges and opportunities. *Climate Action. Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Vol. SDG 3-Climate Action, Earth and Environmental Science ed., pp. 1-13)*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature.
- Risi, L. (2019). Beyond Water Wars. *The Wilson Quarterly*, 43(3), NA.
- Shiva, V. (2016). *Water wars: Privatization, pollution, and profit*. North Atlantic Books.
- UNWater - Water Related Sustainable Development Goals, available at: <https://www.unwater.org/>
- Winkler, I. T. (2019). The human right to water. In *Research Handbook on International Water Law*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Additional course information

Vanessa Boanada Fuchs is Assistant Professor of International Development and Sustainability and currently directs the St. Gallen Institute of Management in Latin America (GIMLA-HSG). She has a Legal and International Relations background and obtained her PhD in International Development Studies at the IHEID Geneva. Her research focus on socio-environmental issues, including sustainable development and participation, the rights of native and traditional communities, and the socio-economic impact assessment of infrastructure projects.



IMPORTANT: 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 remains being conducted online via the platform Zoom
- The recordings of each session of the course will be available on StudyNet for 30 days for those who are at different time zones and cannot participate synchronously.
- The lecturer will inform via StudyNet on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- Although, a priori, there are no major changes to the course information. Eventual guest lectures may be subject to cancellation and/or be made available through recordings.
- The examination information listed below would not be changed, as the course classes and exams are mostly delivered online. There are no changes necessary to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (10%)

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

Students are required to actively take part in online discussions through the live Zoom sessions and also Q&A fora on StudyNET.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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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

PPT (or similar visual aid) presentations to be prepared in groups on topics and cases made available by the professor at the beginning of the semester.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English



3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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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

Literature and cases discussed in class may be used as sources, as well as additional literature review carried out by each student independently.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

- 10% of the grade corresponds to active participation through Zoom online sessions and StudyNet Q&A forum. Students are encouraged to ask questions to the lecturer, to colleagues (following up on group presentations), and share relevant cases, stories, resources concerning water governance challenges.
- 40 % of the grade corresponds to a group presentation. Students will work together on a case study addressing one of the water governance challenges indicated by the professor at the beginning of the semester. The presentation of the case should occur during one of the course live sessions and also uploaded to StudyNet.
- 50% of the grade corresponds to a final individual written assignment (min. 15'000 characters, excl. spaces). The paper shall be written following the model of a consultancy report, which aims at assisting a real-world stakeholder (company, international organization, community or government) in solving a challenge or improving the management of its water resources. The paper is structured in two parts: the first one establishes the theoretical framework of analysis used by the student to address the case, and the second part applies it to the chosen case, making suggestions/recommendations. The consultancy paper is due at the end of the semester. Each student will receive individual advice and follow up on the final assignment over the course of the semester.

Examination relevant literature

The relevant literature for examination, additionally to the one made available in this fact sheet, will be posted on StudyNet by Sept. 14th 2020.



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).