



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

### 8,666: Kulturen/Cultures: Ambiguity and the Narration of Missing Knowledge

ECTS credits: 3

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (35%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (65%)

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,666,1.00 Kulturen/Cultures: Ambiguity and the Narration of Missing Knowledge](#) -- English -- [Aspers Patrik](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

None

#### Learning objectives

After the course participants will

- be able to identify the knowledge condition of ambiguity;
- know about ways to overcome or reduce ambiguity;
- have knowledge of how narratives are constructed to overcome or to reduce ambiguity.

#### Course content

Ambiguity refers to a state of openness about what exists or is known. This knowledge condition requires interpretative effort to establish some level of consensus. Narration, as we know from storytelling in literature or religion, plays a key role in this process.

This course explores the knowledge conditions under which ambiguity prevails in various societal contexts. A central focus is understanding how we can overcome or reduce ambiguity. Specifically, the course examines the practice of creating narratives as a means to address ambiguity. Practical activities are integrated throughout the course to provide hands-on experience in applying these concepts.

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

The course consists of lectures, seminars and workshops. Tutoring is also a form of teaching that will be used.

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

Details of which pages to read will be made later. Additional text will be listed.

- Abbott, A. 1997. Seven Types of Ambiguity. *Theory and Society*, 26(2/3): 357-391.
- Aspers, Patrik, Fürst Henrik, and Sandström, Edvin (Fortcoming) "Ambiguity in Art" WP.
- Aspers, Patrik (2024) Uncertainty: Individual Problems and Public Solutions, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Feront, C., & Bertels, S. 2021. The Impact of Frame Ambiguity on Field-Level Change. *Organization Studies*, 42(7): 1135-1165.
- Foerst, A. 2017. AMBIGUITY. *CrossCurrents*, 67(4): 653-665.
- Gadamer, H.-G. 1975. *Truth and Method*. London: Continuum.
- Goffman, E. 1974. *Frame Analysis, An Essay on the Organization of Experience*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Ricoeur, P. 1986. *From Text to Action: Essay in Hermeneutics, II*. London: Continuum.
- White, H. 2008. *Identity and Control, How Social Formations Emerge*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

## Additional course information

Patrik Aspers is Chair of Sociology and researches markets, theory and uncertainty. He works with empirical methods, e.g., interviews.

## 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	35%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

##### Remark

Group presentation (narration)

##### 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	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	65%
Duration	--

## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

## Remark

Individual written text related to the course

## 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

There are two examinations:

1. As a group, you will present your case, drawing on narrations, at a seminar in the class (35% of the course).
2. You must submit a short individual written text on a particular aspect related to the course that you choose. References to, and engagement with, the course literature is mandatory for passing the course. Submitted text must be at least 12 000 characters including blank spaces (+max. 15%). (65% of the course)

## Examination relevant literature

The list is the same as above.



## 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).