



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2020

7,391: Comparative Historical Analysis

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Central - Written examination (100%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: inter-term break

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,391,1.00 Comparative Historical Analysis](#) -- Englisch -- [Emmenegger Patrick](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

This is an advanced course in social science methodology. Students are expected to have basic-level knowledge of both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Learning objectives

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with comparative historical research methods and methodology. Students will learn to integrate temporal and contextual aspects into their analyses and combine qualitative and quantitative methods in their research. Moreover, the course will introduce several important concepts of the historical institutionalist toolkit. Selected cases, mostly from the literatures on state building and democratization, will acquaint students with the analytical strengths but also challenges of comparative historical analysis.

Course content

Social processes happen in time. So much is obvious. But what does this mean analytically? Does it matter whether countries industrialize before they democratize? Is it a coincidence that major electoral reforms and the origins of modern tax systems cluster around the First World War? Why do past decisions sometimes cast very long shadows and become all but irreversible? And why did the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident lead to significant policy change in Germany but not in Japan? These and many other questions are at the center of this course on comparative historical analysis. This course is not primarily concerned with long-past events but examines political and economic processes as they unfold in time. In this course, we get to learn the historical institutionalist toolkit, which includes critical junctures, path dependency and feedback effects, but also explore differences in physical and historical time. The course combines both qualitative and quantitative methods, for instance by exploring multimethod designs, but also by discussing how "history" offers us a laboratory to take advantage of natural experiments or use regression-discontinuity designs.

Course structure

This seminar-style course is expected to take place in the form of weekly two-hour meetings. If necessary, for instance in order to respect social distancing rules, the course will also be made available online. In case of a complete lockdown, the course will be held entirely online.

Course literature

Required readings will be made available to the extent possible online via Canvas. Representative readings include:

Dunning, Thad (2012): *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences: A Design-Based Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



Mahoney, James and Rueschemeyer, Dietrich (2003): Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mahoney, James and Thelen, Kathleen (2015): Advances in Comparative-Historical Analysis. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Pierson, Paul (2004): Politics in Time: History, Institutions, and Social Analysis. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Sewell, William H. Jr. (2005): Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Seawright, Jason (2016): Multi-Method Social Science: Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Tools. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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 be conducted online via the platform Zoom;
- The recordings of the course will not be saved;
- The lecturer informs via e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- There are no changes necessary to the course information.

There are no changes necessary to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/1)

Examination time and form

Central - Written examination (100%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: inter-term break

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Extended Closed Book

The use of aids is limited; any additional aids permitted are exhaustively listed under "Supplementary aids". Basically, the following is applicable:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and mono- or bilingual dictionaries (no subject-specific dictionaries) without hand-written notes are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models and any electronic dictionaries are inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as notebooks, tablets, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

Supplementary aids

No aids allowed.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English



Examination content

The exam will cover the literature, information and contents of the class sessions as well as the mandatory readings.

Examination relevant literature

All the mandatory readings must be read in advance of the examination. Additional material may be assigned as relevant over the course of the semester. The relevant literature will be provided online during the semester.

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).