



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2025

### 10,424: Essay Seminar

ECTS credits: 6

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (40%)

Examination time: Term time

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

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Active participation, Analog, Individual work individual grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[10,424,1.00 Essay Seminar](#) -- English -- [Hodler Roland](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

PhD students of the DIA program, who are in the research phase. Participation on campus.

#### Learning objectives

Students learn to write academic papers for conference or journal submissions.

Students learn to discuss and evaluate the academic writing of their peers.

#### Course content

Academics are evaluated mainly by their publications, and journal articles are the most important type of publication in the social sciences and beyond. This seminar is about how to write good articles/papers, and each student will work on a paper (typically from the topic of their PhD thesis) that should be ready for submission to a conference or an academic journal by the end of the semester. Every session has two parts: First, an input by the lecturer or by students offering guidelines on how to write different parts of the paper production pipeline, e.g., core contribution, title, abstract, introduction, general writing, theoretical and empirical parts, figures and tables, and conclusions. Second, reading each other's work in progress and providing feedback. The success of the seminar strongly depends on the students' willingness to engage with each other's work and their openness to constructive (but potentially critical) feedback.

#### Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Session 1: Introduction to the course, overview of publication process, discussion of best practices (including the use of LLMs)

Session 2: Student presentations of core contributions; guidelines for introduction, i.e., motivation, approach, findings, contribution, and (limited) literature review.

Session 3: Discussion of students' introductions; guidelines for title and abstract.

Session 4: Discussion of students' abstracts and titles; guidelines on figures and tables (including figure and table notes).

Session 5: Discussion of students' figures and tables; guidelines on empirical and theoretical sections.



Session 6: Discussion of students' empirical and theoretical sections; guidelines on conclusions; Q&A.

## Course literature

First, students are expected to read some of the many books and essays on how to write good academic papers.

A book I like: Lebrun, J.-L., 2007, Scientific Writing: A Reader and Writers' Guide, World Scientific Publishing.

An essay I like: Cochrane, J.H., 2005, Writing Tips for PhD Students, Mimeo.

Second, students are expected to read the material written by the other course participants for sessions 4-6.

## Additional course information

For information on the lecturer, please visit [www.rhodler.net](http://www.rhodler.net).

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/3)

##### 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	40%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

##### Remark

Written parts of an academic paper

##### 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

No constraints (but proper references are expected)

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#### 2. Examination sub part (2/3)

##### 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	40%
Duration	--

## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

## Remark

Presentation of guidelines

## 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

No constraints (but proper references are expected)

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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	20%
Duration	--

### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

### Remark

Feedback on the writing of other students

### 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



None exceptions

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## Examination content

The examination consists in (i) the presentation of guidelines on how to write different parts of the paper production pipeline, (ii) the writing of a "submittable" paper, and (iii) the provision of feedback on the writings of other students.

## Examination relevant literature

Books and essays on scientific writing.

### 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).