



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2023

3,316: Global Water Governance

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Portfolio, --, -- (70%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Peer Review (30%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[3,316,1.00 Global Water Governance](#) -- English -- [Boanada Fuchs Vanessa](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

This is a block seminar taught on Campus with one kick-off online meeting. There are no pre-requirements to participation.

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 sustainability and natural resources management through the lenses of political ecology and other interdisciplinary debates 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 to economic and human development. Yet, the governance of this complex network faces growing challenges in a globalized 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 generates 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 a 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 organizations, social movements, local communities, and businesses.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course is organized as a block seminar. The course requires personal engagement and interactive work in the classroom, over StudyNet, and with external partner organizations.



After the kick-off lecture at the beginning of the semester, the professor will circulate recommended readings which will provide the basis for introductory discussions on human-environmental relations, sustainable development, and international human rights, followed by group presentations during the block seminar. The second part of the course consists of a research project conducted in connection to on-the-ground concerns of a partner stakeholder which will culminate in the writing of a consultancy report that reflects on or designs solutions for water-related problems making use of the theoretical frameworks and knowledge base collectively constructed during the course.

Course literature

Sample Literature

- **General human-nature interactions and natural resources' governance theoretical frameworks**
- Bassett, T.J. and Karl Zimmerer (2003). *Political Ecology: An Integrative Approach to Geography and Environment-Development Studies*. Guilford Press.
- Bryant, R.L. (2015) *The International Handbook of Political Ecology*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Gorz, A. (1980). *Ecology as politics*. Black Rose Books Ltd.
- Moran, E. F. (2016). *People and nature: An introduction to human ecological relations*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Ostrom, Elinor (1990) *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Watts, M. J. (2015). The origins of political ecology and the rebirth of adaptation as a form of thought. *The Routledge handbook of political ecology*, 19-50.

Additional topic-related references

- Abel, G. J., Brottrager, M., Cuaresma, J. C., & Muttarak, R. (2019). Climate, conflict and forced migration. *Global Environmental Change*, 54, 239-249.
- Allan, J. A. (2003). Virtual water-the water, food, and trade nexus. Useful concept or misleading metaphor? *Water international*, 28(1), 106-113.
- Hoekstra, A.Y. & Mekonnen, M.M. (2012) The water footprint of humanity, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(9): 3232-3237
- Pahl-Wostl, C., Gorris, P., Jäger, N., Koch, L., Lebel, L., Stein, C., ... & Withanachchi, S. (2021). Scale-related governance challenges in the water-energy-food nexus: Toward a diagnostic approach. *Sustainability Science*, 16, 615-629.
- Kälin, Walter. 2010. Conceptualising Climate-Induced Displacement (Chapter 5) in Jane McAdam (ed.), *Climate Change and Displacement: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. Oxford: Hart Publishing, pp. 81-103.
- Luetz, J. M., & Merson, J. (2019). Climate change and human migration as adaptation: conceptual and practical challenges and opportunities. *Climate Action. Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Vol. SDG 3-Climate Action, Earth and Environmental Science ed., pp. 1-13)*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature.
- Mishra, B. K., Kumar, P., Saraswat, C., Chakraborty, S., & Gautam, A. (2021). *Water security in a changing environment: Concept, challenges and solutions*. *Water*, 13(4), 490.
- Risi, L. (2019). Beyond Water Wars. *The Wilson Quarterly*, 43(3), NA.
- Shiva, V. (2016). *Water wars: Privatization, pollution, and profit*. North Atlantic Books.
- UNWater - Water Related Sustainable Development Goals, available at: <https://www.unwater.org/>
- Winkler, I. T. (2019). The human right to water. In *Research Handbook on International Water Law*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Additional course information

Vanessa Boanada Fuchs is an Assistant Professor of International Development and Sustainability and currently directs the St. Gallen Institute of Management in Latin America (GIMLA-HSG). She has a Law and International Relations background and obtained her Ph.D. in International Development Studies at the IHEID Geneva. Her research focuses on socio-environmental challenges and human adaptation, sustainable development, and the rights of native and traditional communities.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s



1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Portfolio
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Mixed form
Examination mode	--
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	--
Examination location	--
Grading type	--
Weighting	70%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

no regulation necessary

- For written examinations at home (term paper), courses without credits, etc., no specific rules for examination aids are required.
- The regulations of the University of St. Gallen and the rules of academic work (sources and aids must always be identified) are applicable in a subsidiary fashion.
- All written work must be accompanied by a declaration of authorship.

Supplementary aids

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2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Presentation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Peer Review
Weighting	30%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

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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

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Examination content

30% of the grade corresponds to a group presentation. Students will work together on the application of a theoretical concept to a case study addressing a water governance challenge. The presentation of the case should take place in the classroom and will be peer-reviewed.

70% of the grade corresponds to a final portfolio put together in groups and consisting of a literature review, a real-world case report, and a recommendation (min. 15'000 characters, excl. spaces). The portfolio shall be written following the model of a consultancy report, which aims at assisting a real-world stakeholder (company, international organization, community, or local government) in solving a challenge or improving the management of its water resources.

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, 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).