



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2021

### 7,381: Consultancy Project: A Hub for Digital Literacy at the NEC in Bucarest

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (80%)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,381,1.00 Consultancy Project: A Hub for Digital Literacy at the NEC in Bucarest](#) -- Englisch -- [Lehmkuhl Dirk](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

**IMPORTANT:** Students independently take care of the following issues: Visa (to whom it concerns); vaccination or alternative proof of covid-protection; insurance; airline ticket (in exceptional cases, a grant may be applied for).

All costs in Bucharest will be covered by the Centre for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen.

#### Learning objectives

##### Learning objectives

- To understand the historical achievements of NEC as an independent institution that cultivates and spreads values of academic freedom and integrity into a post-socialist country.
- To familiarize with basic challenges of new technologies (digitalisation, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, machine learning) a) for humanities and social sciences, b) for the business model of NEC, c) for the Romanian economy and society.
- To develop concepts of how the NEC as an Institute for Advanced Studies may address these challenges with respect to two key aspects:
  - opportunities for core functions and the business model of the NEC
  - possibilities for contributing to the societal readiness to address technology-related challenges in Romania (society here including industry, politics, academia, and civil society).

#### Course content

##### Consultancy Project: The New Europe College in Bucharest and the challenges of new technologies

At its core, the consultancy project addresses the challenge of how a humanities and social science-focused Institute for Advanced Studies, The New Europe College (NEC) in Bucharest, can position itself regarding technology-related questions about the future.

The core challenge has three dimensions. First, as an institute in the humanities and social sciences, the NEC must address the fundamental questions of digitalisation and digitisation from the perspective of these sciences. Second, as an independent institute, the NEC needs to identify both challenges and opportunities for its core functions (fellowships; seminars) and its business model (so far third party financed) related to new digital technologies. Third, as an integrative part of the Romanian



intellectual community, the NEC must reflect about its role in preparing and advancing digital readiness in both thinking and practice of the Romanian society at large, including politics, economy, and society.

It is important to contextualise these challenges to understand the specific quality of the task ahead. The New Europe College has been established as a politically independent research centre in 1994. It offers fellowships for junior fellows from Romanian and abroad. Under the leadership of its founder Andrej Pleşu - dissident under the Ceauşescu government, minister of culture and minister of foreign affairs after the fall of the socialist government in 1989, and still a very prominent intellectual figure in Romania today - NEC has developed a reputation as a beacon of academic integrity and liberal values in post-socialist Romanian society. Its close ties to Switzerland are expressed on the one hand by the Swiss-owned house of the NEC. On the other hand, while other Western donors have gradually withdrawn, financial contributions from Switzerland have emerged over the years as a central pillar for the operation of the NEC.

Since taking office in 2014, the new leadership of the NEC, Valentina Sandu-Dediu, Professor of Musicology, has successfully made efforts to mobilise both private and public funding from Romania in addition to financial contributions from foreign supporters and project-based financing. This has always been done with the proviso that the independence and academic freedom of the NEC is not jeopardised -negative examples of political interference in Central and Eastern European countries confirm the need for a cautious course in this regard.

In recent years, the NEC as other institutions and, more generally, the humanities and social sciences have been challenged by two developments. On the one hand, the general trend towards the economisation of science is associated with pressure to document the value of scientific research in the humanities. On the other hand, and partly linked to the first aspect, there is the expectation of active participation and shaping of current social debates by academic institutions.

It is in this roughly context in which the three challenges related to new technologies, i.e. digitalisation, digitality and artificial intelligence unfold. Reflections on the implications for the disciplines present at the NEC, for its business model and for the role of the NEC in the Romanian society are eminent and require answers. For the purpose of the consultancy project at least a rudimentary examination of the first aspect is necessary for a basic understanding of the disciplinary dimension of the challenge. However, the focus of the consultancy project will be on the other two aspects. The overarching idea of the project is to present to the leadership of the NEC possible courses of action in relation to technology-related challenges. To achieve this objective, the project combines lectures, desktop research, stakeholder interviews (incl. the NEC team, the Swiss ambassador, board members) with a site visit in Bucharest.

## Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

### Course Structure

The consultancy project proceeds as follows. We start with five sessions in St. Gallen in which students will familiarize themselves with key aspects of the project. The sessions include lectures, short interventions by students and zoom discussions with some key stakeholders. In early November, course participants will meet for a site visit in Bucharest. While students organise and finance their travel to Bucharest themselves, all costs in Bucharest will be covered by the Centre for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen. The intention of the site visit is for students to become familiar with the local environment and have conversations with key stakeholders. After the site visit, students work in groups to develop proposals for the tasks at hand. At the beginning of December, the groups present their proposals in a longer, final session.

To summarize the course structure: September to October: 5 session in St. Gallen; early November: 2-3 days site visit in Bucharest; early December: presentation of group work.

### Course literature

#### Literature

A list with relevant literature and information will be ready on Canvas at the beginning of the term. To prepare, interested students may consult the website of the New Europe College: <https://nec.ro>

### Additional course information

**Supplementary information:** Covid-19 rules --> fully virtual if necessary, no recordings.

- The lecturer informs via StudyNet a/o e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- Course content such as excursion are cancelled. There are no changes necessary to the examination information.



Presentations will be held online via Zoom.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Active, informed engagement

##### Examination-aid rule

Active classroom participation

In the "Active classroom participation" examination form, regular participation in class is assessed.

The assessment criteria can be as follows:

- Requests to speak enrich the discussion (productive) / requests to speak disturb the discussion (counterproductive);
- Requests to speak are correct/requests to speak are incorrect;
- Requests to speak are frequent/average/rare;
- No requests to speak, but students follow the lesson/no requests to speak and students do not noticeably follow the lessons.

##### Supplementary aids

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##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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#### 2. Examination sub part (2/2)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (80%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Group presentation + elaborated written version

##### 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

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## Examination content

Content of all assignments are the challenges of how a humanities and social science-focused Institute for Advanced Studies, The New Europe College (NEC) in Bucharest, can position itself regarding technology-related questions about the future.

The assignments involve:

- Active engagement and participation, incl. informed engagement in discussions, short inputs in first sessions, participation and active engagement during site visit (20%);
- Group presentation + elaborated written version (80%), informed, sound and creative elaboration on possible ways to address the core challenges stated in the course description.

## Examination relevant literature

To address the assignments, students recruit on inputs by the lecturer and information gathered in desktop research and information with stakeholders.

### 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).