



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2022

7,378: Experts in Democratic Politics

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - 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

[7,378,1.00 Experts in Democratic Politics](#) -- Englisch -- [Bertsou Erifylli Eirini](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

This is an advanced course in comparative politics and political representation. Students need not have already taken comparative politics/democratic politics classes, but if they have not, they will need to do additional reading to understand key theories and concepts tackled in the course.

Learning objectives

Students acquire the following knowledge and competences:

- Students develop an advanced understanding of the key concepts, relevant topics, and current debates in the field of democratic representation by non-elected experts.
- Students are able to bridge empirical knowledge on expertise and democracy, with normative questions about the "why", "who", "what", and "how" of expert representation.
- Students are able to comprehend and make effective use of contemporary academic research on expertise and democracy. In particular, an ability to effectively synthesize and convey their most important information.
- Students demonstrate proficiency in linking the scientific literature with current issues in world affairs in environmental politics, health, economy, migration and social policy.
- Students develop analytical skills and familiarize themselves with the presentation of empirical research findings in the form of graphs and tables.

Course content

Democratic governments around the world are forced to deal with the increasing need for expertise and technocrats for effective governance, while remaining committed to and representative of the citizens who voted for them. The European crisis brought this uneasy relationship to the forefront of democratic politics, with multiple appointments of technocratic ministers and governments across European states. Since then, the Climate crisis and the global COVID19 pandemic have catapulted the role of scientific expertise in politics to the limelight. Experts have always played a role in political decision-making, yet in democratic systems, reliance on independent expertise becomes a challenge to self-governance, representation and legitimacy. The course tackles pressing questions regarding the place and role of experts in democratic politics and aims to provide insights to current phenomena of crises management, of rising democratic dissatisfaction, of anti-intellectualism, populism and post-factual politics. In this course we explore the role of experts in democracies not only from a normative view point (what role can be democratically legitimate) but also from an empirical citizen-centered view point (what roles do citizens perceive as legitimate). We will cover a wide range of topics where the role of independent expertise has been politicized to larger or smaller degrees,



such as environmental politics, health policy, economic policy, ethics and social issues.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

This seminar-style course is expected to take place in the form of weekly two-hour meetings, if possible as an in-person class. Teaching will consist of input presentations by the lecturer, input presentations by students and classroom discussion based on the mandatory readings and current affairs. The first part of the course provides a foundation in the topics and theories regarding experts and democratic politics. The latter part of the course examines relevant questions on the political role of experts as highlighted by contemporary issues.

Course literature

The literature will be made available on canvas. Weekly readings will include two essential readings (book chapter or journal article/report) and a list of further readings. Students are always encouraged to conduct independent research on the topics covered and bring relevant studies/news coverage to the attention of the class.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

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

Examination time: term time

Remark

Individually or 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

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Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

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

Examination time: term time

Remark

Research Design or Literature Review

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

Examination content

Examination consists of two parts:

Part 1: Presentation.

Students will make one class room presentation (individually or in groups, depending on the number of participants) on a given topic. The topic will be reflected in the essential and further readings of a given week, but the presentation will be based on a question or debate for which the student(s) must conduct further research and structure their answer. The presentation is NOT an overview of the readings.

Part 2: Examination paper. Students can select one of the following tracks:

- Track A: Term paper. The student develops a research question and writes a research design for an empirical paper addressing this question (3,500 words +/-10%, excluding list of references). The research question needs to be directly related to one or several topics covered in this course. The research design may eventually become the blueprint of a MA thesis.
- Track B: Literature Review. The students summarize and critically assess the "state of the art" on a specific topic covered in this course (3,000 words +/-10%, excluding list of references). The aim is to provide a structured summary of the pertinent literature and to identify research gaps that future studies should address. Literature reviews will cover 8-12 publications in a given field. Students may draw on course materials for their paper, but they will need to their own literature research on top.

Examination relevant literature

A general reading list will be published in the StudyNet course room at the beginning of the semester. The specific literature relevant for the term papers depends on the specific topic.



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).