



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

### 6,322: Spring Project: International Organizations, Government, and Non-Profit Organizations

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (70%)

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,322,1.00 Spring Project: International Organizations, Government, and Non-Profit Organizations](#) -- English -- [Schedler Kuno](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

This course is a part of the "Spring Projects" and is designed for students in either their 4th or 6th term of the BIA curriculum.

To derive maximum benefit, it is recommended that students will use their Bachelor thesis in the area of International Organizations, Government, or Non-Profit Organizations, as a concrete object of their course work, although this is not mandatory.

#### Learning objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Apply efficient and effective working methods and tools for their research (bachelor thesis). Specifically, they will use and assess the quality of different AI tools in the research process.
- Conduct a comprehensive literature review, synthesizing existing research, and formulate a pertinent and captivating research question while developing a robust research framework.
- Demonstrate comprehension of qualitative research methods, encompassing key data collection and analysis techniques, and their application to specific studies, using Atlas.ti as a tool.
- Effectively present their results in a clear, logical manner, both visually and verbally.

#### Course content

Welcome to a dynamic and hands-on course that will transform your approach to research and academic writing. In this class, you'll advance your understanding of social science research methods, with a special focus on qualitative approaches, and apply them to a topic or research question of your own choosing. Whether you're passionate about exploring social phenomena, understanding human behavior, or diving into real-world case studies, this course is your gateway to developing meaningful, high-quality research.

Under the guidance of your lecturer, you will design and implement your own studies, gaining valuable experience with modern research tools and cutting-edge AI applications. You'll develop the essential skills needed to craft a well-structured research proposal—a crucial component for your Bachelor thesis and a stepping stone to future academic and professional success.



This course isn't just about theory; it's about action. You'll engage in collaborative, student-centered learning where every session is tailored to foster active participation and hands-on application. With a limited class size, you'll benefit from personalized guidance and a vibrant learning community that supports your growth as a researcher.

By the end of the course, you'll not only have gained technical expertise but also the confidence to tackle complex research questions and present your findings with clarity and impact. Join us and turn your Bachelor thesis into a showcase of your skills and creativity!

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

Our teaching approach is all about active engagement and practical application. Each week, you'll collaborate with your peers to tackle key tasks in the qualitative research process. This isn't a course where you sit back and listen; it's about rolling up your sleeves and diving into the work. There will be no online lecturing—instead, you'll be immersed in interactive sessions that bring research methodologies to life.

You'll learn to leverage cutting-edge AI tools, applying them directly to your projects to enhance your research capabilities. From preparing for and conducting high-quality qualitative interviews to transcribing and analyzing data using software like Atlas.ti, you'll gain hands-on experience with the techniques that professional researchers use. We'll also guide you in reporting your findings effectively and structuring your Bachelor thesis for maximum impact.

This collaborative, student-centered learning environment ensures that you're not just learning about research methods—you're actively applying them. By participating fully, you'll develop the skills and confidence needed to carry out your own research projects, setting you apart as a proficient and innovative researcher.

## Course literature

### Coursebook

The course is based on the seminal book "The craft of research," which students can either purchase or borrow from the library: Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & Fitzgerald, W. T. (2016). *The craft of research*, Fourth Edition. University of Chicago press.

### Digital materials available on StudyNet

In addition to "The craft of research," extracts from prominent books about qualitative research are available in digital copy on StudyNet. Some example research papers are also provided to develop academic reading and writing skills.

## Additional course information

The course is assessed on both an individual and group basis, emphasizing practical application in scientific work. Students' performance is evaluated through two hands-on assignments:

- Group Applied Project (Weight: 30%);
- Individual Research Proposal (Weight: 70%).

### Group applied project

At the beginning of the course, students are divided into small groups (2-3 participants). In these groups, students will go through the full research process using a self-selected research project in the area of International Organizations, Government, and Non-Profit Organizations. They will present their process and results in the last session of the term.



## Individual research proposal

Students are required to craft a research proposal for their Bachelor thesis. Submission is due three weeks after the course concludes. Further instructions on format and length are available on StudyNet.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

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

##### 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	30%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

##### Remark

Group project with in-class 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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#### 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	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	70%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages



Question language: English

Answer language: English

## Remark

Bachelor thesis' research proposal

## 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 course is assessed on both an individual and group basis, emphasizing practical application in scientific work. Students' performance is evaluated through two hands-on assignments:

**Group Applied Project (Weight: 30%):** At the beginning of the course, students are divided into small groups (2-3 participants) and provided with a set of qualitative data from real-life cases in International Organizations, Government, and Non-Profit Organizations and step-by-step, under the guidance of the lecturer, develop an applied study. Students present their work in one presentation session in class. The group applied project constitutes 30% of the final course grade.

**Individual Research Proposal (Weight: 70%):** Students are required to craft a research proposal for their Bachelor thesis. Submission is due three weeks after the course concludes. The individual research proposal contributes 70% to the final course grade.

## Examination relevant literature

Examination is based not on the contents and tools learned during the course themselves, but mainly on their application. Therefore, the book "The craft of research" and the additional materials made available through StudyNet serve as a guidance for students while developing their own research project.



## 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).