



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2022

### 7,358: Silk Roads, Old and New: China, Europe, and Central Asia in Historical, Economic, Sociocultural, and Geopolitical Contexts

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (50%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,358,1.00 Silk Roads, Old and New: China, Europe, and Central Asia in Historical, Economic, Sociocultural, and Geopolitical Contexts](#) -- Englisch -- [Frei Christoph](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

None beyond an interest in Central Asia, the historic Silk Road, and the current Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

#### Learning objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- have a thorough understanding of the geopolitical, economic and socio-cultural dynamics of Central Asia (*knowledge, understanding*);

1. - be familiar with core concepts that enable them to analyze the dynamics mentioned under learning objective 1 (*analysis*);
- 2.
3. - have applied the knowledge and analytical tools mentioned above by either researching a specific country in the region or by reviewing a book (*transfer, individual assignment*);
- 4.
5. - have honed their writing *skills* by dint of a written assignment.

#### Course content

As Peter Frankopan once put it: "To understand the world, the best place to look is not in the centre of the West nor in the heart of the East, but on the old Silk Road where the two come together." Over the course of one full semester, we will focus upon a largely unknown, yet important region in terms of geopolitical and geoeconomics exposure - Central Asia. In the process, we develop an interdisciplinary approach as found in various "area studies" programmes, including economic, political, and socio-cultural perspectives. Broadly speaking, the course will contextualise Central Asia in light of its long history at a crossroads of peoples, faiths, cultures and geostrategic interests. At the same time, we will consistently look at the current stakes in the regions, of which the BRI forms an important element.

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



To begin with, we take a good look at the countries and societies in Central Asia. Next, we address how the region is perceived by China and by Western Europe. In a third step, we discuss in greater detail the economic, geopolitical, and sociocultural dynamics at play in the region. As we proceed, myths and stereotypes will make way for a better, more adequate and multi-faceted understanding.

Every week, we will convene for two hours for lectures and discussion. Self-study will play a major part by dint of mandatory readings on the one hand and a written assignment on the other. In fact, two out of four credits will be conferred based on the written assignment.

## Course literature

We read and discuss current scholarly literature on the dynamics of Central Asia as mentioned above - as well as some classics. At the beginning of the semester, mandatory readings will be available at the students' Script Commission and on StudyNet.

## Additional course information

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## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

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

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (50%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Country analysis or book review: your choice

##### 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 - Written examination (with defined exam duration) (50%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: term time

### Remark

A few open questions

### Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids but will have to comply with the following restrictions:

- All the pocket calculators that are not of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series are explicitly inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

### Supplementary aids

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### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## Examination content

Part 1. - Term paper (individual assignment). At the end of the semester, students will submit a term paper on one of the countries in the region, discussing guiding questions as provided by the instructors (geopolitical, economic, and sociocultural context). Alternatively, students may opt to write a thorough book review of a classic work chosen from a list provided by the instructors.

Part 2. - Final exam (decentral, open book). The final exam will include a small number of open questions and embrace the totality of the material covered in the course (lectures, discussions, mandatory readings).

## Examination relevant literature

None beyond the reader: it includes what is relevant. At the beginning of the semester, mandatory readings will be available at the students' Script Commission and 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, 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).