



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2020

7,382: Transparency Society. A Critique of Our Current Condition

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (70%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7.382.1.00 Transparency Society. A Critique of Our Current Condition](#) -- Englisch -- [Alloa Emmanuel](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

The course requires the willingness to participate in a 'compact seminar' form.

No particular knowledge is presupposed, just the willingness to engage in lively discussions and critical questionings, and the readiness to join for intense three days of a compact seminar. As opposed to weekly seminars, there won't be time to 'digest' the materials. You will need to prepare all the assigned readings beforehand (anticipate the time required for this) and prepare your oral presentations.

Learning objectives

- Introduction to Current Political Philosophy & Ethics
- Improve your skills in conceptual analysis
- Oral Presentation Skills
- Writing techniques
- Expanding your capacities in Critical Thinking

Course content

Recent surveys show that 'transparency' and 'authenticity' are currently the two most popular words used by CEO's in their annual address. Why have such terms become so central in today's corporate communication? How did they historically emerge? Is there a 'right for transparency'? Where does it begin and where does it end? Where is the line between the private sphere and society's domain? But what if it turns out that the discourse about the 'transparent society' doesn't stand in contrast with the private self, but actually in accordance with it: the idea of a completely transparent 'public sphere' as the macro-level version of a self-transparent identity on the micro-level? From Augustine through Rousseau up until Facebook, technologies of confession have promoted the conception of an authentic 'I' which refers to itself by publicizing itself to others, while from Enlightenment up until today, the 'public sphere' has constituted itself by considering society as a whole as an open stage, but at the same time by instituting something like 'the public' to watch and monitor it. What is the connection between secret and publicity, between authenticity and its showcase? Is the move towards transparency a move towards a more critical society or is it paradoxically yielding the opposite symptoms? As the course will try to establish, self-monitoring and monitoring of the self, democratic control and technologies of surveillance seem dangerously close, to the extent that they become indiscernible, leaving the question unanswered what a democratic society should look like.



Course structure

Block course. Kickoff Day (double session - participation mandatory) + and three days of compact seminar.

Course literature

All materials will be available in digital format on Canvas

For a first overview on the topic: Alloa/Thomä (eds.): Transparency, Society, Subjectivity. Critical Perspectives, PalgraveMacmillan 2018.

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 will move to online and be conducted via the online platform Zoom. The course will be recorded and recordings will be available for 30 days from date posted. Should there be any changed implementation modalities of the course the lecturer will inform students via Canvas & email. There are no changes to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (individual) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

--

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

--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (70%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

--

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

--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Oral Presentation

The oral presentation is meant as an impulse presentation (**max. 15 min.**). It introduces to the assigned reading, fleshes out the main concepts and contextualizes its issues. The presentation's purpose is to prepare the grounds for the successive debate. Examples (especially contemporary ones) are welcome: all presentation media can be used (including videoclips, movie sections, photos, music etc.) The presentations will then be uploaded to Canvas by the students after the session.

Written Examination

The research paper may either be based on **(a)** the topic of the oral presentation or **(b)** an issue related to a topic discussed during the seminar. In both cases, please send a mail by **November 15th 2020** at the latest with the title of the research paper and a half-page long abstract with an outline of the chosen argument, a basic structure of the paper and its method as well as an elementary bibliography. Examples: - An in-depth analysis of the text you presented, taking into account further works by the author - A comparison of two theories discussed during the seminar

- A case study to which you could apply the concepts you acquired

- A free-form essay

→Criteria: clarity of expression, cogency of argumentation, knowledge of the debates, stylistic elegance, intellectual creativity

Dimensions: 8-10 pages, which amounts to min.18'000 and max.20'000 characters incl. spaces, without the title page, the table of contents and the bibliography (see Canvas for more details)

The Research Paper should be sent in PDF format to emmanuel.alloa@unisg.ch

Deadline for final submission: **January 3rd 2021** at the latest

Examination relevant literature

All relevant literature will be made available on Canvas.



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).