



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2024

7,381: Consultancy Project: Rebuilding Security in Europe

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

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

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

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,381,1.00 Consultancy Project: Rebuilding Security in Europe](#) -- English -- [Greminger Thomas](#), [Hänggi Heinrich Stephan](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

This course is open to all students with an interest in security studies in general and European security in particular. Students should bring basic knowledge across the disciplines of International Affairs and have some experience in working in diverse teams. It is recommended that students attend specific skills training such as "Writing Policy Briefs" in the context of the "MIA Mornings" prior to taking this course. Students 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 environments to develop policy opportunities;
- hone their skills in mapping, analysing, and assessing challenges and opportunities for the use of practitioners;
- foster creativity and various further skills, including teamwork, research, writing, presentation.

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

- better understand the contemporary obstacles to rebuilding a more cooperative European security order;
- choose and apply an appropriate method to analyse specific problem settings;
- translate academic findings to the policy world by learning how to write a policy brief.

Course content

More than two years into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, its global repercussions have become indisputable as they transcend many dimensions, touching upon multiple aspects of our lives. Although the prospects of a conflict settlement at this stage still seem distant, the existential issues at stake urge us to reflect on how Europe's security and peace can be re-established. Several institutions are currently engaged in exploring pathways to restoring a European security order that is not exclusively based on deterrence but would again contain some cooperative elements. One of these institutions is based in Switzerland, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). The GCSP is currently hosting a number of informal dialogue processes concerned with developing creative solutions in addressing European security challenges, defusing tensions, and building trust and confidence. These informal dialogue processes take place at the levels of track 1.5 (governmental and non-governmental



participants) and track 2 (only non-governmental participants). In addition, GCSP is regularly briefing track 1 (governmental) actors, including those representing great powers, about the content of these processes.

Aimed at providing input to this workstream at GCSP, this Consultancy Project course explores how elements of cooperative security could be reintroduced into a European security order that will be dominated by deterrence in the foreseeable future. Students will be tasked to work in groups on specific problems and challenges related to a more cooperative European security order identified by GCSP, and they will develop, in consultation with GCSP experts, possible solutions and policy recommendations.

Topics to be addressed may include, among others: What will be the role of deterrence in securing peace in Europe? How could status and security guarantees for states located “in-between” Russia and NATO look like? How would a settlement of the war in Ukraine look like? How could the OSCE contribute to rebuilding trust and restoring cooperative security in Europe? What could be the place of Russia in a post-war European security order? How would European strategic autonomy in a post-war Europe look like? What place for neutral states in a future European security order? How to deal with the growing relevance of China for European security? – For more details, see a think piece published by the director of GCSP, Ambassador Thomas Greminger:

[GCSP Publication | Cooperative Security in the Future European Security Order](#)

The students will benefit from the practical experience of the course instructors as well as the guest speakers from International Geneva.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Students will work independently on their consultancy assignment in groups (allowed sizes to be determined at the kick-off meeting). Each group will be assigned one of the European security problems defined by the GCSP. Groups are expected to consult designated experts at GCSP and are responsible for presenting their preliminary findings at the mid-term seminar in Geneva, submitting a final report in the form of a policy brief, and presenting it towards the end of the semester.

The class has a bloc structure, with an introductory meeting (3-hour kick-off session on the HSG campus at the beginning of the semester), followed by an intensive seminar (2-day workshop at the GCSP in Geneva in the semester break) and a final meeting (6-hour session in the last week of the semester).

The *kick-off meeting* will focus on the recent history and conceptual underpinnings of European security. At the meeting, students will be introduced to GCSP and the European security problems defined by GCSP. The meeting will end with the formation of student groups and the assignment of the consultancy tasks. Students then work independently on their project, in their groups.

The structured discussion of the problems covered by the consultancy assignments is at the core of the *workshop* in Geneva. Students will present the chosen approach to analyse the question and their preliminary findings to the co-instructors, representatives of GCSP and other student groups. Students will receive feedback at this time. This will be supplemented by:

- thematic introductions by the course instructors;
- guest lectures by experts from International Geneva sharing their perspectives on specific aspects of the course topic (this may also take the form of a roundtable with several experts);
- a guided tour of the Palais des Nations, the home of the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), and a discussion with a senior representative of UNOG (subject to confirmation).

Groups then continue to work independently on their final report structured as a policy brief targeted at their “client”, the GCSP, to be submitted a few days before the *final meeting*, at which each group will present the results of their work with an emphasis on policy options and recommendations for the GCSP.

Course literature

Mandatory reading for all course participants and a selection of recommended texts related to each consultancy assignment will be made available on StudyNet prior to the kick-off meeting. Throughout this project, students are expected to independently collect and analyse additional data and literature.

Additional course information



The mid-term seminar will be held at the premises of GCSP at the “Maison de la paix” located in the heart of International Geneva (3 mins walk from the railway station “Genève Sécheron”, or 5 mins from the tram station “Maison de la paix”). A cafeteria is available in the same building, and a self-service restaurant is within walking distance.

Students take care of their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The fastest train journey between St. Gallen and Geneva-Sécheron takes a good 4 hours. Students may wish to share rooms at the Geneva Youth Hostel at 30, rue Rothschild or at the City Hostel Geneva at 2, rue Ferrier, both within walking distance from the seminar venue.

Note: The costs for travel, accommodation, and meals are borne by the course participants. The costs for the guided tour at the premises of the United Nations are covered by the University of St. Gallen (School for Economics and Political Science).

About the instructors:

Ambassador Dr **Thomas Greminger** is the Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). He is a senior Swiss diplomat who has held key leadership positions within and outside the Swiss federal administration, focusing on security, peace and development. In 2017-2020, Thomas Greminger was Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). He has published widely on military, history, conflict management, peacekeeping, development and human rights.

Prof. Dr **Heiner Hänggi** is Adjunct Professor of Political Science with special focus on International Affairs at the University of St. Gallen. Until 2021, he served as Deputy Director and Head of the Policy & Research Department at DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. He published widely on security governance (focusing on security sector reform), inter-regionalism (focusing on Asia-Europe relations), and Asia-Pacific security (focusing on Southeast Asia).

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

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	Off Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	40%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Midterm presentation at client site (Geneva).

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	Group work group grade
Weighting	40%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Final written report (policy brief)

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	20%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Final presentation on campus

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 participate fully in all aspects of the course including group work and presentations.

Midterm presentation: Based on a handout and a PowerPoint presentation, the student groups present their approach to solving the problem and brief on their progress, including any roadblocks or difficulties that may have been encountered. For detailed guidance see StudyNet.

Final report: Structured as a policy brief targeted at the client, reports typically give summaries of relevant research, suggest possible policy options, and propose particular courses of action. The brief might include graphs, charts, other visual aids that make it easier to digest the most important information. For detailed guidance see StudyNet.

Final presentation: Based on a PowerPoint presentation, the student groups present the final report with an emphasis on their policy recommendations to the client. For detailed guidance see StudyNet.

Examination relevant literature

1. Presentation slides of all lectures (see StudyNet); for all participants.
2. Mandatory reading (see StudyNet); for all participants.
3. Introductory reading on the topic of each consultancy assignment (see StudyNet); only for the members of the group in question. Additional relevant literature as required.



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).