



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2024

1,747: Sociology: Sociology of Power, Culture, and Society

ECTS credits: 2

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (100%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[1,747,1.00 Sociology: Sociology of Power, Culture, and Society](#) -- English -- [McCurdy Martha](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Learning objectives

On completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate through reference to relevant literature:

1. familiar with a range of key debates about power, culture and society
2. some ability to critically discuss abstract concepts
3. knowledge of ethnography as the comparative study of human societies and cultures
4. some facility in the use of ethnographic material to support analytical claims

Course content

What is the relationship between power, culture and society? How do social and cultural processes matter in business, politics, and law? What makes us different and yet the same as human beings? These are just some of the questions that we will explore in this course. Using case studies (so-called 'ethnographies') from the heart of Europe right through to remote villages in the global south, this course will explore questions of human difference and sameness. Designed as an interactive seminar, it will make students understand the role of culture and power in their own lives, and equip them with the analytical and theoretical tools to bring a culturally informed analysis to their core subject areas - whether this is in business, management, politics, international relations, or law.

In the second and third year of the Bachelor's level, there are thematic *areas of concentration* within the contextual studies. This course introduces you to topics that you could further pursue in the concentration areas *society, law or cultures*.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course will consist of up to twelve two-hour sessions. The class will involve two parts. 1) a short section where the convener will present on the academic literature and case studies and 2) a longer interactive part where students are expected to have read and be able to discuss one academic article. The article will be a piece of scholarly writing that uses ethnography



as its main method. Each class will discuss a separate topic with a diverse range of topics covered, from the human body to gender to questions of power, politics and law.

Course literature

The following is an indicative list of readings that cover some of the topics addressed in this course. Please note that we will not be reading full length books in this course so the following pieces of work are meant more as an overview in case you'd like to familiarise yourself with key debates and ways of thinking in ethnography.

A more detailed reading list will be supplied at the start of the course. This will consist of academic articles rather than of books to read.

R Astuti et al (eds.), *Questions of Anthropology* (2007). LSE, London. Monographs

Engelke, Matthew (2017) 'How to think like an Anthropologist'. London. Penguin Erickson

Thomas Hyland (2001) *Small places, large issues: an introduction to social and cultural anthropology*. Pluto Press

Koch, Insa (2018) *Personalizing the state: An anthropology of law, politics, and welfare in austerity Britain*. Oxford University Press.

Additional course information

Dr Martha McCurdy researches issues relating to migration, inequality and social justice at the British Cultures Department, University of St.Gallen. She has taught courses at the London School of Economics and the University of St.Gallen.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/1)

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	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	100%
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

Written work must be written without outside help according to the known citation standards, and a declaration of authorship must be attached, which is available as a template on the StudentWeb. Documentation (quotations, bibliography, etc.) must be carried out universally and consistently according to the requirements of the chosen/specified citation standard such as e.g. APA or MLA. The legal standard is recommended for legal work (cf. by way of example: FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R., SCHINDLER B., *Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende* (the latest edition in each case), or according to the recommendations of the Law School). The reference sources of information (paraphrases, quotations, etc.) that has been taken over literally or in the sense of the original text must be integrated into the text in accordance with the requirements of the citation standard used. Informative and bibliographical notes must be included as footnotes (recommendations and standards e.g. in METZGER, C., *Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien* (latest edition)). For all written work at the University of St.Gallen, the indication of page numbers is mandatory, regardless of the standard chosen. Where page numbers are missing in sources, the precise designation must be made differently: chapter or section title, section number, article, etc.

Examination content

The rules are applied according to the following legally binding fact sheet:

[Fact sheet Cultural and Social Sciences A AS24](#)

Note: Click on the link to retrieve the document.

Examination relevant literature

The examination literature will draw on the reading list which will be supplied on StudyNet.

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 43 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, 22nd August 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 14. October 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 43 (Monday, 21 October 2024);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before ending with de-registration period in CW 45 (Monday, 04 November 2024).

