



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2024

7,260: Topics in Industrial Organization

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Active participation, Analog, Individual work individual grade (10%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (60%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,260,1.00 Topics in Industrial Organization](#) -- English -- [Bühler Stefan](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Students should have a firm background in microeconomic analysis and game theory.

Learning objectives

In this course, students

- learn how to analyze markets featuring imperfect competition;
- gain insights into a variety of research fields in industrial organization, such as dynamic pricing, empirical industrial organization, data markets, competition policy, and the circular economy;
- become acquainted with recent work at the research frontier of industrial organization.

Course content

Industrial Organization (IO) is an important field in microeconomics that studies the behavior of consumers and firms in imperfectly competitive markets. It brings classic, analytical economic thinking to bearing on questions arising in markets in the real world and plays an important role in areas such as market regulation and market design.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Tentative structure (subject to change):

1. Dynamic Pricing (Lecture)
2. Circular Business Models (Lecture)
3. Competition Policy I: Theory (Lecture)
4. Competition Policy II: Practice (Guest Lecture)
5. Competition Policy III: Empirical IO (Lecture)
6. Data Markets (Lecture)
7. Dynamic Pricing (Student Presentations)
8. Circular Business Models (Student Presentations)
9. Competition Policy I (Student Presentations)



10. Competition Policy II (Student Presentations)
11. Data Markets (Student Presentations)
12. Wild Card

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with some of the most important models and methods of industrial organization, enable them to follow and critically assess recent research in this field, and provide insights into relevant issues in modern markets. To this end, students will be able to shape the debate in class by i) presenting relevant research papers, and ii) discussing fellow classmates' papers. Guest lecturers will provide a real-world perspective on the topics discussed in class.

Students will have to complete a written problem set, present, and discuss recent research articles (see below for details).

Course literature

Belleflamme, P. and M. Peitz (2015), *Industrial Organization: Markets and Strategies*, Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition.

Ho, K. Hortacsu, A. and A. Lizzeri (2021), *Handbook of Industrial Organization*, Elsevier, Volume 4, 1st edition.

Martin, S. (2001), *Advanced Industrial Economics*, Blackwell, 2nd edition.

Motta, M. (2004), *Competition Policy: Theory and Practice*, Cambridge University Press.

Tirole, J. (1988), *Theory of Industrial Organization*, MIT Press.

Train, K. E. (2009), *Discrete choice methods with simulation*. Cambridge University Press.

Vives, X. (1999), *Oligopoly Pricing: Old Ideas and New Tools*, MIT Press.

Additional readings, including relevant journal articles, will be indicated during the course.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Active participation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	10%
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

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2. Examination sub part (2/3)

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	30%
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

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3. Examination sub part (3/3)

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	60%
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

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Examination content

Students are expected to solve one short take home problem set (30% of the final grade) on the material discussed in class and to hand in their individual solutions on time. Students are expected to hold a presentation on an advanced research paper in groups (60% of the final grade). The presentation material has to be handed in on time before the presentation. Finally, students are also expected to actively participate in the classroom discussion of the presented research papers (10% of the final grade).

Examination relevant literature

The lecture notes and other material discussed in class are required as background knowledge for all parts of the examination. The notes for each lecture will be made available on Canvas at latest on the day of the lecture.

Furthermore, recommended textbooks should be consulted for solving the problem set. The presentation will be on an advanced research paper that is assigned to each group. A selection of research papers will be published on Canvas at the beginning of the semester. To understand the paper fully, students are also required to perform additional literature research on their own.



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, 22nd August 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 18 March 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 14 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).