



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

8,383: Fighting Global Poverty

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (75%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Quiz, Digital, Individual work individual grade (25%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,383,1.00 Fighting Global Poverty](#) -- English -- [Caprettini Bruno](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Students are expected to know basic economic models (utility / profit maximization) and quantitative methods (OLS and why it doesn't always have a causal interpretation).

Learning objectives

The course presents the challenges faced by poor people living in developing countries and introduces some of the interventions aimed at addressing these challenges. The course places great emphasis on the rigorous evaluation of public programs, by discussing several concrete policy applications. By the end of the course students will be able to rigorously evaluate the merits of different policies aimed at lifting people out of poverty.

Course content

The consequences of growth on the well-being of poor people are so dramatic that "once one starts to think about them, it is hard to think about anything else" (Lucas 1988). How did China and parts of Asia manage to lift millions out of poverty in less than a generation? Why some Latin American countries fell behind during the same period? And what can African countries do to replicate the growth miracles and avoid further failures? The course tries to answer some of these questions.

After discussing some of the ways in which rich and poor countries differ, the course looks in detail at: industrial policies (e.g. trade policies, subsidies, public investment,...) and international aid and their record in promoting growth and development. For each topic, I will introduce simple economic models to think about the impact of these interventions, and then discuss concrete examples in which these policies have been implemented, and their impact on development and growth. While some of the models are abstract, the course discusses plenty of concrete case-studies that breath life into these models.

I teach a related course in the Master of Economics (8,284 Development Economics: Past and Present). Some of the topics overlap, but not too many. This MIA course is less technical in its use of quantitative methods and more concerned with actual policy interventions (aid, industrial policy, etc.). Students in this MIA course are still expected to have a good grasp of empirical methods (as those taught in, e.g.: 7,354: Data Analytics and Causal Inference).

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

There will be one lecture per week throughout the Spring semester (unless the university is closed on the day of the class).



Course literature

A detailed reading list consisting of mostly research papers will be provided during the course.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

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	75%
Duration	--

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark

Essay

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 (2/2)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Quiz
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written exam
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade



Weighting 25%
Duration --

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

Short questions to be answered before each class.

Examination-aid rule

Open Book

Students are free to choose aids, apart from the following restrictions:

- pocket calculator models which are not part of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series, as well as any programmable electronic devices that are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, smartphones, headsets, additional screens, etc. are not admissible;
- there is an option for faculty members to explicitly define exceptions under supplementary aids.

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

Supplementary aids

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Examination content

1) **Essay.** Each student will prepare a short study on one industrial policy / aid intervention / trade policy that took place in a developing country. Students have to identify an interesting episode and use the concepts studied in class together with publicly available data and documents to evaluate it. Data work is expected for excellence. The essay counts for 75% of the grade.

2) **Short questions.** Each week I will post 2-3 short questions about the readings which will be covered in the following class. Students have one week to study these readings and answers the questions before we discuss the readings during the lecture. Taken together, these weekly short questions count for 25% of the grade.

Examination relevant literature

Compulsory readings will be announced before every class.



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).