



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

8,351: Artificial Intelligence in International Affairs

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Active participation, Analog, Individual work individual grade (20%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (40%)

Examination time: Term time

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

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,351,1.00 Artificial Intelligence in International Affairs](#) -- English -- [Trusilo Daniel](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

There are no formal pre-course requirements. An interest in emerging technology, public policy, and ongoing debates about how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is impacting international affairs is essential.

Learning objectives

In this course students will:

- Develop an overview of the current state of AI and the ongoing debates about the risks and benefits of AI systems.
- Examine the role of various stakeholders in shaping AI technologies.
- Analyze the relationship between AI systems and global conflict.
- Investigate and present complex topics related to emerging technology in a clear and comprehensible as well as engaging fashion.
- Develop and present arguments related to public policies related to real-world use cases of AI systems.

Course content

This course focuses on the intersection between artificial intelligence (AI) and international affairs. Students will examine and discuss the implications of AI and its associated use cases for industry, society, government, and the military. Specific topics will include the impact of AI on: economics, trade, and inequality; international law, digital diplomacy, and strategic competition; and human security and conflict including cyber operations, autonomous weapons, and intelligence. The course material, consisting of academic articles, government publications, and policy papers from industry as well as non-governmental organizations reflects the rapidly changing environment related to strategic competition, data governance, and the impact of emerging technologies on international affairs. Throughout the course, students will be asked to consider the trade-offs implicit in the development and deployment of AI systems, recognizing that there are no clear-cut answers, but rather potential risks and benefits of every decision related to AI that must be intentionally considered and weighed.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design



The course consists of six topic focused seminars. Each seminar will consist of two parts with each part answering one overarching question: (Part 1) What is the current state of the topic? and (Part 2) What are the implications for international affairs?

Students are expected to read two to three thematically focused documents (government publications, policy papers, and academic articles) and to actively participate by (a) providing informed comments on the topics and readings prior to class in the digital course room and (b) actively engaging during class through comments and questions.

From week two onward the seminars will begin with a short, graded presentation (20 minutes) held by a group of students (assigned by the lecturer). The presentations should provide additional insights on the seminar's topic and provide a recommendation about a responsible way forward given the relevant risks and benefits. Criteria for grading of presentations include coherence, conceptual clarity, analytical precision, originality, and presentation quality.

In addition, experts in the field (guest lecturers) will share practical insights about specific topics.

Course literature

At the beginning of the semester, required readings (typically two to three readings per session) will be made available on Canvas. The readings for each week are selected from government publications, policy papers, and academic articles. Students are expected to carefully read the required readings before coming to class. Additional material is offered for self-study.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Active participation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
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

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	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	40%
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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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

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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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Examination content

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION (20%):

Students are expected to actively participate in the course by (a) providing written comments/questions of 100-200 words in the digital course room on the weekly topics and (b) asking informed and constructive questions during in-person class sessions. The comments submitted to the digital course room (part a) must be submitted at least 24 hours before the session during which the respective topic will be discussed.

From week 2 onward, each week's participation counts toward the finale grade in "active participation". Failing to participate will result in receiving the grade 1.00.

ORAL PRESENTATION IN GROUPS (40%)

Students are expected to prepare and execute a group presentation. Topics will be defined by the lecturer (based on the contents of the course). From session 2 to 6, there will be 10 group presentations.

WRITTEN WORK (40%)

Students will develop a policy recommendation paper (1000 words) related to one of the topics discussed in the course. The paper must include a minimum of two possible courses of action and one recommendation as well as specific positive and negative impacts of the recommended course of action. The various elements should be supported by references.

Examination relevant literature

The relevant literature will be indicated on the syllabus at the beginning of the course and it will be available via Canvas and the HSG library.



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).