



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

6,306: Business and Politics: A Risk Perspective

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (60%)

Examination time: Term time

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

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,306,1.00 Business and Politics: A Risk Perspective](#) -- English -- [Habegger Beat](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Students should be interested in the relations between business and politics and have a basic understanding of public policy and management studies.

It is also recommended to attend specific skills training (e.g., writing policy briefs, effective writing, convincing presentations) in the context of the "MIA mornings" or other formats.

Learning objectives

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the perspective of analyzing political developments through the lens of companies.

Students will learn

- how companies are embedded in an external "non-market" environment shaped by governments and other political and social actors
- different forms of political risk and how they shape the ability of companies to make profits
- a simple framework for identifying and analyzing political risks and possible mitigation strategies
- about useful information sources and tools that support in assessing political risks.

Course content

Companies are affected by decisions of governments, NGO, regulators, and other stakeholders that influence their ability to make profits. Companies engage with their external environments as it is uncertain how policy will look like, how it will change, and how it will shape their business environment.

Due to this uncertainty, and the human agency involved in politics, we can conceptualize this situation in the form of risk. The focus on political risk thus means looking at politics from the perspective of a company. The lens through which a political risk analyst looks at political developments is therefore different from what the same analyst would do in academia or when working for a government or a non-governmental organization.



In this course, students will learn how companies are embedded in an external "non-market environment" and the risks that emanate from actions taken by governments and other social and political actors. They will be introduced to simple frameworks for analyzing political risks, information sources and practical tools, and effective mitigation strategies.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course will be held as a block seminar in the Spring semester break. It will be preceded by a two-hour kick-off session that will introduce some basic concepts and administrative information. In order to successfully pass the course, attendance throughout the block seminar is mandatory.

The course will feature guest speakers who will introduce various perspectives on how politics and (geo-)political developments shape a company's business environment. Examples include politics and security, politics and trade, or politics and sustainable development.

Practical applications will be introduced through real-world cases that students will prepare in groups; they will present their key findings in the form of an executive briefing in class.

Course literature

There is no required textbook. The course instructor will provide recommended academic and practice-oriented publications during the blocked course.

Additional course information

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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	Off Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	60%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

group 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

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2. Examination sub part (2/2)

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

group presentation

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

The examination consists of a group paper and a group presentation, each on a specific topic as assigned in class. Information about the required format and length of the group paper will be provided at the kick-off session. The same applies to the group presentation to be held during the block seminar.

Examination relevant literature

There is no required textbook. The course instructor will provide recommended references, including journal articles on relevant topics prior to the kick-off session via Canvas.



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).