



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2023

### 9,350: The Indo-Pacific: Security Issues and Challenges

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (60%)

Examination time: Term time

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

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[9,350,1.00 The Indo-Pacific: Security Issues and Challenges](#) -- English -- [Hänggi Heinrich Stephan](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. Familiarity with the basics of International Relations (IR) theory combined with a solid interest in security studies and the Indo-Pacific region will be an advantage.

#### Learning objectives

In this course students will demonstrate the ability to:

- critically reflect on the emerging concept of the Indo-Pacific from a security perspective;
- independently conduct a systematic analysis of a specific security issue or challenge related to the Indo-Pacific;
- discuss an analysis of Indo-Pacific security issues and challenges performed by others.

#### Course content

This thematic MIA course, part of the “Security and Conflict” cluster, deals with an emerging mega-regional security landscape of global importance: the Indo-Pacific. Still a rather ambiguous and contested concept, the idea of the Indo-Pacific as a geopolitical entity has gained traction in recent years.

This vast region has become the central theatre in the strategic competition between the United States and China to shape the course of the 21<sup>st</sup> century as well as the attempts of regional great powers such as Japan and India to find an answer to the economic, political and military rise of China. The region is also home to security flashpoints that could have global ramifications, including the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Strait, and the South China Sea. Furthermore, the Indo-Pacific countries are increasingly confronted with new security challenges emerging from a host of transnational threats. At the same time, economic interdependence among regional states remains high, and there are multiple efforts to build regional institutions aimed at mitigating conflicts and increasing the benefits of inter-state cooperation.

Drawing on International Relations (IR) theory, this course will critically review the emerging concept of the Indo-Pacific from a regional security perspective, with special emphasis on the specific interests, approaches and strategies of great and middle powers such as the US, China, India, Japan, Australia, and others.

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

The course meets every two weeks for 4 hours on the campus. It consists of two main parts comprising three sessions each:



- The first part before the semester break will focus on the conceptual underpinnings of Indo-Pacific security and provide background knowledge on the topics proposed for the term papers. It is taught in the form of lectures supplemented by short break-out group and plenary discussions.
- The structured discussion of the topics dealt with in the terms papers is at the core of the second part of the course. Each term paper is presented in class, evaluated by assigned discussants and further discussed in the plenary. If time permits, this part will conclude with a role play in the form of an Oxford Debate.

The course will include a couple of (online) guest lectures by external experts from the Indo-Pacific region sharing their perspectives on the course topic.

Active participation of the students is required throughout the course, including (but not limited to) the presentation and discussion in class of term papers.

## Course literature

Required reading for all course participants and a selection of introductory reading related to the topics proposed for term papers will be made available on StudyNet by the beginning of the semester.

Although there is no compulsory textbook for this course, students may wish to use the following book for preparatory reading:

- Peou, Sorpong (2022), *Peace and Security in Indo-Pacific Asia. IR Perspectives in Context*, London: Routledge (in particular the Introduction and chapters 1, 2, 5, 6 10).

## Additional course information

The course site on StudyNet will contain all relevant information on the course. For additional information, please contact Heiner Hänggi (email: [heiner.haenggi@unisg.ch](mailto:heiner.haenggi@unisg.ch)).

### About the instructor:

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 Asia-Pacific security (focusing on Southeast Asia), inter-regionalism (focusing on Asia-Europe relations), and security governance (focusing on security sector reform).

## 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	60%
Duration	--



## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

## Remark

Term paper (approximately 5,000 words).

## 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	Presentation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
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

Powerpoint decks of slides / handout

### 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

*Term paper:* to be written by groups of students on one of the topics proposed by the instructor. Allowed group sizes are determined at the first session. The topics of the papers are assigned to the groups following the first meeting. Term papers must be submitted by November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 8am.

*Presentation:* includes (a) the presentation of the term paper in class and active participation in the plenary discussion by the assigned groups at one of the sessions in the second half of the semester and (b) the presentation in the role of discussants of a critical evaluation of a term paper prepared by another group.

## Examination relevant literature



1. Presentation slides of all lectures given in sessions 1-3 (see StudyNet); for all participants.
2. Required readings of sessions 1-3 (see StudyNet, available at the start of the course); for all participants.
3. Introductory reading on the topic of each term paper (see StudyNet, available at the start of the course); only for the authors of the relevant papers (groups are expected to consult additional relevant literature).

## 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).