



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

8,668: Kulturen/Cultures: The China Dream and its Nightmares 2012-present

ECTS credits: 3

### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Portfolio (100%)

Examination time: term time

### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,668,1.00 Kulturen/Cultures: The China Dream and its Nightmares 2012-present](#) -- Englisch -- [Cozzi Guido](#) , [Berg Daria](#)

### Course information

### Course prerequisites

none

### Learning objectives

- The educational aims of the course are to gain a intercultural skills and a deeper understanding of China's politics, culture and society to help prepare students to meet the many new challenges posed by a shifting world order, to conquer global markets and to learn how to communicate successfully with global partners and competitors through financial crises, political turmoil, and the clash of foreign cultures. The course will practise and develop the students' intellectual and transferable skills, including e-learning, web-based interactive work, and teamwork.

### Course content

The 'Chinese Dream'-analogous to the 'American Dream'-is the Xi Jinping's government slogan, a socio-political motto that permeates China's current political discourse. But what exactly does it mean? How does the government shape China's aspirations to become the new Superpower? How do the Chinese people dream, and are there any alternative dreams?

China is often described as a 'despotic Leviathan' political system. The state is strong because society is weak. It would suffer the influence of the legalist tradition stemming back to the First Emperor who unified China in 221 BC. So, is China's Dream that authoritarian? Are Chinese elites too powerful? Will creativity and innovation ever take off in a country where the thought is not free? Will China's growth inevitably stop when this country reaches the middle-income trap? Is Confucian meritocracy infusing today's elites with a value-creation orientation instead of value extraction? What is the role of connections (guanxi) in fostering social interactions?

This course will use approaches from both macroeconomics and cultural studies to answer such questions. It proposes a unique interdisciplinary platform to promote a deeper understanding of China's current economy, politics, culture and society. China-as the rising Superpower of the twenty-first century-poses major social, economic and political challenges while offering great new opportunities to Switzerland, Europe, and the world. The challenge of the twenty-first century is to learn how to communicate with China and be understood in the complex processes of transcultural communication. This course aims to lay the foundations for transcultural communication within a rising and globalising China.

In the post-Covid era, China shall decide whether to rely on either low vaccine efficacy and coexist with an endemic pandemic threat or the more advanced vaccination technology (mRNA technology) to help eradicate the pandemic. On the other hand, its despotic Leviathan may support the extraordinary capacity of the Party-State and the weak social mobilization capacity provided by the Covid restrictions. Continuous lockdowns and repression could be a weapon for power consolidation while entailing massive economic costs. How will Beijing balance this tension? Will the political elites prefer more power and less growth? And how about the economic elites? This course will examine a selection of China's political, social and cultural dreams



to debate these questions and what they mean for China's future economy and society.

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

The course is structured by four workshops. Each workshop has a duration of 6 x 45 minutes.

Contextual Studies are considered part of **Contact Learning**; thus, taking part properly implies **regular attendance**, be it online or in the classroom. 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 **Stundenplan online** does apply.

## Course literature

An Online Reader including Key Readings and Additional Reading Materials will be available on Studynet 2.0 by the end of Teaching Week 2. Examples of works are:

- Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James, *The Narrow Corridor*, Penguin, 2019.
- Callahan, William, *China Dreams: 20 Visions of the Future*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Casas, Tomas and Cozzi, Guido, *Elite Quality Report: Country Scores and Global Rankings*, Zurich, Seismo, 2022.
- Wang, Helen, *The Chinese Dream: The Rise of the World's Largest Middle Class and what it Means to you*, N.p.: Bestseller Press, repr. 2012.

## Additional course information

Daria **Berg**, DPhil (1995) in Chinese Studies, University of Oxford, is Chair Professor (Ordinaria) of Chinese Culture and Society at the University of St.Gallen.

Guido **Cozzi**, PhD (NYU), is Chair Professor (Ordinarius) of Macroeconomics at the University of St. Gallen. For queries, please contact Nicole Reich Weber [Nicole.ReichWeber@unisg.ch](mailto:Nicole.ReichWeber@unisg.ch)

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

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

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Portfolio (100%)

Examination time: term time

##### 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

--

##### Nature of examination

analog

##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English



## Examination content

One portfolio (100%) (to be submitted as one PDF file via Studynet) including the following parts:

1. One **individual essay** on a topic of your choice related to the main lecture topics (2500 words; weighted **50%**);
2. Written evidence of **individual contributions to the group tasks** (weighted **50%**) in the form of:
  - a. One PowerPoint group presentation on a selected topic, which is also presented in class (weighted **40%**).
  - b. Contributions to the group work (online discussion forum and peer feedback) as evidence of active contribution to the group tasks (weighted **10%**);
  - c. A **self-reflection on the course and your learning** experience (ca. 200 words) (marked for inclusion; contents not marked, but a deduction of 0.2 Points will apply if it is missing).

Late submission will be penalised with a deduction of 0.2 Points per day off the final mark. This might also affect the final rounding.

## Examination relevant literature

See course literature.

### 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 12 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, 26 January 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 10 April 2023).