



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2021

3,318: Poverty Alleviation

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (35%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (35%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[3,318.1.00 Poverty Alleviation](#) -- Englisch -- [Zurlinden Noémie](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

No prerequisites have to be met.

Learning objectives

In this course, students will

- get a sense for what it means to live on less than USD 1 per day and for policies aiming at poverty alleviation,
- get a sense for and interpret the related recent empirical evidence in development economics,
- apply this knowledge to evaluate policies aiming at alleviating poverty and improving the lives of poor people in developing countries.

Course content

The course "Poverty Alleviation" will provide insights on what it means to live on less than USD 1 a day and on how such situations can be improved. Development economists such as the 2019 Nobel Laureates in Economics, Abhijit V. Banerjee, Esther Duflo, and Michael Kremer, have uncovered some surprising facts about the lives of poor people in developing countries. Empirical evidence from such studies and insights from economics help us to better understand the lives of poor people, the choices they make, and how poverty can be alleviated. Among other topics, issues related to health, education, credit and savings will be discussed. For instance, one relatively cheap way to improve health outcomes is getting children immunized. However, immunization rates are often low in developing countries, even among people living near health centers. We will discuss explanations for low immunization rates and potential solutions to increase them. Furthermore, we will find out about the effect of soap operas on family size, whether microcredit can help people get out of poverty, plus many other topics. Students will get a sense for which policies can alleviate poverty effectively, and why others fail to have an impact. The students will apply their new knowledge to evaluate such policy interventions.

The following topics will be covered:

- Poverty traps
- Randomized controlled trials
- Food
- Health
- Education



- Family
- Risk and insurance
- Credit and savings
- Agriculture, employment, entrepreneurship
- Institutions

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course consists of weekly sessions of two hours. Most sessions will be split into lectures (input by the lecturer), presentations by the students and discussions.

Reading the relevant material, preparing a presentation and written papers, the students deepen their knowledge on the topics seen in the lectures. The discussions following the presentations provide an additional opportunity for the the students to reflect on the course content.

Course literature

Book: Banerjee, A. and Duflo, E. 2011. Poor Economics. Penguin Books.

Journal articles and other sources become available on Canvas during the semester.

Additional course information

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in AS2021, 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 permanently available.
- The lecturer informs via e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The presentations are conducted online and are being recorded.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (35%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Written work must be written without outside help according to the known citation standards, and a declaration of authorship must be attached, which is available as a template on the StudentWeb.

Documentation (quotations, bibliography, etc.) must be carried out universally and consistently according to the requirements of the chosen/specified citation standard such as e.g. APA or MLA.

The legal standard is recommended for legal work (cf. by way of example: FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R., SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (the latest edition in each case), or according to the recommendations of the



Law School).

The reference sources of information (paraphrases, quotations, etc.) that has been taken over literally or in the sense of the original text must be integrated into the text in accordance with the requirements of the citation standard used. Informative and bibliographical notes must be included as footnotes (recommendations and standards e.g. in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien (latest edition)).

For all written work at the University of St.Gallen, the indication of page numbers is mandatory, regardless of the standard chosen. Where page numbers are missing in sources, the precise designation must be made differently: chapter or section title, section number, article, etc.

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 - examination paper written at home (individual) (35%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Written work must be written without outside help according to the known citation standards, and a declaration of authorship must be attached, which is available as a template on the StudentWeb.

Documentation (quotations, bibliography, etc.) must be carried out universally and consistently according to the requirements of the chosen/specified citation standard such as e.g. APA or MLA.

The legal standard is recommended for legal work (cf. by way of example: FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R., SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende (the latest edition in each case), or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

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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 - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)



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

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Students are expected to make the following contributions:

They write two short papers during the semester.

- They give a presentation. on the following topics:
 - Poverty traps
 - Randomized controlled trials
 - Food
 - Health
 - Education
 - Family
 - Risk and insurance
 - Credit and savings
 - Agriculture, employment, entrepreneurship
 - Institutions

Specifics will be discussed at the beginning of the semester.

Examination relevant literature

Book: Banerjee, A. and Duflo, E. 2011. Poor Economics. Penguin Books.

Journal articles and other sources become available on Canvas during the semester (each week before the respective topic). All material will be uploaded before the end of term.



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, 26 August 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 18 October 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 18 October 2021);

Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 45 (Monday, 8 November 2021).