



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2024

7,359: Failed States and Nation Building

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Oral examination and technical discussions, Analog, Individual work individual grade (35%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Oral examination and technical discussions, Analog, Group work group grade (50%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Active participation, Analog, Individual work individual grade (15%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,359,1.00 Failed States and Nation Building](#) -- English -- [Hodler Roland](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

In-person participation on all three block days.

Learning objectives

- Students understand why some countries fail and how social cohesion, inter-group contact, language policies, education, federalism, and power-sharing arrangements can contribute to nation building.
- Students are able to apply this knowledge to develop policy advice for specific countries.
- Students understand what it takes to produce cutting-edge empirical research (on nation building).

Course content

Failed (or fragile) states have lost the monopoly on the use of force on their territory and are unable to provide security to their citizens. Failed states are host countries of many of the worst-off individuals in the world and source countries of refugees and, in some cases, transnational terrorists.

In this course, we first aim at understanding the root causes for state failure. We then study policies that can contribute to successful nation building.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

There will be an introductory lecture on Zoom and three block days on campus.

There will be group presentations on failed states in Sub-Saharan Africa as well as group presentations of empirical evaluations of policies for nation building on the first two block days.

There will be short individual presentations of policy proposals or policy evaluations on the last block day.

Course literature

Some interesting (but controversial) books on failed states:

Acemoglu D., Robinson J.A., 2019. *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty*. Penguin UK.

Advisory Council on International Affairs, 2004. *Failing States: A Global Responsibility*. Report No. 15.

Ghani A., Lockhart C., 2009. *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World*. Oxford University Press.

Kaplan S.D., 2008. *Fixing Fragile States: A New Paradigm for Development*. Praeger Security International.



Rotberg R.I., 2003. When States Fail: Causes and Consequences. Princeton University Press.
Woodward S.L., 2017. The Ideology of Failed States. Cambridge University Press

Overview book on nation building policies and the empirical evaluation thereof:
Rohner D., Zhuravskaya E. (eds.), 2023. Nation Building: Big Lessons from Successes and Failures. CEPR Press, London
(available on Canvas).

Journal articles become available on Canvas before the beginning of 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	Oral examination and technical discussions
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	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	35%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Topics: Policy proposals or policy evaluations

Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids, apart from the following restrictions:

- pocket calculator models which are not part of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series, as well as any programmable electronic devices that are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, smartphones, headsets, additional screens, etc. are not admissible;
- there is an option for faculty members to explicitly define exceptions under supplementary aids.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.

Supplementary aids

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2. Examination sub part (2/3)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Oral examination and technical discussions
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	50%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Topics: Failed states or policy evaluations

Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids, apart from the following restrictions:

- pocket calculator models which are not part of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series, as well as any programmable electronic devices that are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, smartphones, headsets, additional screens, etc. are not admissible;
- there is an option for faculty members to explicitly define exceptions under supplementary aids.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.

Supplementary aids

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3. Examination sub part (3/3)

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	15%
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

Group presentations will focus either on failed states in Sub-Saharan Africa or empirical evaluations of policies for nation building.

Short individual presentations will discuss either a policy proposal or an empirical policy evaluation.

Examination relevant literature

Journal articles provided on Canvas at the beginning of the semester.

Students own review of 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, 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: Starting with de-registration period in CW 45 (Monday, 04 November 2024).