



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

8,477: International Perspectives on Corporate Social Responsibility

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written examination, Digital, Individual work individual grade (100%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,477,1.00 International Perspectives on Corporate Social Responsibility](#) -- English -- [Choudhury Barnali](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course although an interest in business and/or international law is recommended.

Learning objectives

After completing this module, a student will be able to:

- describe contemporary social issues implicated by corporate activity;
- critically discuss the theories underlying corporate governance and international human rights law;
- describe the regulatory challenges raised by corporations with respect to the protection of human and other social rights;
- critically assess existing international and domestic mechanisms regulating corporate issues implicating social rights;
- identify shortcomings in current regulatory efforts to regulate corporations and devise suggestions for improving these shortcomings; and
- engage in scholarly research and writing as well as present research results on issues relating to corporate social responsibility.

Course content

This course provides students with perspectives into “corporate social responsibility” both as a governing mechanism for businesses as well as a form of business practice. The course will examine the theoretical paradigms surrounding the corporate objective and corporate accountability, international movements in corporate social responsibility led by organisations such as the OECD and the UN, as well as the legal frameworks in human rights protection and corporate risk management. The course will devote a significant proportion of time to the role of corporations in human rights and furthering social welfare and will discuss key critical perspectives on other social rights, including labour and the environment, where relevant. This course will challenge students into viewing the role and responsibility of the corporation from perspectives beyond the traditional paradigm of shareholder primacy and is well placed to complement traditional corporate law and regulation courses, as well as courses dealing with normative issues of jurisprudential and governance thinking.

Topics covered may include:

- Corporate Governance and CSR
- Financial Disclosure and ESG
- Benefit Corporations
- Corporations and International Law
- Supply Chains



- Corporate Groups
- CSR and International Trade Law
- CSR and International Investment Law

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

This is a block course taught in a highly interactive style. Student participation will be encouraged. The course will involve lectures, analysis of case studies, and development of solutions to real world problems.

Course literature

The readings from this course draw from academic articles, international standards and treaties, business documents, and NGO reports. All readings will be provided before the class begins.

Additional course information

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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/1)

Examination modalities

Examination type	Written examination
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	100%
Duration	90 mins.

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

The exam takes place on the last day of the course

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

The examination will be conducted as a digital examination with the following admissible media:

- **Private notebook** (compulsory) – no tablets!
- **Mains adapter** (compulsory)
- External computer mouse (optional)
- External computer keyboard (optional)

We would like to point out explicitly that the examination cannot be taken with tablets/iPads.

You will need the following for the examination:

- Appliance and system requirements: [cf. StudentWeb](#)
- Special software: [LockDown Browser](#)
- HSG log-in including access modalities
- WLAN – operational access to Eduroam

Please make sure that

- all the updates have been carried out before the examination.
- In the run-up to digitally conducted examinations, technical tests (mock examinations without grades) are carried out. Participation is urgently required!
- You yourself are responsible for the perfect working order of your appliance, [cf. also StudentWeb](#).
- Keyboard stickers in the language in which the examination is conducted (such as English, German, as well as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, etc. in language examinations) are permitted. The stickers must be identical with the original characters of the language concerned.

Any use of additional appliances that are not listed above will be strictly prohibited throughout the examination.

Any necessary actions with another software or additional appliances require the express prior approval of the persons in charge of the examination and are only permitted under supervision.

Any infringement of these rules of conduct may be sanctioned as an infringement of the rules of the University.

Examination content

All material covered in class

Examination relevant literature

Assigned readings, powerpoint lecture notes, and class discussions



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).