



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2021

### 7,743: Verantwortung/Responsibility: Finance and Society

ECTS credits: 3

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

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

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7.743.1.00 Verantwortung/Responsibility: Finance and Society](#) -- Englisch -- [Stephen Sarah Lilian](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

None.

#### Learning objectives

After the successful completion of the course, the students will be able to:

- describe and reflect on current societal and environmental issues,
- understand the role of corporations in augmenting or mitigating these issues,
- discuss the role of the financial services in augmenting or mitigating these issues,
- understand and apply certain theoretical concepts from business and society literature,
- categorise different types of investors,
- summarise financial tools that can be practically used in addressing societal and environmental issues,
- derive recommendations and solutions for stakeholders and/or the financial services.

#### Course content

This broad course introduces students to topical societal and environmental issues, the role of corporations (particularly, the concepts of corporate social responsibility/performance and stakeholders), and the seemingly disconnected financial services.

The group and individual assessment components will challenge students to critically appraise the role of finance in society.

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

This is a 3 credit course, structured according to two sequential steps:

- The first step leans heavily on research and practice and is delivered via classroom sessions. This comprises of weekly lectures of 2 hours covering three main themes divided across the calendar weeks of the semester: issues, role of corporations, & role of financial services. This step is interactive, with class discussions and activities and online discussion forum. Students are strongly encouraged to bring their laptops as printed materials will not be distributed.
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- The second step is more practical, i.e., it provides students an opportunity to apply the lessons learnt and/or get a deeper insights on selected topics.

In addition to the weekly two hour classroom sessions, the course would need a time commitment of at least four hours per week.



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**. Only the current timetable as published on **Stundenplan online** does apply.

## Course literature

All readings are supplementary and will be released via Campus each week. However, students are strongly encouraged to read these before class sessions (or else, they will struggle in following the lectures and discussions).

## Additional course information

The course is expected to be held in person. However, all students are expected to comply with the government's and university's regulations on SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which may change as and when the situation evolves.

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, depending on the directive adopted by the university:

1. adopt a hybrid version: i.e., with both on site (for a restricted number of students) and simultaneous online (for the remainder of students) classes. The specific organisation of this arrangement will be provided as and when required. However, note that, under such circumstances, students will be given the flexibility to follow the class simultaneously online.
2. be conducted entirely online via Campus/Zoom.

In the event of (1) or (2), the recordings of the course will be available for 30 days.

In both cases, there will be no changes to the course content and structure. The examination/assessments component is already adapted for online collaboration (for the group work) and assessment. Note that in the event of (1) or (2), presentations will be conducted online and will be recorded.

Any updates on the changed implementation modalities of the course will be informed via Campus.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

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

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (40%)

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

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

### 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.

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### Supplementary aids

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### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## Examination content

Assessment is via the following:



1. **Group project (40%):** Topics for the group project are predetermined and will be communicated via Campus on October 5th. Students will form groups by themselves (ideally 3/max. 4 students in a group) and choose the topics on a first come, first served basis. Assessment is as follows:

- i. A written assignment of 2000 - 3000 words (excluding references & appendices) submitted by 30th November at 2359. (30%)
- ii. A group presentation (exact duration will be communicated on October 5th) on 7th & 14th December, followed by Q&A of up to 15 minutes. All members of the group must present and all members of a given group will be given the same grade (10%). The PDF of the presentation slides has to be submitted by 30th November at 2359 as well.

2. **Individual project (60%):** Students have two options:

i. They can either identify a topic (on the broad area of finance and society) they would like to explore more on. They are encouraged to utilise the office hours for ensuring that their topic fits the scope for this project.

Or

ii. They could utilise a list of potential topics (available on request and chosen on a first come, first served basis).

Assessment for the project is as follows:

- i. A written assignment of 2000-3000 words (excluding references & appendices) submitted by 13th December at 2359. (50%)

Note: A selected number of group and individual written assignments (chosen by the lecturer) will be published online after examination results are published in Feb 2022.

## Examination relevant literature

All written work must follow a formatting and style guide that will be communicated on October 5th. Students can draw from literature shared during the course, but they are expected to also significantly draw from other scholarly and practitioner literature and additional data as both examination parts include written projects.

### 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).