



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2023

3,312: Model WTO

ECTS credits: 6

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (50%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Analog written examination, Analog, Individual work individual grade (50%, 120 Min.)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[3.312.3.00 Model WTO](#) -- English -- [Malacrida Reto](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

No prerequisites. Students should, however, bring an interest in interdisciplinary work, and more specifically international trade policy, trade law, trade economics and trade diplomacy. As the WTO is all about governments working together to achieve common international goals, an interest in international government affairs is also desirable. In addition, strong oral and written English skills are needed.

For information on how to apply, please consult the [course homepage](#) (please scroll down and open the drop down menu).

The deadline for applications to join the course is **04. September 2023**. In order to apply, candidates need to send an email to application@model-wto.org and attach their CV, their TOEFL® score (if available), their current grade transcript, and answer two short questions (in English). The questions are available on the [course homepage](#) (Application Deadline and Documents).

Learning objectives

Through this course and the Model WTO event, students will acquire fundamental knowledge about, and insight into, the functioning and challenges of an intergovernmental international organization like the WTO and international economic diplomacy. Students will develop an understanding of the challenges facing economic cooperation between countries, and they will be able to identify context-appropriate solutions. Students will also learn to examine issues and proposals from different countries' perspectives and to identify options for successful international cooperation. Finally, students will deepen their intercultural skills through interacting with Model WTO participants from all over the world and their negotiating skills as chairpersons of negotiating groups in the context of the Model WTO event.

For more information on the course, please consult the [course homepage](#) (please scroll down and open the drop down menu).

Course content

The Model WTO (www.model-wto.org) is a simulation of a trade negotiation among WTO member countries and territories. The event has been organized by student teams from the University of St.Gallen since 1997. To get a better understanding of the event, take a look at this short [video](#). The Model WTO 2024 is expected to take place during the study break just before Easter in late March/early April 2024. The precise dates have yet to be confirmed. Attendance is required. The organizers of the Model WTO indicate on their [website](#) that the simulation serves to provide an opportunity for students to engage with important global trade issues in the simulation framework of the WTO. The active involvement in the Model WTO of WTO officials and



diplomats, trade professors and other researchers allows for a stimulating debate and exchange of creative ideas in the realistic context of the World Trade Organization in Geneva. Next year's topic has yet to be determined. For the topics of past editions and pictures, see [here](#). The Model WTO ordinarily takes place in St.Gallen and Geneva.

Objectives of the Model WTO course of the University of St.Gallen:

The Model WTO course offered at the University of St.Gallen prepares a small group of 12-14 Bachelor students for their role as Chairpersons of the simulation. In the autumn term, the main focus of classes will be on giving the selected students a general introduction to the objectives of the WTO, its various areas of work and structure, and the various challenges faced by the organization. As a highlight, there will be one session at the WTO Secretariat in Geneva to discuss and exchange views with several invited trade diplomats from various WTO Members. If the COVID-19 situation means that the Secretariat cannot accept visitors, this special session will be held in virtual mode. In the spring term, classes will focus on the topic for the Model WTO and on preparing students for the event. The participation of students as Chairpersons of the Model WTO simulation is an integral (and exciting) part of the course. Students prepare for one specific negotiating committee, meaning one precise sub-topic of next year's overarching topic, and chair that committee's negotiations.

For more on the structure of the Model WTO, see [here](#).

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course extends over two semesters, the autumn semester 2023 and the spring semester 2024. Credits are earned only (!) upon completion of both parts of the course, at the end of the spring semester 2024. The number of participants is limited to between 12-14 students. Class attendance is expected.

The schedule of classes for the autumn semester 2023 is basically as follows: Seven afternoon sessions will be held (four hours each), mainly in interactive lecture format. Some of the time, for scheduling reasons, sessions may be held once a week, at other times in the term the sessions may be further apart. Around mid-November, a session is planned to be held at the WTO Secretariat in Geneva. Please refer to the online "Stundenplan" for specific dates.

The schedule of classes for the spring term 2024 has not yet been established, but it is expected that there would be at least two sessions (one in early February immediately when the spring term starts (four hours in the afternoon), the other in the second half of March (each student will have a group coaching meeting of 60- 90 minutes either in the morning or the afternoon of the same day - students will therefore need to be available in the morning exceptionally and should not schedule classes during their meeting hours on that day)), with an additional telephone conference with the course lecturer for each Chair team in between. The second semester of the course will mainly involve working in small groups of two to three students.

The Model WTO (to be held normally just before the Easter holiday in late March 2024, **tbc**) extends over a full week. Attendance during the full Model WTO week is a course requirement. It will not be possible to attend other classes during that week.

Participation in the Model WTO course is possible only through a special application process (see above or the [course homepage](#)).

For the WTO visit, if it can be organized at the WTO Secretariat, students are responsible for their own expenses (transportation, food, and possibly accommodation, although usually it is possible to travel to Geneva and return to St.Gallen within the same day).

Participants in the Model WTO course students are exceptionally exempt from paying fees to participate in the Model WTO event (and food and accommodation in Geneva will likewise be covered).

Course literature

At the beginning of the semester, mandatory readings (compiled in a reader) will be available at the Skriptenkommission and/or on Canvas.

Useful (but not mandatory) introductory books are David Collins, *The World Trade Organization: A Beginner's Guide* (Oneworld Publications, 2015); Peter van den Bossche/Denise Prevost, *Essentials of WTO Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2021); Bernard



Hoekman/Petros Mavroidis, World Trade Organization (WTO): Law, Economics, and Politics (Routledge Group, 2015); Jae Sundaram, WTO Law and Policy: A Political Economy Approach (Routledge Group, 2022).

Additional course information

For additional information, please contact the lecturer, Dr Reto Malacrida (reto.malacrida@unisg.ch) or the organizers of the Model WTO 2023 via the [Model WTO website](#).

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Written work
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written work
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	50%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Chair paper

Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids

Students will conduct their own research to find useful documents and literature.

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Analog written examination
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written exam
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade



Weighting 50%
Duration 120 Min.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Exam

Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids, apart from the following restrictions:

- pocket calculator models which are not part of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series, as well as any programmable electronic devices that are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, smartphones, headsets, additional screens, etc. are not admissible;
- there is an option for faculty members to explicitly define exceptions under supplementary aids.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.

Supplementary aids

The examination questions can be solved with the help of the course reader, class attendance and notes from class work, and course slides from class work.

Examination content

(i) Students will have to write a Chair paper in pairs (or groups of three) on a topic that will depend on the topic for the Model WTO and the committee for which the two/three students are preparing. They will have 4-6 weeks to write the papers. The topic is expected to be assigned at the very end of 2023 or early in 2024 on the basis of the topic for the Model WTO simulation and will be linked to the committee for which the students are preparing. Students may express preferences concerning the topics, but the final decision about allocating topics to students is made by the lecturer. Each Chair team will be asked to provide an outline for the assigned topic, and the lecturer will meet around mid-March 2024 with each Chair team to answer questions and provide clarifications. In addition, there is expected to be a video conference with each Chair team in late February or more likely early March 2024. Papers will have to be submitted early in the spring semester (probably in the second half of March 2024), one week before the start of the Model WTO simulation.

(ii) The written exam will typically include practical and/or theoretical questions (possibly, but not necessarily, including one multiple-choice-type question) and covers the totality of the material covered in the autumn term (class work (including slides), discussions, mandatory readings). Examples of previous examinations will be provided. The topics likely covered will be: Trade policy; The WTO's mission, structures, principles and agreements; international trade statistics and current trends; WTO trade negotiations; the WTO negotiating agenda; RTAs; WTO dispute settlement; GATS (services); TRIPS; "Trade and ..." issues (environment, PPMs); Development issues; WTO reform; and/or related topics. The written examination will take place in the last session of the autumn term 2023 in December.

Examination relevant literature

The list of mandatory readings for the written examination will be provided at the beginning of the semester. No book will be assigned as mandatory reading. If adjustments have to be made to the list of mandatory readings, a revised list will be circulated. No further changes will be made to the list beyond mid-November.



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, 24 August 2023);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 16 October 2023);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 45 (Monday, 06 November 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the de-registration period in CW 45 (Monday, 06 November 2023).