



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2025

10,352: Topics in Economics

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Individual work individual grade (100%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[10,352,1.00 Topics in Economics](#) -- English -- [Häfner Samuel](#)

Course information

Prerequisites

Attendance Rules: Participation in the course is open to students from the Graduate Programme in Economics and Finance (GPEF) only. Enrolled students have to attend ALL the presentations.

Learning objectives

Students learn the "nuts and bolts" of scientific research. The course places special emphasis on the critical analysis and discussion of existing literature.

Content

The goal of the course is to hone doctoral students' research skills. It will accomplish this by looking at recent advanced research, discussing critically innovative papers from the literature in economics.

Papers:

The lecturer will prepare a list of papers. Students may suggest their own papers to be presented but they must be related to the general topic suggested by the lecturer. Otherwise, they will choose from the list provided by the lecturer.

The chosen papers need to be of great relevance and provide a good basis for a discussion that is interesting to a broad audience. Students and lecturers have to agree on the papers to be presented. Generally, the paper should be published (or publishable) in a top journal, and should not be older than 10 years.

Presentation:

Students have to introduce, discuss, and lead the discussion of the papers presented. All students will have to read and thoroughly study all the papers. For each paper, there will be a short presentation by a student, followed by a discussion. The presenter will also lead the discussion.

You need to target the presentation at the seminar audience, i.e. students who are familiar with advanced economic/finance reasoning, but who may not have advanced knowledge in the specific field. It is important to present the context of the paper and set the paper into the perspective of the literature. The presentation should take about 35 minutes, including the critical discussion of the paper (see details below).

Topics in HS 25:



The focus of the paper list will be on empirical and theoretical micro, especially topics in industrial organization, financial markets, and labor. However, students may suggest their own papers to be presented.

Structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The presentation should take about 35 minutes. Students are advised to prepare not too many slides.

After presenting the content, the student critically discusses the paper (15 minutes), with the focus on motivation, related literature, the model and the results.

A general discussion with lecturers and students follows the student's presentation (20 minutes). The discussion should concentrate on the following three aspects: (i) context (how the paper is positioned in the literature), (ii) contribution (what do we learn from the paper) and (iii) criticism (including praise, possible next research steps and open questions).

The lecturer gives oral feedback to the presenter.

Literature

To be discussed with the lecturer.

Additional information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/1)

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	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	100%
Duration	--

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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Content

Presentation of a paper: students have to contact the lecturer before the beginning of the semester to obtain the list of papers. The paper allocation and presentation schedule will be determined together in the first session.

Literature

See examination content.

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 (Freitag, 24. October 2025) 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, 21 August 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 13. October 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 43 (Freitag, 24. October 2025);
- 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, 03. November 2025).