



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

### 3,315 | 4,315: Multilateralism and the Challenges to the Rules Based International Order

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (50%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work individual grade (50%)

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[4,315,1.00 Multilateralism and the Challenges to the Rules Based International Order](#) -- English -- [Heusgen Christoph](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course except genuine interest in foreign policy

#### Learning objectives

- Deeper understanding of the functioning of foreign policy
- Appreciation of International Law and the rules based international order
- Deeper understanding of individual conflicts
- Ability to develop options for foreign policy actions

#### Course content

After the horrors of the Second World War the International Community was determined to prevent similar conflicts in the future. The UN were founded. The understanding was that future conflicts should be resolved peacefully, based on the strength of the rule of law and not through the rule of force exercised by the strongest. Currently, we are experiencing a crisis of the Rules Based International Order. Many international players simply ignore International Law. We observe this in Ukraine, in the Sudan, the Middle East and in other places. The course will look at the basis of the Rules Based International Order and individual crises where the Rules Based International Order is under attack.

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

The Block Seminar will contain 7 main sessions:

1. Overview of the Rules Based International Order: UN Charter and Security Council Resolutions, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Courts, other components of International Law
2. Russia's war against Ukraine
3. The Cyprus conflict
4. The conflict between Serbia and Kosovo
5. Haiti: the way forward



6. The Sudan crisis

7. The Middle East Question: Two-State-Solution or else?

Each session will be introduced by Christoph Heusgen. He will then invite an international personality to present her or his view of each topic. A discussion on the conflict will follow. Dependent on the number of students participating in the course adaptations will need to be made (more group work vs. individual work). After the number of students inscribed is known more detailed information on course work and examinations will follow.

## Course literature

There is no specific book to be read beforehand. Students should read newspapers, magazines, do some individual research on the conflicts. Everybody should look at the UN Charter.

## Additional course information

Christoph Heusgen was foreign policy advisor to German Chancellor Angela Merkel for 12 years (2005-2017) and then Germany's Ambassador to the United Nations for four years. Since February 2022 he is Chairman of the Munich Security Conference. He has extensive practical experience with the course topic.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### 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	On Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	50%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

##### Remark

Groupwork: Specific conflict & possible ways ahead

##### 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

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.



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

### 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 individual grade
Weighting	50%
Duration	--

### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

### Remark

Final paper: One aspect of the presentation topic

### 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.

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## Examination content

Students are expected to demonstrate a deeper understanding of on one of the themes of the six sessions (see above sessions 2-7). What are the interests involved of the parties, of outside actors? What are constraining factors? What are possible solutions, ways forward?

### Groupwork Paper (50%)

Participants will be divided up into six groups and work on one of the issues 2-7 (see above). Students give an oral group presentation on their topic during the block seminar, which is then reviewed by the respective expert via video. On this basis, they then prepare their final group paper.

### Individual Final Paper (50%)

In addition, students are expected to write individual papers (up to 5 pages) on an aspect of the subject of their group papers.

## Examination relevant literature

There is no mandatory literature or specific books. The components of international law applicable to the conflicts should be known. Current developments on the conflicts should be followed.



## 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 (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 13 (Monday, 25 March 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 04 (Thursday, 23 January 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 17 March 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 14 (Monday, 31 March 2025);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before ending with de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 07 April 2025).