



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2020

9,210: Mergers & Acquisitions

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Written examination (80%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[9,210,1.00 Mergers & Acquisitions](#) -- Englisch -- [Welch Guerra Xena](#) , [Binder Andreas](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites for this course. Students applying for the course have to be SIM students or exchange students on Master level

The course is limited to 30 participants. SIM students and exchange students are invited to apply for the course through the bidding system within the given time frame.

In order to be graded officially (i.e. receive credits) students may not miss more than 2 half-day lessons. If students do miss more than 2 half day lessons they will be excluded from the course.

Learning objectives

- Appreciate M&A as a multi-disciplinary phenomenon and learn the legal and strategic fundamentals of M&A
- Learn to think about the drivers, processes, and outcomes of M&A from a variety of different angles and theories
- Develop an understanding of the role of different actors in the M&A process, such as CEOs, shareholders, corporate M&A departments, consultants, regulation authorities, and investment banks
- Gain insights about the sub-processes and best practices in deal-making and post-merger integration
- Understand the prototypical challenges associated with M&A - and their underlying reasons

Course content

Mergers and Acquisitions are widely adopted means for growth and change of corporate scope. Before the sudden deceleration of deal activity in response to the global pandemic, annual transaction volumes exceeded an unprecedented level of 4 trillion US dollars. Corporate takeovers can add new competences, enable new market entry or increase economies of scale. However, they often present disruptive events for parties both within and outside the focal organizations. Given their high degree of risk and complexity, mergers and acquisitions frequently fail to realize their intended objectives.

This interdisciplinary course deals with managerial and legal issues in the design of acquisitive growth strategies, in the execution of transactions as well as in the integration of companies. Analyses of recent M&A cases illustrate these issues. Additionally, we invite a number of specialists on different aspects of the M&A process, who will share their experience and practical insights.

Course structure



Part 1: Managerial and Legal lectures

In the first part of the fall term six classes will be conducted: Three classes related to strategic and managerial issues of M&A (Welch Guerra) and three classes related to legal issues of M&A (Binder).

Part 2: Block Seminar - The Practice of M&A

In the break of the fall term we conduct a block seminar related to practical issues of M&A. With a number of guests from different companies sharing their insights, we will work on different case studies and deep-dive into the practice of M&A.

Course literature

A detailed outline of the literature will be provided in the syllabus of the course. The relevant course materials can be found on StudyNet usually at least a week before each lecture.

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 Zoom;
- The recordings of the course are available for 30 days;
- The lecturer informs via e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- The block seminar might have to be shortened.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

The written examination is replaced by a take-home exam. The scope, deadline, and allowed examination aids are communicated via e-mail.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Written examination (80%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Remark

--

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

--



Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

--

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

--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

There will be one exam for all students. Relevant for the written exam are the content for all lectures and the compulsory readings. The legal part of the written exam counts for 1/3 while the managerial part counts for 2/3.

Examination relevant literature

The literature will be announced in the course syllabus.



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).