



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2023

7,395: Consultancy Project: Energy in Transition - Challenges and Opportunities in the Gulf Region

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (40%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,395,1.00 Consultancy Project: The Energy Crisis - Challenges and Opportunities in the Gulf Region](#) -- English -- [Schaller André](#), [Frei Christoph](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Open to all students with an interest in the Gulf Region on one hand and energy governance on the other. Students should bring basic knowledge and understanding across the disciplines of International Affairs. They commit not to publish any of the results, documents etc. worked out or used in the project.

Learning objectives

During this Consultancy Project course, students

- demonstrate the ability to evaluate and classify a problem and source a solution from its onset to its conclusion;
- assess the political, economic, social and intercultural environment to develop policy opportunities;
- hone their skills in mapping, analysing, and assessing challenges and opportunities for the use of practitioners;
- foster their creativity and various further skills, including teamwork, research, writing, presentation.

Students who participate in this course will, afterwards, be able to

- better understand basic ramifications in the governance of energy in the Gulf Region and beyond;
- appreciate the crucial importance of social (political, economic, cultural) context;
- apply the basic concept of balancing interests and values in concrete cases.

Course content

Against the background of global climate change, ever increasing economic productivity and technological innovation, the world's supply and demand of energy have been in constant change for years. Gulf countries, traditionally the world's largest suppliers of oil and natural gas, are pursuing immense programmes with a view to diversifying their economies. At the same time, they are heavily investing in the production of renewables.



The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has turned energy markets upside down once again, with energy being used as a means of warfare. While 2020 saw negative oil prices for the first time in history, prices peaked in spring 2022 and are forecast to remain at high levels. Revenues for energy-exporting Gulf countries reach unprecedented levels; they are mainly invested in transformation projects of gigantic proportions. In the process, Gulf countries keep gaining influence in the international scene. Today, they do not only endeavour to diversify their economies, but also their network of cooperation. At the same time, their foreign policy initiatives are geared towards creating a more stable neighbourhood to foster internal transformation.

Participants in the present Consultancy Project will be tasked with elaborating and presenting foreign policy proposals to their fictitious 'client', that is, the Directors of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs (not a Gulf country), with a focus on (a) how to seize political and economic opportunities in the Gulf Region, (b) how to manage related risks and challenges in their relationships with countries in the Gulf. Their recommendations shall also provide diplomats with practical guidance for briefing and advising private sector companies.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Take note that this course mainly consists of independent study and cooperation in teams, and one-to-one meetings between lecturers and teams. At the same time, there will be in-class lectures and presentations:

The course starts off with an introduction that discusses expectations, obligations and assignments in this course. The kick-off session also serves the formation of teams. The latter are then introduced to their 'client' (i.e., the Director of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and briefed on the problem. Henceforth, students work independently on their project, in their teams.

Before the mid-term break, teams present their preliminary analysis and comment on progress as well as roadblocks and difficulties to all participants. Students receive feedback. Throughout the second half of the semester, they continue to work independently on their policy briefs, and finally present their policy recommendations to their respective 'client'.

Course literature

The lecturers / course coordinators will provide recommended literature (including academic articles, policy reports, media, etc.) on relevant topics throughout the duration of this course. In turn, student teams are expected to collect and analyze additional data and literature independently.

Additional course information

The course will be supervised by Christoph Frei and André Schaller. Christoph Frei is Associate Professor with a special focus on International Relations at the University of St.Gallen. Dr André Schaller was Swiss Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia until a few months ago and looks back upon some 30 years of diplomatic experience.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/4)

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	20%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Preparing 'analysis' prior to the semester break

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 (2/4)

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	40%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Final policy brief and recommendations

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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3. Examination sub part (3/4)

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	Group work group grade
Weighting	20%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Presenting 'analysis' prior to the semester break

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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4. Examination sub part (4/4)

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	Group work group grade
Weighting	20%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Presenting final recommendations

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

Student teams will draft two papers and offer two presentations. The first paper and first presentation will relate to preliminary



findings ("analysis", prior to the semester break, 40%), whereas the second paper and second presentation include/address the final results ("policy recommendations", towards the end of the semester, 60%).

Structured as a foreign policy brief targeted at the „client“, the final papers typically give summaries of relevant research, provide comprehensive facts based analysis, and make concrete foreign policy proposals. These shall also provide diplomats with practical guidance for briefing and advising private sector companies. The brief should include graphs, charts, and other visual aids that make it easier to digest the most important information. Note that all team members will be given the same grade for both papers and presentations.

Examination relevant literature

Will be announced in class. With a view to both analysis and policy recommendations, students are required to engage in additional research.

All mandatory literature will be made available prior to the semester break.

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).