



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2021

7,391: Comparative Historical Analysis

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

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

Examination time: term time

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

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7.391.1.00 Comparative Historical Analysis](#) -- Englisch -- [Emmenegger Patrick](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

This is an advanced course. Students are expected to have basic-level knowledge of social science methodology

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 and indications of the learning and teaching design

This seminar-style course is expected to take place in the form of weekly two-hour meetings. Based on joint readings and empirical examples, we will discuss advances in comparative historical analysis.

Course literature

Required readings will be made available 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 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 available for 30 days;
- The lecturer informs via e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- There are no changes necessary to the course and examination information.

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

--

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

--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

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

Examination time: term time

Remark

--

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

--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

The examination consists of two written assignments (individually written at home), each contributing 50% to the final grade. After both the first half of the term and the second half of the term, students will have seven days to answer one question and upload their answer electronically (max. 1'500 words). In both papers, students are expected to apply and critically discuss the concepts and approaches learnt during the course in a research context.

Examination relevant literature

All mandatory readings will be made available on Canvas throughout the semester in time for the respective sessions.



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).