University of St.Gallen

Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2023

7,381: Consultancy Project: Rebuilding Security in Europe

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)
decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (50%)
Examination time: Term time
decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (50%)
Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer
7,381,1.00 Consultancy Project: Rebuilding Security in Europe -- English -- Greminger Thomas , Hänggi Heinrich Stephan

Course information

Course prerequisites

Students should have a solid interest in security studies and a basic knowledge of theoretical approaches in the field of international relations. It is strongly recommended that students complete relevant "MIA Morning" modules prior to taking this course.

Learning objectives

In this course students will:

- acquire a solid understanding of the concept of regional security and the key challenges of restoring a European security order;
- demonstrate the ability to evaluate and classify a problem and source a solution from its onset to its conclusion in a team setting.

Course content

More than one year into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, its global repercussions have become indisputable as they transcend many dimensions, touching upon multiple aspects of our lives. Although the prospects of a conflict settlement at this stage still seem distant, the existential issues at stake urge us to reflect on how Europe's security and peace can be re-established. Several institutions are currently engaged in exploring pathways to restoring a European security order that is not exclusively based on deterrence but would again contain some cooperative elements. One of these institutions is based in Switzerland, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). The GCSP is currently hosting a number of informal dialogue processes concerned with developing creative solutions in addressing European security challenges, defusing tensions, and building trust and confidence. These informal dialogue processes take place at the levels of track 1.5 (governmental and non-governmental participants) and track 2 (only non-governmental participants). In addition, GCSP is regularly briefing track 1 (governmental) actors about the content of these processes.

Aimed at providing input to this workstream at GCSP, this "Consultancy Project" course explores how elements of cooperative security could be reintroduced into a European security order that will be dominated by deterrence in the foreseeable future. Students will be tasked to work in groups on specific problems and challenges related to a more cooperative European security order identified by GCSP, and they will develop, in consultation with GCSP experts, possible solutions and policy recommendations.

Topics to be addressed may include, among others: How could status and security guarantees for Ukraine and other states

currently located "in-between" Russia and NATO look like? What is the role of NATO and deterrence in securing peace in Europe? Are "Islands of Cooperation" with Russia still feasible? Is there a place for Russia in the post-war European security order? What steps to take for rebuilding trust in a post-war Europe (Helsinki 2.0)? Could the OSCE serve as a coordination platform for European security? How would European strategic autonomy in a post-war Europe look like? What is the role of international organisations of the Eastern sphere (EEU, SCO, CSTO, CICA, CIS)? What place for neutral states in a future European security order? How to deal with the growing relevance of China for European security? Will there be a new era for arms control – with or without treaties? What is the role of the United Nations in rebuilding European security? – For more details, see a recent think piece published by the director of GCSP, Ambassador Thomas Greminger: TDHJ SPECIAL EDITION magazine februar 2023 web.pdf (gcsp.ch)

The students will benefit from the practical experience of the course instructors as well as the guest speakers from international Geneva.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Students will work independently on their consultancy assignment in groups (allowed sizes to be determined at the kick-off meeting). Each group will be assigned one of the European security problems defined by the GCSP. Groups have the opportunity to consult experts at GCSP and are responsible for presenting their preliminary findings at the mid-term seminar in Geneva and submitting a final consultancy report by the end of the semester.

The class has a bloc structure, with an introduction (4-hour kick-off meeting on the HSG campus) at the beginning of the semester followed by an intensive seminar (3-day workshop at GCSP in Geneva) in the semester break.

The kick-off meeting will focus on the recent history and conceptual underpinnings of European security. At the meeting, students will be introduced to GCSP and the European security problems defined by GCSP. The meeting will end with the formation of groups and the assignment of the consultancy tasks.

The structured discussion of the problems covered by the consultancy assignments is at the core of the *intensive (block) seminar in Geneva*. Students will present their preliminary findings to the faculty member, representatives of GCSP and other student groups. Students will receive feedback at this time. This will be supplemented by:

- thematic introductions by the course instructors;
- guest lectures by external experts sharing their perspectives on specific aspects of the course topic (this may also take the form of a roundtable with several experts);
- a guided tour of the Palais des Nations, the home of the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) and a discussion with a senior representative of UNOG (subject to confirmation);
- a joint dinner in a restaurant close to the international district in Geneva with a dinner speech by the head of an international body (subject to confirmation).

Course literature

Required reading for all course participants and a selection of recommended texts related to each consultancy assignment will be made available on StudyNet prior to the kick-off meeting.

Additional course information

The seminar will be held at the premises of GCSP at the "Maison de la paix" located in the heart of international Geneva (3 mins walk from railway station: "Genève Sécheron", or 5 mins from the tram station "Maison de la paix"). A cafeteria is available in the same building, and a self-service restaurant is within walking distance.

Students take care of their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The fastest train journey between St.Gallen and Geneve-Sécheron takes a good four hours. Students may wish to share rooms at the Geneva Youth Hostel at 30, rue Rothschild or at the City Hostel Geneva at 2, rue Ferrier, both within walking distance from the seminar venue.

Note: The costs of one dinner and the visit to an international organisation will be covered by the University of St.Gallen (School for Economics and Political Science). All other meals as well as accommodation and transportation costs are at the expense of the course participants.

About the instructors:

Ambassador Dr. Thomas Greminger is the Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). He is a senior Swiss diplomat

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that acted in important leadership positions in and outside the Swiss federal administration, focusing on security, peace and development. Most recently, Thomas Greminger served as Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). He published widely on military, history, security, peace and development policy.

Prof. Dr. Heiner Hänggi is an Adjunct Professor of Political Science with special focus on International Affairs at the University of St. Gallen. Most recently, he served as Deputy Director and Head of the Policy & Research Department at DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. He published widely on security governance (focusing on security sector reform), inter-regionalism (focusing on Asia-Europe relations), and Asia-Pacific security (focusing on Southeast Asia).

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

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	Off Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	50%
Duration	--

Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark
Handout and powerpoint deck of slides

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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2. Examination sub part (2/2)

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
Final consultancy report

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

Presentation: preliminary findings of the group work on the assigned problem, based on a powerpoint deck of slides and a handout (for detailed guidance see StudyNet).

Written work: final consultancy report by each group on the assigned problem, including policy recommendations (for detailed guidance see StudyNet).

Examination relevant literature

1. Presentation slides of the lectures given by the course instructors (see StudyNet); for all participants.

2. Required reading (see StudyNet); for all participants, available at the bginning of the course.

3. Introductory reading on the topic of each consultancy assignment (see StudyNet); only for the members of the group in question (groups are expected to consult additional relevant literature).

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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).