



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2023

### 7,707: Recht/Law: Social Justice - Race, Class and the Law

ECTS credits: 3

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

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

Examination time: Term time

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

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,707,1.00 Recht/Law: Social Justice - Race, Class and the Law](#) -- English -- [Koch Insa](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

None

#### Learning objectives

Students will be able to

- challenge doctrinal approaches to the study of law
- acquire a critical perspective on law as seen from a diversity of different perspectives
- develop a skill set to critique current legal developments and policies
- engage in innovative thinking about the future of law and justice

#### Course content

We tend to think about law as something that is written in books, set by statutes or developed through the common law: law is fixed, unchanging, and above all, it is considered to be neutral. In this course, we develop a decolonial approach to the study of law that challenges these dominant views about law: we explore what the law 'is' by looking, among other things, at how real people in real situations experience and act upon the legal system. Taking the English legal system as its point of departure, the course centres several inquiries: an examination of the legal system as experienced 'from below', a historical understanding on the making and workings of 'modern law', and a critical analysis of law beyond the confines of the nation state. We ask: what does law 'really' look like from the perspective of those subjected to it? How do current legal developments and policies reflect deeper legacies of colonialism and inequality? And what do calls for abolitionism teach us about the possibility of justice and social change? By the end of the course, students will have acquired a fresh perspective on the law as seen from a diversity of perspectives, developed new skills to critique current laws, and engaged in innovative thinking about the future of law and potential for change.

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

The course is taught through a series of interactive seminars. After an initial kick off session which introduces students to the question of 'what is law' from a variety of different perspectives, we have a Blockseminar over the break. During the Blockseminar, we will delve deeper into the question of 'what is law' by applying a decolonial perspective to different subject areas of law. Topics include immigration, crime, welfare law, and climate justice. We conclude the course by reflecting on recent calls for abolition.



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 following reading list is indicative and may be subject to changes:

Adébişi, F. (2023) *Decolonisation and Legal Knowledge Reflections on Power and Possibility*, Bristol University Press.

Bhattacharyya, G., Elliott-Cooper, A., Balani, S., Nişancıoğlu, K., Koram, K., Gebrial, D., El-Enany, N. and de Noronha, L. (2021). *Empire's Endgame: Racism and the British State*. London: Pluto Press.

Bhambra, G. (2007) *Rethinking modernity: Postcolonialism and the sociological imagination*. Berlin: Springer.

Bradley and De Noronha (2022) *Against borders: the case for abolition*. Verso Books.

Elliot-Cooper, A. (2021) *Black resistance to British Policing*, Manchester University Press.

Gopal, P. (2019) *Insurgent Empire: anticolonial Resistance and British dissent*, Verso Books.

Harrison, F. V. (Ed.) (2010) *Decolonizing Anthropology - Moving Further toward an Anthropology for Liberation* (Third ed.). Arlington, VA: American Anthropological Association.

Klinkert, V. L. (2021). 'Humbling anthropology: Ego reflexivus and White ignorance.' *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, 11(1), 309-318.

Koch, I. (2018), *Personalizing the state: An anthropology of law, politics, and welfare in austerity Britain*, OUP.

Willis, R. (2023) *A Precarious Life: Community and conflict in a deindustrialised town*, OUP.

## Additional course information

Insa Koch is Professor of British Cultures at the University of St.Gallen. Trained as both an anthropologist and as a lawyer in the law of England and Wales at the University of Oxford and at the LSE, her research addresses questions of social injustice, race, class and the state.

## 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	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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## 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	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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## Examination content

1. Written exam (60%, 12000): a reflexive piece on the question of 'what is abolitionism for you?'
2. Presentation (40%): a group based class exercise that we will prepare and conduct together during the Blockseminar.

## 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 (CW51) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 42 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 34 (Thursday, 24 August 2023);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 16 October 2023);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 45 (Monday, 06 November 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 45 (Monday, 06 November 2023).