



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2023

7,356 | 8,352: Strategies of Social Science Inquiry

ECTS credits: 6

### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Oral examination and technical discussions, Analog, Individual work individual grade (100%)

Examination time: Term time

### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,356,3.00 Strategies of Social Science Inquiry \(Independent Studies\)](#) -- English -- [Emmenegger Patrick](#)

### Course information

### Course prerequisites

This course is offered solely for MIA students affected by the move of this compulsory course from autumn term to spring term. This course is therefore available by special bidding process only.

### Learning objectives

This course is designed to help students put research ideas into sound research plans and implement these. In so doing, it seeks to enhance key analytical and critical skills that are transferable beyond academic study to a wide range of careers. The ability to identify assumptions, weigh alternatives, make informed research-design decisions, and evaluate competing evidence is crucial not only to effectively understand and evaluate academic research but also to generally understand how knowledge is produced and to critically consume information and arguments.

The following learning objectives should be attained after successful completion of the course:

1. Students have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the connections between research design choices with (1) research questions and goals, on the one hand, and (2) the validity/reliability or credibility and relevance of research results, on the other hand;
2. Students demonstrate proficiency in critically evaluating and discussing the research design choices of other projects and researchers;
3. Students show the ability to apply comprehensive knowledge of the key components of research designs when making and justifying design choices for their own project.

### Course content

This course provides hands-on advice on how to make choices in designing scientific research projects in International Affairs as well as how to make those choices amongst a variety of different prominent methods of data collection and analysis. It engages with some fundamental epistemological and methodological questions from a variety of perspectives, as well as with more practical issues related to the formulation of a research question, the choice of a research approach, and the development of different steps in the research plan.

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

The course is organized as self-study. A detailed reading list will be provided at the beginning of the term.



## Course literature

This course builds on the following textbooks:

Gerring, John (2012). Social Science Methodology: A Unified Framework. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gerring, John and Dino Christenson (2017). Applied Social Science Methodology: An Introductory Guide. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hancké, Bob (2009). Intelligent Research Design: A Guide for Beginners in the Social Sciences. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Pownner, Leanne C. (2015). Empirical Research and Writing: A Political Science Student's Practical Guide. Los Angeles: Sage.

## Additional course information

Patrick Emmenegger is a Professor of Comparative Political Economy and Public Policy. For information on his research, please visit his website at <https://www.pemmenegger.com>.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

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

##### Examination modalities

Examination type	Oral examination and technical discussions
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	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	100%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

##### Remark

Individual oral exam

##### Examination-aid rule

Closed Book

The use of aids is prohibited as a matter of principle, with the exception of pocket calculator models of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and, in case of non-language exams, bilingual dictionaries without any handwritten notes. Any other aids that are admissible must be explicitly listed by faculty members in the paragraph entitled "Supplementary aids" of the course and examination fact sheet; this list is exhaustive.

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

##### Supplementary aids

No aids allowed.



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## Examination content

The course is organized as self-study. A detailed reading list will be provided at the beginning of the term. Examination will take place in the form of an oral exam (individual, 30 min, 100%).

## Examination relevant literature

A detailed reading list will be made available by mid-September.

### 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).