



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2021

7,385: Current Regimes in World Politics

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (50%, 60 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7.385.1.00 Current Regimes in World Politics](#) -- Englisch -- [Frei Christoph](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

A basic understanding of conventional theories of International Relations (realism, liberalism, constructivism, including their respective neo-/more recent variations).

Learning objectives

- (1) Learn better to understand how specific regimes in world politics work (interdisciplinary knowledge and comprehension);
- (2) Learn to compare elements across regimes (connect, contrast, distill general features);
- (3) Get acquainted with a number of analytical tools indispensable for the reduction of complexity (organize, analyze);
- (4) Improve and demonstrate skills and content mastery (apply, create) by dint of written assignments.

Course content

Wherever we look, national interests seem to bedevil international negotiations. Shall we ever start fighting climate change in a concerted, adequate manner? How can we make sure that nuclear weapons will remain a temporary trust in the hands of a few? How to enhance socio-economic development in poorly governed countries around the planet? How to keep narrow nationalisms from blocking vulnerable populations' access to COVID-19 vaccines once the stuff is available? In sum, and more broadly speaking: how can we defeat that powerful "cancer of Westphalia" (Paul Harris), that is, move beyond an anarchy of sovereign states and all its dire implications?

Confronted with questions such as these, liberal scholars of International Relations will tell you that cooperation and concerted action is indeed possible under anarchy, and that multilateral institutions can help structure the behavior of states. Liberals thus believe that *regimes* (bundles of institutions) can bring about an environment conducive to the convergence of state interests. Realist scholars, on the other hand, will tell you that regimes merely reflect the distribution of power in the international system—that they are only just intervening variables between power, the real independent variable, and cooperation, the dependent variable. For realists, institutions such as the World Bank or the IMF are tools of American grand strategy at best.

While we won't have to decide who is wise and who is otherwise, we shall cheerfully engage with world politics by looking at current regimes and exploring select aspects and elements. Why do regimes flourish at one time and weaken at another? What are requirements for the effectiveness of a regime? Do regimes collide? And how do regimes fit into the more fashionable universe of international and global governance?



If you are interested in issue areas such as climate and energy, nuclear proliferation, development, migration or health, you might want to register for this course as it is, precisely, the corresponding five regimes that we shall discuss over the course of twelve weeks.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Throughout the semester, we will convene for two hours every week for lectures and discussion. Beyond the classroom, self-study will play a major part by dint of weekly mandatory readings on the one hand and weekly written assignments on the other. In fact, two out of four credits will be conferred based on this latter element. Out of a total of nine assignments offered, you will have to edit and submit at least five.

Course literature

At the beginning of the semester, mandatory readings will be available both in the format of a physical reader and online on StudyNet.

Additional course information

Should new directives be issued due to the pandemic and prevent us from convening in the classroom, lectures will continue to be offered via Zoom. This being said, the examination format is independent of whether we meet in the classroom or online. Under the online-format, the final exam would be written at home rather than in the classroom (same day, same time), that's all.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Written assignments related to mandatory readings

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



No restrictions.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (50%, 60 mins.)

Examination time: term time

Remark

A few open questions (e.g. answer two out of four)

Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids but will have to comply with the following restrictions:

- All the pocket calculators that are not of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series are explicitly inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

1. Over the course of the semester, students hand in a number of written assignments that relate to the mandatory readings. These readings, in turn, provide background information about the regime on hand or else shed light on specific aspects/elements of a regime.

2. The final exam will include a small number of open questions and embrace the totality of the material covered in the course (lectures, discussions, mandatory readings).

Examination relevant literature

All relevant literature is comprised in the Reader.

The reader will be available at the beginning of 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, 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).