



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

8,361: Power in Theory and Practice

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

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

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Active participation, Analog, Individual work individual grade (25%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (35%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,361,1.00 Power in Theory and Practice](#) -- English -- [Drezner Daniel W.](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

There are no formal pre-requisites for this course.

Learning objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Possess a better conceptual understanding of economic power in the global economy
- Evaluate quantitative and qualitative metrics for operationalizing and measuring economic power
- Comprehend the variegated means through which economic power can be exercised by state and non-state actors in world politics
- Understand the history and evolution of economic statecraft in world politics
- Delineate the conditions under which economic sanctions are likely to work
- Explain the variation in national styles of economic statecraft.

Course content

Those who study international politics for a living are certain about two facts: power is the defining concept of the discipline, and each scholar's idiosyncratic definition of power is superior to everyone else's. This lack of consensus is a problematic state of affairs. This problem has been compounded by the enormous gap between theoretical debates about power and efforts to develop concrete ways to measure and observe it. The goal of this course is to confront these conceptual and empirical problems head-on, so as to get a better understanding of what power means, its myriad dimensions, how it is perceived over time, and how it is exercised by actors in world politics

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

What is economic power? Those who study international politics for a living can offer wildly divergent conceptual definitions, operationalizations, and policy prescriptions. This is a problematic state of affairs. This course will offer a survey of analytical approaches to the theory and practice of economic power. It starts with a conceptual survey of what falls under the umbrella of "economic statecraft," with special attention paid to economic sanctions in particular. The course will consider the myriad



goals behind economic power, offer a brief historical survey of economic sanctions, and consider current practices of economic power, in the United States, China, and elsewhere.

Course literature

All compulsory articles will be made available via Canvas at the start of the course. For books:

Daniel W. Drezner, Henry Farrell, and Abraham Newman, eds., *The Uses and Abuse of Weaponized Interdependence* (Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2021).

Bruce Jentleson, *Sanctions: What Everyone Needs to Know* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022).

David Baldwin, *Power and International Relations: A Conceptual Approach* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016).

Additional course information

Daniel W. Drezner is Professor of International Politics, a nonresident senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the co-director of Fletcher's Russia and Eurasia Program. Prior to joining The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, he taught at the University of Chicago and the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has previously held positions with Civic Education Project, the RAND Corporation and the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and received fellowships from the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Council on Foreign Relations, and Harvard University. Drezner has written seven books, including *All Politics is Global* and *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*, and edited three others, including *The Uses and Abuses of Weaponized Interdependence*. He has published articles in numerous scholarly journals as well as in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Politico*, and *Foreign Affairs*, and has been a regular contributor to *Foreign Policy* and the *Washington Post*.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/3)

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

24-hour take-home exam



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	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	25%
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	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	35%
Duration	--

Examination languages



Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark
policy memo

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 class participation (25%):** students are expected to have done the course readings and be prepared to discuss them in class
- **One policy memo (35%):** draft a policy memo of 1000 words about an ongoing sanctions event
- **Final examination (40%):** a 24-hour take-home exam consisting of one required essay prompt and one essay from three prompts.

Examination relevant literature

All compulsory articles will be made available via Canvas at the start of the course. For books:

Daniel W. Drezner, Henry Farrell, and Abraham Newman, eds., *The Uses and Abuse of Weaponized Interdependence* (Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2021).

Bruce Jentleson, *Sanctions: What Everyone Needs to Know* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022).

David Baldwin, *Power and International Relations: A Conceptual Approach* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016).



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).