



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2021

7,740: Verantwortung/Responsibility: Business and Human Rights - Legal, Managerial and Ethical Perspectives

ECTS credits: 3

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,740.1.00 Verantwortung/Responsibility: Business and Human Rights - Legal, Managerial and Ethical Perspectives](#) -- Englisch -- [Palombo Dalia](#) , [Wettstein Florian](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

None

Learning objectives

After the successful completion of the course, students will

- have a sound understanding of issues, current discussions and initiatives at the intersection of business and human rights;
- understand the conceptual and theoretical foundations from which to approach, reflect on and assess such discussions and issues;
- have developed awareness and sensitivity for issues and challenges concerning human rights and business and are able to recognize, understand, and discuss systematically their ethical, legal, and managerial dimensions.
- are able to navigate normative, legal and managerial discourses surrounding human rights issues in the context of business and in the broader realm of corporate responsibility in general
- possess a professional outlook which understands such issues and perspectives as a fundamental part of doing business in a global marketplace.

Course content

The debate on business and human rights has been one of the most dynamic discourses in the broader domain of corporate responsibility, both in practice and in academia. Human rights questions are currently shifting to the very center of practical efforts and academic concepts in corporate responsibility and dominate the agenda of international and domestic policy makers concerned with corporate responsibility. This course shall provide an overview and introduction to this debate. Special emphasis will be given to the recently released UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights, the process of their development, their achievements and potential for future success, as well as their shortcomings and the challenges ahead. The debate shall be analyzed from ethical, legal, and managerial perspectives. Foundational questions (both normative and conceptual) are as much a part of it as practical challenges concerning implementation and policy-making. Conceptual discussions shall be complemented by hands-on case studies. The overall aim is to have students understand and appreciate the significance of this discourse for the future of corporate responsibility and, accordingly, to provide them with a good sense of the main topics and challenges that are currently being discussed in this area.



Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

1. Normative and Conceptual Foundations 2. The Business and Human Rights Debate 3. Human Rights in Business Practice 4. Legal and Policy Responses

Teaching and learning design: The course integrates input lectures to various topics with seminar parts consisting of discussions of various styles (small and large groups, structured debates, etc.), case work and other in-class assignments.

The course is based on an interactive format which requires not only presence but vivid participation by all students.

Contextual Studies are considered part of **Contact Learning**; thus, taking part properly implies **regular attendance**, be it online or in the classroom. In order to fully comply with the distance and hygiene rules applicable at the university, the course can be taught online or in smaller groups. It is the students' own responsibility to ensure that there is **no timetable clash** between the courses they have chosen. A detailed course outline and all relevant documents will be made available on **Studynet**.

Course literature

According to course reader, available at the beginning of the term on Studynet.

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 Studynet/Zoom;
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet and e-mail on the changed implementation modalities of the course;
- There are no changes necessary to the course information.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The presentations are conducted online and are being recorded;
- There are no changes necessary to the exam information.

Florian Wettstein is chair and professor of business ethics and director of the Institute for Business Ethics at University of St. Gallen. He is the author of *Multinational Corporations and Global Justice: Human Rights Obligations of a Quasi-Governmental Institution* (Stanford University Press, 2009) and Editor-in-Chief of the *Business and Human Rights Journal (BHRJ)*, published by Cambridge University Press.

Dalia Palombo is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Business Ethics. Previously she worked at the London School of Economics and the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg. She is a graduate of the Università degli Studi di Milano, Harvard Law School and Maastricht University. She is licensed as an attorney in New York. She is the author of *Business and Human Rights: The Obligations of the European Home State* (Hart Publishing, 2019). Her primary area of research is business and human rights.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

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 (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

Supplementary aids

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

Paper (30,000 - 40,000 characters incl. spaces) and presentation topics will be announced in class.

Presentation: Research and preparation of a set topic and subsequent presentation and discussion (25-30 min) in class.

Examination relevant literature

According to Syllabus, available at the beginning of the term on Studynet.



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).