



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

8,632: Gesellschaft/Society: I, You and We

ECTS credits: 3

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (70%)

Examination time: Term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,632,1.00 Gesellschaft/Society: I, You and We](#) -- English -- [Zahavi Dan](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

None

Learning objectives

After completing the course, students will be able

- to clearly distinguish different theoretical conceptions of self and group;
- to critically examine theoretical assumptions in economics, organizational and business studies on the basis of philosophical ideas and concepts;
- to know how to carefully analyze texts;
- to know how to lead a group discussion/seminar.

Course content

We frequently use pronouns like "I," "You," and "We," but what do they mean, and how are they related to one another? How must subjects relate to each other in order to form a we? Does a we require a preexisting I, or is an I a precondition for the formation of a we? During the course, we will move from "I", over "You" to "We", and clarify each of the notions in turn. A central point of the course is to make the students, based on the readings, discuss and question theoretical assumptions taken from both economics and everyday life. This will provide the students with tools to conceptualize, to present, and to analyze actors in relation to their social environment.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

Each of the three days will be structured in a somewhat similar way, with lectures, group discussions and practical exercises every day. An integral part of the course is that students are required to present and lead seminars based on mandatory texts of the course. Students are required to read the texts in advance.

Contextual Studies are considered part of **Contact Learning**; thus, taking part properly implies **regular attendance**. It is the students' own responsibility to ensure that there is **no timetable clash** between the courses they have chosen. A detailed course outline and all relevant documents will be made available on **StudyNet**. Only the current timetable as published on **Courses** does apply.



Course literature

The detailed and final list of literature will be presented on StudyNet

- Berger, Peter, and Thomas Luckmann. 1991. *The Social Construction of Reality, A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge* (pp. 70-79, 149-163). London: Penguin Books. Original edition, 1966.
- Bloom, P. 2014. Against empathy. *Boston Review* 39(5): 14–19.
- Dullstein, M. 2014. Understanding others in social interactions. *Philosophical Topics* 42/1: 303-319.
- Markus, H.R., Kitayama, S. 2010. Cultures and selves: A cycle of mutual constitution. *Perspectives on psychological science* 5/4, 420-430.
- Mathiesen, K. 2003. On collective identity. *ProtoSociology* 18/19, 66-86.
- Mead, G.H. 1934. *Mind, self, and society* (chapters 18, 21). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Neisser, U. 1988. Five kinds of self-knowledge. *Philosophical Psychology* 1/1, 35-59.
- Reddy, V. 2018. Why engagement? A second-person take on social cognition. In A. Newen, L. de Bruin, S. Gallagher (eds.): *The Oxford Handbook of 4E Cognition* (pp. 433-452). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Taylor, C. (1985). The person. In M. Carrithers, S. Collins & S. Lukes (eds.), *The Category of the Person: Anthropology, Philosophy, History* (pp. 257-281). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Turner, J.C. 1982. Towards a cognitive redefinition of the social group. In H. Tajfel (eds.): *Social identity and intergroup relations* (pp.15-40). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Zahavi, D. 2017. Phenomenology, empathy, and mindreading. In H. L. Maibom (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Empathy* (pp. 33–43). New York: Routledge.
- Zahavi, D. 2018. Intersubjectivity, sociality, community: The contributions of the early phenomenologists. In D. Zahavi (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Phenomenology* (pp. 734-752). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Zahavi, D. & Zelinsky, D. (2023). Experience, subjectivity, selfhood: Beyond a Meadian sociology of the self. *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour* 54/1, 2024, 36-51.

Additional course information

Dan Zahavi is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Center for Subjectivity Research at the University of Copenhagen. Zahavi's primary research area is phenomenology and philosophy of mind, and their intersection with empirical disciplines such as psychiatry, psychology and anthropology. In addition to various scholarly works on the phenomenology of Husserl, Zahavi has mainly written on the nature of selfhood, consciousness, self-consciousness, intersubjectivity, empathy, and most recently on topics in social ontology. His work has been translated into more than 30 languages. [Dan Zahavi - Curriculum vitae - Staff \(ku.dk\)](#)

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

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 | On Campus |
| Grading type | Group work group grade |
| Weighting | 30% |
| Duration | -- |

Examination languages

Question language: English
Answer language: English

Remark



Group presentation and org of seminar of a text

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

--

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

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 | 70% |
| Duration | -- |

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Remark

--

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

-

Examination content

1. **Presentation (30%):** Each group will be assigned a text to be presented in the class. The group presenting a text is also responsible for the organisation and running of the seminar of the class, which is centered on the text. The group presenting should offer questions to be discussed or in some other way organize the session so as to allow for active participation by the other participants of the seminar (i.e. the rest of the class).
2. **Paper (70%):** Students are free to select the theme of their individual paper. It is required that the examination relate and draw on the course and its literature. Students may, for example, address themes discussed during the course, or examine (critically) assumptions of theories used in the core programs of HSG (while putting them in conversation with the theories and texts discussed in this course). The text must be at least 12000 characters (but not more than 20 000 characters). References excluded.

Examination relevant literature



No specific literature is listed. Relevant course literature is expected to be used.

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).