



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

### 8,486: The Law, the Economics and the Politics of Migration

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (60%)

Examination time: Term time

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

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,486,1.00 The Law, the Economics and the Politics of Migration](#) -- English -- [Haidar Mahmoud](#) , [Böhm Andreas](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

none

#### Learning objectives

Gain a Deep Engagement / Understanding in an International Affairs /Public Policy Issue

Bridging analysis, evaluation and practice

Applying Critical Thinking

Scrutinizing your own cognitive and normative predispositions

Developing capabilities to work with peers from a different culture

Gaining first-hand knowledge at the site

Contributing to tackling a complex issue

#### Course content

Since 2015, migration has become a prominent issue all over Europe. In other parts of the world, migration has been a constant feature as a consequence of state fragility and war. Syria is a prime example. Its neighbouring countries have directly felt the reverberations of the war theatre. Lebanon has been affected the most. How can a country cope with the highest percentage of refugees per capita in the world (about 25%, according to official numbers only), while it faces a financial, economic and political crisis of generational dimensions?

In this course, we examine the governance of migration in Lebanon and beyond as well as the various dimensions concerned. What was a humanitarian emergency at first has developed into a protracted crisis with various inter-dependencies that has been exacerbated by the war in 2024. In a country that lacks a proper state, the governance of the crisis involves a vast array of actors, national and international, public and private.

Analysing public policies governing migration in Lebanon should not only prepare to responsibly dealing with such a complex issue. It also challenges our assumptions about the role, functioning and legitimacy of the state; the function of law; the



interplay of public and private, national and international. Can Swiss or European concepts function in such a context of state fragility? And which lessons could we learn? Raising these questions, the seminar invites students to critical thinking and scrutinising their own assumptions in a dialogue with peers from another cultural setting.

## Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

In spring 2025, 12 MIL and MIA students are invited to join us for a seminar that involves senior personalities from politics, academia, international organisations and civil society.

The seminar is structured as follows. In a kick-off session during the first week of the spring term 2025, we will offer a broad introduction to the governance of migration. Next, you will choose one out of 12 topics as suggested by our experts. These topics relate to selected aspects under the theme of our course with a special focus on the interplay of international and European law, public policy, and governance. You will have about five weeks to familiarize with the topic, develop an understanding of the questions at hand and draft a paper.

In the second week of the break, we will convene to present and discuss the papers. Traditionally, the field trip has taken us to Lebanon. This might not be possible in spring 2025 due to security concerns. In this case, we have to reconsider and aim at holding this part of the course in another place that is relevant in the context of migration. For each of the topics, we will have experts: researchers, representatives from NGOs, EU agencies, IOs and the like. They will give you feedback, advice and insights from their own experience. Embedded in a broader discussion, these inputs will enable you to finalize your papers later on. We will also be welcoming a select group of speakers for individual presentations and/or panels in order to provide you with more insights..

### Dates

Kick-off: tbd, first week of spring term.

One or two preparatory meetings in February/March, if necessary, and individual mentoring.

Submission of draft version of paper: April 4.

Conceptual part of seminar and field trip: second week of the break.

Submission of final version of individual papers: June 9

\*For current time and room information, please refer to the online timetable.

## Course literature

At the beginning of the Semester, mandatory and additional readings will be available online

## Additional course information

There is a special bidding procedure. A call for application will be issued at the end of fall term 2024.

## 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	60%
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 (2/2)

### 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	Off 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

The exam consists of the presentation of the preliminary research paper during the conceptual part of the course in the second week of the break (40%) and the final research paper handed in after the seminar (60%).

## Examination relevant literature

At the beginning of the Semester, mandatory readings will be available online

### 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).