



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

6,328: Spring Project: Political Institutions

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (40%)

Examination time: Term time

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

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,328,1.00 Spring Project: Political Institutions](#) -- English -- [Lopes da Fonseca Mariana](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

It is recommended that the spring project is taken after all other courses have been effectively completed. In any case, both of the methods-related lectures in the BIA programme, i.e., the Qualitative Methods lecture and the Quantitative Methods lecture should have been attended successfully.

Learning objectives

In this course, students will:

- Critically engage with the current state of the art literature on political institutions.
- Learn how to identify important shortcomings in the current literature, formulate their own research question, and design their own research using the methods discussed and tested in the course.
- Learn how to provide constructive feedback for other research projects.
- Formulate the results of their studies/research in a clear, logical & precise manner.

Course content

In this course, students will conduct their own empirical research project in the field of political institutions. To this end, they form small groups in which they formulate a research question and develop a research design suitable to answer it. The course leads the students step by step through this work process and provides for close supervision and support.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course takes place as a weekly seminar. The focus is on a regular exchange between the working groups and the lecturer on questions and challenges that arise when working on the selected topics. Questions about the general steps in a research project are dealt with in class.

The first part of the course is devoted to developing the research design (question, theory, method). The second part of the course deals with the empirical implementation of this design (collection and analysis of data).

Students are expected to attend the weekly sessions and to contribute actively. This includes reading the literature, working on the individual research steps, exchanging ideas with the lecturer as well as participating in the class discussions and providing feedback to other groups.

Course literature

The relevant literature will be made available at the beginning of the course.



Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

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	20%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Presentation research topic in class.

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 (2/3)

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	Group work group grade
Weighting	40%
Duration	--

Examination languages



Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Write research project in groups, end of semester.

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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3. Examination sub part (3/3)

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 research project in class.

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

Term papers are to be written in groups of 1 to 5 students. The goal is to use the techniques acquired in the course to answer a research question developed by the groups and connected to one of the subfields. Each group will present their question and approach in the course.

Examination relevant literature

Compulsory material covered is provided through Canvas at the beginning of the course.

Students are required to research additional literature.



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).