



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

8,367: International Governance of Conflict Management

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (35%)

Examination time: Term time

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

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,367,1.00 International Governance of Conflict Management](#) -- English -- [Smidt Hannah](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Students must bring with them an interest in learning about *academic* research on armed conflicts and management strategies for mitigating them.

Learning objectives

1. Students will have developed an overview and a good understanding of core debates in research on the origins of armed conflicts and international conflict management, including its domestic contestation.
2. Students will have developed a good understanding of the key elements of a research project, including the formulation of the research question and its academic and practical relevance, the development of a theoretical argument, the research design to test the argument and the empirical findings.
3. Students will be able to apply theoretical arguments to achieve a better understanding of selected real-world cases of armed conflict and conflict management.
4. Students will advance their skills in presenting academic research in a clear and comprehensible as well as engaging fashion as well as in asking critical and informed questions about research-based insights.

Course content

This course introduces students to the study of armed conflict and international governance of conflict management. First, the course discusses the nature of and explanations for armed conflict with a particular focus on intra-state conflict. (Part 1).

Second, and building on this, the course explores different practices of international conflict management ranging from mediation and peacekeeping to military intervention (Part 2).

Finally, the course will analyze consent to and contestation of international conflict management practices on the part of both



governments and citizens (Part 3).

Throughout the class, theories and findings will be put to a plausibility test in the multi-layered conflict environment in Mali and, if appropriate, other conflicts in the Sahel region.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course consists of 12 weekly seminars divided into three parts. Each part answers one overarching question: What is armed conflict and why does armed conflict occur? (Part 1) How and with what effects do international actors manage armed conflict? (Part 2) Why do domestic actors sometimes contest international conflict management efforts? (Part 3)

Each of the weekly sessions addresses a specific research question (What is armed conflict? How do bargaining problems influence armed conflict onset and duration? Can military intervention help end armed conflict?), discussing the academic and policy relevance of the question as well as the theories and empirical evidence that we possess to answer them.

Students are expected to read one research article per week (ca. 30 pages on average) and to actively participate through (i) asking informed questions and (ii) providing informed comments on the topics discussed in class. From week 3 onward the seminars kick-off with a short presentation (10-15 minutes) held by a group of students about a thematically relevant research article (that is **not** mandatory for the rest of the class). The presentation are to be designed like a pitch for research project in a bid for third-party funding.

Course literature

The readings for each week are selected from conflict studies and the literature on conflict management.

Students are expected to have carefully read and prepared one academic article for each week. In addition, once during the term time, students are required to prepare a presentation based on one additional academic article. In total, students are thus expected to have carefully read 12 academic articles on the topic. Additional readings are offered for self-study.

In this class, students are encouraged to deepen their skills in strategic reading by paying careful attention to (i) the main question(s) and concepts, (ii) the academic and policy relevance, (iii) the main argument(s), and (iv) the data and methods used to evaluate the argument together with the findings and implications.

In class, the lecturer will also introduce policy-oriented evidence-based articles on conflicts in Mali and the Sahel region, which will help students to apply theoretical knowledge gleaned from academic research articles.

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	35%
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	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

4 perc. points / week

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 / AKTIVE TEILNAHME (25%):

Active listening and constructive input are critical for becoming an effective part of team in any profession and job. This course helps students to develop this practice. Therefore, students are expected to actively participate in class by (i) asking informed and constructive questions and (ii) providing informed comments on the weekly topics. From week 3 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 / PRÄSENTATION IN GRUPPEN (35%)

A critical skill in any academic and non-academic job is it to hold an oral presentation of the key points summarizing a more complex processes (or texts) in an engaging and comprehensible way. Therefore, students are expected to practice this by preparing and executing an oral presentation that summarizes the main points of an academic text as a pitch in a competitive bid for acquiring research funding.

WRITTEN WORK / SCHRIFTLICHE ARBEIT (40%)



Applying theoretical and empirical insights to new problems requires practice. Therefore, students are asked to (i) summarize the theoretical argument of one mandatory academic text (ca. 500 words) and (ii) probe its plausibility in one case (e.g., a country) (ca. 500-750 words).

Examination relevant literature

The relevant literature will be indicated on the syllabus 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).