



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2021

9,350: Asia-Pacific Security in Focus: The South China Sea

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (in groups - all given the same grades) (70%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[9,350,1.00 Asia-Pacific Security in Focus: The South China Sea](#) -- Englisch -- [Hänggi Heinrich Stephan](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Students should have basic knowledge of International Relations (IR) concepts and theories and a solid interest in both international security and the Asia-Pacific region.

Learning objectives

By the end of this course students will have acquired a comprehensive and structured understanding of a key international security issue in the Asia-Pacific region, and will have demonstrated an ability to properly apply their gained conceptual and theoretical knowledge to a specific aspect of this security issue.

Course content

The Asia-Pacific has emerged as the world's economic and geopolitical centre of gravity. This region has become the central theatre in the strategic rivalry between the United States and China to shape the course of the 21st century. The Asia-Pacific is also home to regional conflicts that could have global ramifications, including the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Strait, and the South China Sea. This course deals with the latter of the three so-called regional "flashpoints" - the one that over the last decade has been subject to a rapid transformation from what was previously a regional maritime issue among littoral states which did not attract much attention into a focal point of the competition between China and the US in the region. Refining our understanding of Asia-Pacific security using the case of the South China Sea is therefore particularly insightful for practical, policy-oriented, and theoretical perspectives of International Relations.

By drawing on IR theory, specific aspects of the South China Sea conflict will be explored, including among others: territorial sovereignty disputes and competing maritime claims; maritime security and the militarization of the South China Sea; China's increasingly assertive behaviour in the South China Sea; the responses of the other claimant states and the role of ASEAN in this context; the changing approach of the US as an external power with a strong military presence in the region; traditional and non-traditional security aspects of the South China Sea conflict, including the economic-security nexus; bilateral and multilateral approaches to peaceful dispute settlement. By exploring various aspects of this regional conflict, and reading and hearing from Asia-Pacific security experts, this course allows students to gain a deeper understanding of one of the most complex and challenging security issues in the Asia-Pacific.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The class has a bloc structure, with an introduction (4-hour kick-off session) at the beginning of the semester followed by an



intensive seminar (3-day workshop) in the semester break.

The kick-off session will focus on the conceptual underpinnings of the South China Sea conflict in the context of Asia-Pacific security and provide an overview of topics proposed for the research papers. It will be given in the lecture format. The session will end with the assignment of topics proposed for papers to groups of two participants.

The structured discussion of the topics dealt with in the research papers is at the core of the intensive seminar. This will be supplemented by thematic introductions by the lecturer and guest lectures by external experts sharing their perspectives on the course topic. Active student participation will be required, including (but not limited to) the presentation and discussion in class of a research paper.

Course literature

Required readings for all course participants and a selection of recommended readings related to the topics proposed for the research papers will be made available on StudyNet prior to the kick-off session.

Additional course information

The course is held on the university campus.

In case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the course information listed above and below 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 StudyNet on changed implementation modalities of the course; there are no changes necessary to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (in groups - all given the same grades) (70%)

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) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

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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

Examination content

Students are expected to write a research paper of 5,000-6,000 words in groups of two (if it is not possible to form a group, the requirements for individual papers will be reduced accordingly), to present the paper before class (based on a PowerPoint deck of slides), to critically review as discussants the paper of another group, and to actively participate in class discussions. Papers are due one week before the beginning of the intensive seminar. The topics of the papers are presented and assigned to the students at the kick-off session.

Examination relevant literature

Required reading for all course participants and a selection of recommended reading on each topic proposed for papers will be made available 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).