Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2022

3,316: Global Water Governance

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) (30%)
Examination time: term time
Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)
Examination time: term time

Attached courses
Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer
3,316,1.00 Global Water Governance -- Englisch -- Boanada Fuchs Vanessa

Course information

Course prerequisites
This course is offered online, via Zoom, with only two to three in person classroom meeting during the semester.

Learning objectives
The Learning objective of this course is to understand the plurality of perspectives involved in complex problem-solving and conflict resolution in water governance matters. Beyond the specificity of the subject matter, students will critically engage with international debates on sustainability and natural resources management through the lenses of political ecology and other interdisciplinary theories focused on the analysis of the human-nature relationship.

Course content
Water is an essential element for human activities from energy to food production. Water, food and energy are intertwined in a complex network that is central for economic and human development. Yet, the governance of this complex network faces growing challenges in a globalised world. In situations of scarcity, competition for access and control of water as a natural resource can achieve its fiercest expression, leading to socio-environmental conflicts. In contexts of abundance, the widespread belief in endless growth based on the overexploitation of water resources generate a sustainability and a global social justice dilemma. These two contexts are intrinsically related. Local natural resources cannot be considered in isolation from the global set of human-nature dependencies, and transboundary and virtual governance issues affect places marked by scarcity as much as by abundance, including: sovereignty and domestic control over natural resources vs. the global trade of "water and energy intensive" goods; transnational conflicts related to watershed management; migration of environmental refugees, among other challenges.

This course is designed to approach the triple water-energy-food nexus, placing water at the central stage as an object of analysis. Starting from concrete “on-the-ground” issues, water governance is studied from an interdisciplinary perspective, engaging with multi-level focus of analysis that goes from the local, to the national and the international. In that way, the course gives the students access to the different points of view of a plurality of actors and agencies, including governments, international organisations, social movements, local communities, and businesses.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design
The course is organized as a weekly online meeting taking place regularly over the course of the semester. The course requires
personal engagement and interactive work via the Zoom and StudyNet platforms.

Prior to the beginning of the semester, the lecturer will circulate recommended readings which will provide the basis for introductory lectures on human-environmental relations, political ecology, hydropolitics and international human rights, followed by discussions about documentary films. The second part of the course consists of case studies presented by the students on water governance challenges. During the last part of the course, students prepare a consultancy report that addresses on-the-ground concerns of a partner stakeholder, designing solutions for water-related problems making use of the theoretical frameworks and knowledge base constructed over the course of the semester.

Course literature

Sample Literature

- **General human-nature interactions and natural resources' governance theoretical frameworks**

Additional topic-related references


Additional course information

Vanessa Boanada Fuchs is Assistant Professor of International Development and Sustainability and currently directs the St. Gallen Institute of Management in Latin America (GIMLA-HSG). She has a Legal and International Relations background and obtained her PhD in International Development Studies at the IHEID Geneva. Her research focus on socio-environmental issues, including sustainable development and participation, the rights of native and traditional communities, and the socio-economic impact assessment of infrastructure projects.

Examination information

Fact sheet version: 1.0 as of 29/07/2022, valid for Autumn Semester 2022
Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form
Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (20%)
Examination time: term time

Remark
Choice of written exercises

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 (2/3)

Examination time and form
Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (30%)
Examination time: term time

Remark
Presentation in groups

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

Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English
3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form
Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)
Examination time: term time

Remark
Consultancy 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: FORSTMOESER, 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).

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Supplementary aids
Literature and cases discussed in class may be used as sources, as well as additional literature review carried out by each group independently.

Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English

Examination content
20% of the grade corresponds to the choice of one individually written exercise sent by the lecturer at the beginning of the semester (500 words, or one page); written exercises can be chosen at the students' discretion from a range of propositions, including summary of academic texts, movie/documentary review, historical event, among others.

30 % of the grade corresponds to a group presentation. Students will work together on a case study addressing one of the water governance challenges. The presentation of the case should occur during one of the course live sessions and a PPT (or similar) be uploaded to StudyNet.

50% of the grade corresponds to a final individual written assignment (min. 15'000 characters, excl. spaces). The paper shall be written following the model of a consultancy report, which aims at assisting a real-world stakeholder (company, international organization, community or government) in solving a challenge or improving the management of its water resources. The paper is structured in two parts: the first one establishes the theoretical framework of analysis used by the student to address the case, and the second part applies it to the chosen case, making suggestions/recommendations. The consultancy paper is due at the end of the semester. Each student will receive individual advice and follow up on the final assignment over the course of the semester.

Examination relevant literature
All relevant literature for the examination, additionally to the one listed in this fact sheet, will be posted on StudyNet by Oct.01
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, 25 August 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 17 October 2022);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 17 October 2022);
- 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, 7 November 2022).