



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2022

7,380: Institutional Analysis

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,380,1.00 Institutional Analysis](#) -- Englisch -- [Emmenegger Patrick](#), [Aspers Patrik](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

No prerequisites.

Learning objectives

- Students will be able to understand and explain institutions in social contexts.
- Students will develop methodological skills to analyze various types of institutions.
- Students will identify practical problems and suitable solutions using institutional analysis.
- Students will develop skills to collaborate with external project partners.

Course content

This course studies how institutions, the "rules of the game" (Douglass North), behave and function. It asks how individuals, groups, and organizations construct institutions, how institutions function in practice, and what effects institutions have on diverse outcomes. Some of these rules are formal (e.g., laws), others are informal (rules-in-use or norms). In any case, rules create social order, allow for cooperation, and govern the behaviour of individuals. For instance, rules shape how political parties try to set the political agenda, how women's shelters regulate access to their premises, or how non-governmental organizations fund their activities. But what rules are necessary in organizations? How are these rules set? And how should organizations deal with conflicting interests?

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

This course combines theoretical and methodological knowledge with practical application. After an introduction and some mainly theoretically and methodologically oriented sessions in the first weeks, the focus turns to the practical analysis of institutions. Students will be divided into smaller groups, each with the task of doing an institutionally centered analysis of a non-profit organization, to be selected by the group, preferably in collaboration with the HSG alumni. As part of their group work, students are expected to address the problems of the selected organization, meaning that the students will have to engage closely with the organization. The cooperation consists of identifying the organizations' problems (e.g., organizational culture and setting of rules inside and outside the organization) and developing solutions to these problems. For instance, organizations such as women's shelters must develop rules that determine who and under what conditions has access to their premises. However, in this process, these organizations will face conflicting goals and high levels of uncertainty. Similarly, organizations such as universities want to create an inclusive and collaborative work culture. But what rules can be used to further these



goals? In this course, we will tackle such problems with our external cooperation partners and develop solutions. The result of the analyses will be presented at a publicly announced conference at the Square at which representatives from the external partners will take part in podium discussion.

Course literature

The detailed list of references will be posted on Canvas before the start of the course. Exemplary papers are:

Alvesson M and Spicer A (2018) Neo-Institutional Theory and Organization Studies: A Mid-Life Crisis? *Organization Studies* 40(2): 199-218.

Emmenegger P (2021) Agency in historical institutionalism: Coalitional work in the creation, maintenance, and change of institutions. *Theory and Society* 50(4): 607-626.

North D (1991) Institutions. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 5(1): 97-112.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (30%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Reflection 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: 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 (2/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (10%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Presentation of assigned reading

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

3. Examination sub part (3/3)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

Final presentation (including analytical handout)

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

The examination consists of three parts. (1) A group presentation of an assigned academic text (10%). (2) A presentation of the institutional analysis by the group at the final conference in the Square, including the preparation of a handout of the analysis and the proposals for the partner organization. (3) An individual reflection paper critically examining the own work, analysis, and proposals made (30%).

Examination relevant literature

All relevant literature will be made available at the latest by December 12, 2022.



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).