



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

8,350: Cases in International Affairs

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Quiz, Digital, Individual work individual grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Group work group grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

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

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,350,1.00 Cases in International Affairs](#) -- English -- [Massoc Elsa Clara](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Master-level course, prior enrolment in some MIA Morning courses: e.g. writing policy briefs, making compelling arguments, compulsory courses, is required

Learning objectives

The course will enable students

1. to analyse a complex situation by choosing and applying relevant theories and methods from the MIA curriculum to the situation
2. to justify the choice and application of theory and methods
3. to formulate and justify recommendations for actors based on the analysis.

Course content

The course "Cases in International Affairs" builds on the insight that decision-making in international affairs requires a broader reflection about economic, legal, and political environment and consequences of a choice on a specific challenge. The course design lives up with this insight by providing inputs come from core disciplines of our University, i.e. management, law, economics and political science. In addition, we discuss with academics and experts from the private and public sector. The cases we discuss in class confront the participants with a range of specific governance challenges that prepare them to develop solutions to real-life cases involving international business and politics.

The multi-disciplinary and case-based approach of the course is closely linked to current events and developments. We will cover specific challenges in three blocks: an set of introductory discussions on one "mini-case" is followed by a deeper engagement with two currently relevant in-depth cases.

The assignments embark on the cases discussed and require that students elaborate both empirically and theoretically on a given question, e.g. what a particular actor/decision-making body should do or not do in the analysed situation, and why?



Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

We will meet on a weekly basis and we will cover five main case studies related to the questions of

- development (eg "The role of the IMF in promoting sustainable development in Africa and Latin America"),
- the geopolitics of finance ("The role of European banks in implementing sanctions against Russia") and
- the green transition ("green industrial policy in the solar industry in Europe")

Each cases is covered by one interactive lecture, where we discuss readings and the empirical material of the case, followed by another session where we receive a guest speaker (usually a practioner) to exchange about their inputs and "real-world" experience.

Course literature

Students will find reading material on Canvas by the beginning of the term.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/4)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Quiz
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written exam
Examination mode	Digital
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

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Examination-aid rule

Closed Book

The use of aids is prohibited as a matter of principle, with the exception of pocket calculator models of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and, in case of non-language exams, bilingual dictionaries without any handwritten notes. Any other aids that are admissible must be explicitly listed by faculty members in the paragraph entitled "Supplementary aids" of the course and examination fact sheet; this list is exhaustive.

Procuring any aids, as well as ensuring their working order, is the exclusive responsibility of students.



Supplementary aids

Closed book!

2. Examination sub part (2/4)

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	20%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

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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

All class material is available to write the memo

3. Examination sub part (3/4)

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	30%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

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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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4. Examination sub part (4/4)

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 individual grade
Weighting	30%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

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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 restriction

Examination content

- Quizzes (20%): at the beginning of each "new case", students will take a short quiz based on the readings. No trap here! Do the readings and you'll score a 6 :)
- Short individual essay. (20%): students pick up one of the cases under study and write a short (1000 words) argumentative memo based on the material discussed in class and the intervention of the guest speaker.
- Group work:
 - - Written essay (30%): students create their own case study - select the topic, select relevant literature, identify relevant experts and write an essay about the main challenges in their case and policy recommendations
 - Presentation (30%): each group present their case to the class with a poster

An exact description of the tasks and the expectations will be provided with the publication of the tasks.

Examination relevant literature



Students will find reading material on Canvas at the start of the term.

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).