



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2021

7,399: International Security

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (25%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Active participation (15%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7.399.1.00 International Security](#) -- Englisch -- [Westerwinter Oliver](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this class.

Learning objectives

The goal of this course is to enable students to read and understand theoretical arguments about international conflict and peace and research designs developed to empirically test these arguments. The course will also enable students to develop their own ideas for research and writing. The assignments for the course are designed to help students to move toward identifying researchable questions for study, and preparing a research design to answer these questions.

Course content

In this course, we will read, discuss, and engage the modern, quantitative literature on international security, with particular emphasis on contemporary research on conflict and peace. Since the quantitative international security literature is extensive, the particular readings and issues that we cover must inevitably be a small and somewhat idiosyncratic sample. However, we will also focus on more general issues and develop analytical skills relevant to research design, empirical analysis, and academic discourse that have wider applicability in the study of international security and international relations more generally. The course will also focus on how to go beyond the role of a consumer or simply evaluating the research of others to becoming active contributors and improving on existing research.

The course will be theory-driven, with each session devoted to studying a particular theoretical argument or set of arguments related to specific questions about international conflict and peace. In addition to theoretical arguments, each session will engage with empirical applications of these theories. We will address most of the major topics in the study of international conflict and peace, including war and conflict onset, war and conflict duration, alliances and military cooperation, weapons of mass destruction, civil war, and terrorism.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course will take place on a weekly basis in the fall semester 2021. There will be no classes during the semester break. The



course will be taught in-person on the HSG campus.

The course will consist in input by the lecturer, with student discussion and student presentations.

Course literature

The syllabus will provide a list of required and optional readings for the class. Relevant readings include, but are not limited to:

Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. *The Causes of War*. New York: Free Press.

Dorussen, Han, Erik A. Gartzke and Oliver Westerwinter. 2016. "Networked International Politics: Complex Interdependence and the Diffusion of Conflict and Peace." *Journal of Peace Research* 53: 283-291.

Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War" *International Organization* 49: 379-414.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1981. *The War Trap*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and David Lalman. 1992. *War and Reason: Domestic and International Imperatives*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Additional course information

The lecturer will inform about the exact specifics of the course in the first session and regularly during the course of the semester. For additional information, please contact Oliver Westerwinter (email: oliver.westerwinter@unisg.ch).

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 will be available for at least 30 day;
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet and email on the changed implementation modalities of the course.

Presentations will be conducted online via Zoom. There are no additional changes to the examinations.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (20%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Response paper

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 (2/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (25%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

In-class presentation

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

3. Examination sub part (3/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Research design paper

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

4. Examination sub part (4/4)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (15%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Active participation in class discussions

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

Examination content

Your final grade will be determined by a response paper (20%), a presentation (25%), a research design paper (40%), and active



participation in the course's lectures and discussions (15%). The response paper (1-2 pages) focuses on a particular article and is intended to provide inputs to the group discussion of a selected class session. Each student has to select one class session to write a response paper for a particular article. The article has to be chosen from the required readings of this session. Response papers have to be submitted as hard copy or electronically (per email to oliver.westerwinter@unisg.ch) by noon of the Friday prior to the class session to which they are related. Late submissions will not be accepted. The response paper is a solo exam. You are therefore expected to work on and submit your paper individually.

The presentation can be either held by an individual student or a small group (maximum three students per group). In the presentations, you are expected to link the general problems and analytical tools discussed in a particular class session to specific examples and empirical cases. The slides and other materials for the presentation (e.g. handout) have to be shared with the class via StudyNet at least three days prior to the date of the presentation. This provides other students the opportunity to read the materials and prepare. The topic and approach of the presentation has to be communicated to the course instructor at least one week prior to the presentation.

The research design paper will contribute 40% to your final grade. It has to be submitted either as hard copy or electronically (per email to: oliver.westerwinter@unisg.ch) by January 12, 2022 (provisional data). Late submissions will not be accepted. The research design paper (5-7 pages) develops a research topic and question into a executable research design (as would be required, for example, for a BA or MA thesis project). For the response paper, the presentation, and the research design paper, there are short guidelines available at the StudyNet website of the class. The research design paper is a solo exam. You are therefore expected to work on and submit your paper project individually.

Active participation contributes 15% to your final grade. Active participation means that you come to class, work through all the required readings prior to class, and take part in the discussions.

In combination, the assignments will help students to deepen and broaden their understanding of the materials covered in class. In general, students should come to class having completed the required readings and being prepared to participate in the group discussions.

Examination relevant literature

The syllabus will provide a list of required and optional readings for the class (available at the start of the semester). Relevant readings include, but are not limited to:

Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. *The Causes of War*. New York: Free Press.

Dorussen, Han, Erik A. Gartzke and Oliver Westerwinter. 2016. "Networked International Politics: Complex Interdependence and the Diffusion of Conflict and Peace." *Journal of Peace Research* 53: 283-291.

Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War" *International Organization* 49: 379-414.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1981. *The War Trap*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and David Lalman. 1992. *War and Reason: Domestic and International Imperatives*. New Haven: Yale University Press.



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).