



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

### 8,102: Reporting & Auditing

ECTS credits: 6

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Quiz, Digital, Individual work individual grade (30%)

Examination time: Term time

central - Written examination, Digital, Individual work individual grade (70%, 120 mins.)

Examination time: Lecture-free period

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,102,1.00 Reporting & Auditing](#) -- English -- [Stenzel Arthur](#), [Richter Frank](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

Students of this course are expected to have a basic understanding of introductory accounting and bookkeeping.

Students are given the choice between English and German as the course language for the core subject "Reporting and Auditing". It is required that students commit to the one course or the other only. Please note that the general learning objectives are the same for both the course offered in English and the one offered in German. However, specific course contents, curriculum and textbooks/reference books may differ. Both lecturers are solely responsible for their specific course. Accordingly, the exams will be prepared independently by both lecturers and will refer to their specific courses.

#### Learning objectives

After this course, students should be able to:

- describe the conceptual foundations of financial reporting
- recognize, measure, and disclose the main financial positions under IFRS
- critically reflect current developments in international financial reporting
- read and understand financial statements and annual reports.

In addition, students shall demonstrate their ability to give account of and practically apply theories, concepts, and methods within the following areas:

- The role of auditing for well-functioning capital markets and corporate risk management
- How to deal with specific corporate risks from an auditor perspective
- The audit process and reporting
- Other assurance engagements and non-assurance engagements

The aim of the course is to provide students with an advanced perspective on the requirements and techniques under IFRS Accounting Standards. The objective is to encourage students to assess accounting issues critically by taking both a preparer's and a user's view. In addition, this course aims to provide students with the relevant basic knowledge about the auditing profession – students will learn about the roles and responsibilities of accountants and auditors as part of corporate governance. In addition, students will gain insights into how to plan, conduct, and report an audit. The link between theory and practice is ensured by discussing current cases and exercises.

#### Course content



Throughout the course, a series of topics in financial reporting and auditing will be covered primarily focusing on the recognition, valuation, and disclosure of the main financial positions. All sessions are designed to be interactive to maximize the learning outcome. Participation and contribution are expected for which it is necessary to adequately prepare for each class. Thus, students are not only expected to attend the lecture, but also familiarize themselves with the prescribed readings, exercises, and particularly self-study videos prior to the lectures. Students are expected to contribute to and participate in the in-class discussions as well as reflect on and apply learnings in group work.

In three sessions, an external lecturer will provide theoretical concepts directly linked to practical insights from Big 4 consulting on a selection of corporate reporting, assurance, and auditing topics. The sessions will include the application of key accounting methods to a set of practice-oriented exercises and cases. This is to further foster students' knowledge about key financial reporting topics and outline the relevance of IFRS accounting. The self-study videos will be made available online before the class. Students are also expected to read the provided material in full and familiarize themselves with the provided exercises before class. Key elements of the exercises will be discussed in class. Short solutions will be uploaded after class. Being able to complete the exercises will be essential for your success in the final examination.

There will be a different range of interactive elements including videos, group work, group discussions, exercises and polling questions and a guest lecture. At the end of the course, students should have gained in-depth disciplinary knowledge applicable in local and global contexts.

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

For many units, there are pre-session videos in which students prepare the material to arrive prepared to class. Careful and complete preparation is necessary to enable lively discussions in class – critical thinking is encouraged to fully grasp the concepts and applications relevant in research and the accounting profession. The course consists of lectures that are complemented by sessions that focus on the professional practice delivered by established professionals. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the prescribed readings for the course prior to the sessions, to attend lectures, reflect on and apply theoretical learnings.

### Course Overview (subject to change)

Unit 1: Basics of financial reporting

Unit 2: Non-current assets

Unit 3: Impairment and leases

Unit 4: Financial Instruments

Unit 5: Provisions and the Statement of Cash Flows

Unit 6: Disclosure Issues

Unit 7: Business Combinations and Intangibles (Practitioner Insights)

Unit 8: Revenue recognition

Unit 9: Introduction to Auditing

Unit 10: ESG Accounting and ESG Assurance (Practitioner Insights)

Unit 11: Audit Practice and Data Analytics (Practitioner Insights)

Unit 12: Audit Process and Completion

## Course literature

Lecture slides. Further readings will be published online on Canvas.



Most current IFRS Accounting Standards as published by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)

## Textbook and readings (required)

- **International Financial Reporting and Analysis**, 8th edition (2020): Alexander, Jorissen, Hoggendorn, Van Mourik, Kirwan (ISBN: 978147376685)
- **Applying IFRS Standards**, 4th edition (2019): Picker, Clark, Dunn, Kolitz, Livne, Loftus and v.d. Tas (ISBN: 978-1-119-15922-3)
- **Auditing and Assurance Services. An Integrated Approach**, Global Edition, 17th Edition, Pearson Education, Harlow, or earlier editions. Arens, Elder, Beasley, Hogan (2019)

## Additional course information

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## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### Examination modalities

Examination type	Quiz
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	30%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

##### Remark

1 digital quiz during the lecture time (60 min)

##### Examination-aid rule

Closed Book

The use of aids is prohibited as a matter of principle, with the exception of pocket calculator models of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and, in case of non-language exams, bilingual dictionaries without any handwritten notes. Any other aids that are admissible must be explicitly listed by faculty members in the paragraph entitled "Supplementary aids" of the course and examination fact sheet; this list is exhaustive.

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

##### Supplementary aids

The quiz will be conducted as digital examinations on campus during the lecture with the following admissible media:



- Private notebook (compulsory) – no tablets!
- Main 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. Further information on installing the required software will be provided on the Canvas page.

The use of other aids is limited; any additional aids permitted are exhaustively listed under "Supplementary aids". Basically, the following is applicable:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and mono- or bilingual dictionaries (no subject-specific dictionaries) without hand-written notes are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models and any electronic dictionaries are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids above. 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.

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## 2. Examination sub part (2/2)

### Examination modalities

Examination type	Written examination
Responsible for organisation	central
Examination form	Written exam
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Lecture-free period
Examination execution	Synchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	70%
Duration	120 mins.

### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

### Remark



## Examination-aid rule

### Closed Book

The use of aids is prohibited as a matter of principle, with the exception of pocket calculator models of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and, in case of non-language exams, bilingual dictionaries without any handwritten notes. Any other aids that are admissible must be explicitly listed by faculty members in the paragraph entitled "Supplementary aids" of the course and examination fact sheet; this list is exhaustive.

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 on campus with the following admissible media:

- Private notebook (compulsory) – no tablets!
- Main 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.

Further information on installing the required software will be provided on the Canvas page.

The use of other aids is limited; any additional aids permitted are exhaustively listed under "Supplementary aids". Basically, the following is applicable:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and mono- or bilingual dictionaries (no subject-specific dictionaries) without hand-written notes are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models and any electronic dictionaries are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids above.
- **Students will be provided with an online version of the IFRS standards.**
- **Students can bring one hand-written DIN A4 "CheatSheet" (double-sided).**

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.



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## Examination content

There are two examination parts: A quiz during the lecturing period and a central written examination.

The quiz will cover the material from the lectures and pre-session videos prior to the quiz only. All material for each topic will be made available on Canvas. In addition, students are expected to read the relevant chapters of the suggested textbook.

The exam will cover material from the entire course taught in the lectures and pre-session videos. All material for each topic will be made available on Canvas. In addition, students are expected to read the relevant chapters of the suggested textbook. Students will be assessed on understanding rather than memorizing.

## Examination relevant literature

Slides for the course are based on the textbook. When preparing for the exam, students are expected to read the relevant chapters of the suggested textbook and reference books. In addition, throughout the course the lecturer may provide additional readings, which are relevant for the exam. The content by the external lecturer and the guest lecture are also relevant for the exam.

## 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).