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Complete version as of 1 October 2020
“Minors”
at the University of Innsbruck

Minor “Society and Politics”

Minor “Media and Communication”

Minor “Media Practice”

Minor “Methods of Empirical Social Research”

Minor “Sustainability”

Minor “Society and Politics”

I. Qualification profile

- (1) Graduates of the minor “Society and Politics” know the basic theories of political science and sociological theories, know about the influence of social and political structures and systems on human behaviour and social processes and are able to apply this knowledge to the solution of relevant problems from their field in science.

II. Admission

- (1) The minor “Society and Politics” covering 30 ECTS-Credits can be selected by degree students of Bachelor’s programmes at the University of Innsbruck, providing the relevant curriculum allows for the option to pass a minor.
- (2) The minor can be passed, providing the availability of places.
- (3) Students of the Bachelor’s Programme in Political Science and the Bachelor’s Programme in Sociology may not pass the minor “Society and Politics”.

III. Types of courses, maximum number of participants and allocation of places

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
Lectures (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. No maximum number of participants
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
Introductory seminars (PS) introduce students interactively to scientific literature through the treatment of selected issues. They convey knowledge and methods of academic work. Maximum number of participants: 35
- (3) In courses with a limited number of participants, course places are allocated as follows:
 1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
 2. If the criterium in no. 1 does not suffice to regulate the admission, the available places are drawn by random.

IV. Modules

- (1) The following compulsory modules covering 20 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Fundamentals of Political Science	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Fundamentals of Political Science	2	5
b.	VO Comparative Politics – Introductory Level	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning Outcomes: Students can explain and describe central political processes, institutions, structures and political fields and the problems associated with them. Students can name different analytical approaches to political science comparison and present and explain selected concepts of comparative government theory. They are also able to analyse and evaluate the institutional structures and the functioning of different structures of democratic systems of government.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Sociological Perspective and Approaches	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Sociological Perspectives and Approaches 1: Introduction to Sociology	2	5
b.	VO Sociological Perspectives and Approaches 2: Contemporary Society	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students learn about the sociological view. They are able to explain the theories and history of sociology as the science that analyses social action in a multidimensional way, this means that different areas of human coexistence such as economy, politics or science, are taken into account. They can analyse current social, cultural, economic and political developments scientifically, i.e. guided by theory, and critically evaluate social actors, institutions and processes using current examples.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

(2) From the following elective modules, one module covering 10 ECTS-Credits must be selected:

1.	Elective Module: Political Theory and Political Institutions	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Political Theories and Political Thinking	2	5
b.	PS Comparative Politics	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to classify and explain the development of political thought over the centuries. They can provide different definitions of rule and can describe different theories of the state and different theories of democracy. Students can name different analytical approaches to political science comparison and present and explain selected concepts of comparative government theory. Moreover, they are able to analyse and evaluate the institutional structures and the functioning of different structures of democratic government systems.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

3.	Elective Module: Political System of Austria	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Political System of Austria	2	5
b.	PS Political System of Austria	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to explain the fundamentals of the political system in Austria. Students know the functions and structures or relevant institutions and processes of the political system and selected political fields. Moreover, they can illustrate the most important aspects of political history of the First and Second Republic.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

3.	Elective Module: European Integration	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO European Integration	2	5
b.	PS European Integration	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students can explain and describe the process of European integration and how the European Union works. They will be able to analyse and independently answer questions about the institutions, decision-making processes and political fields in the political system of the EU and its member states.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

4.	Elective Module: International Relations	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO International Relations	2	5
b.	PS International Relations	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: Students understand the principles and connections of international relations and national foreign policy, and they are able to analyse them under supervision. Students know the basic elements of classical and modern international law and are able to give an account of them. Moreover, they acquire the ability to present the main historical developments in the state system of the 20th and 21st centuries.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

5.	Elective Module: Political Communication and Electoral Analysis	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Political Communication and Electoral Analysis	2	5
b.	PS Political Communication and Electoral Analysis	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: Students can explain the behaviour of voters, political parties and the media in democracies based on theory and with the help of empirical findings. They are able to recognise the function of political communication and the logic of media-centred democracy.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

6.	Elective Module: Sociological Theory	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Sociological Theory	2	5
b.	PS Theory	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to differentiate between the most important paradigms of basic sociological theories in their historical development and to apply them to current sociological questions. They will acquire in-depth knowledge of one of these theories and will be able to</p>			

	present it convincingly in the context of a scientific paper and use it to analyse and solve problems independently.
	Prerequisites: none

7.	Elective Module: Structures and Change in Modern Society	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Structures and Change in Modern Society	2	5
b.	PS Structures and Change in Modern Society	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: The students can name the most important theoretical models of modern society and can describe structures and changes in the light of the various models of society. They recognise the possibilities and limits of knowledge opened up by socio-theoretical models, and understand the dependence of the social models on their respective social context.			
Prerequisites: none			

8.	Elective Module: Market, State, Social Institutions	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Market, State, Social Institutions	2	5
b.	PS Market, State, Social Institutions	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: Students acquire the ability to explain theories and analyses of development and transformation of social institutions – in particular, institutions in terms of politics, market and civil society. They know how to analyse the effects and interactions of these institutions in societies. Students know central social scientific discussions, terms and methods to analyse market, state and social institutions and organisations.			
Prerequisites: none			

9.	Elective Module: Life-World – Life Forms: Individual and Society	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Life-World - Life Forms: Individual and Society	2	5
b.	PS Life-World - Life Forms: Individual and Society	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: Students can give an account of the most important theoretical approaches of interpretative sociology and explain its basic terminology. Moreover, they can describe the current subject areas and research perspectives in everyday and cultural sociological analysis. In particular, they are able to critically discuss identity constructions in the context of recognition and misjudgement conditions based on sociological identity theories and theoretical impulses from relating fields. They can identify central theses and lines of argument and give an account of them in an unaltered way. In addition, they are able to apply theoretical concepts to empirical phenomena in an exemplary way.			
Prerequisites: none			

10.	Elective Module: Rural and Regional Sociology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Rural and Regional Sociology	2	5
b.	PS Rural and Regional Sociology	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning Outcomes: The students can reflect the current status of the debates on the dynamics of social change in agriculture and rural areas and describe their interactions with social developments (in Austria, Europe and in countries in the south). They are able to reflect on and analyse processes of urban-rural relationships as well as the basics of regional development processes using social science theories.		
	Prerequisites: none		

V. Examination regulations

- (1) The performance of modules is evaluated by course examinations, namely
 1. in the case of lectures by examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in a single course and for which the evaluation is based on a single exam at the end of the course.
 2. in the cases of course with continuous performance assessment the evaluation is based on regular oral and/or written contributions of the participants.
- (2) Before the start of the semester, the course instructors have to inform the students about the objectives, contents and methods used in their courses as well as on the contents, methods and evaluation criteria and standards of the course examinations in a suitable manner.

Minor “Media and Communication”

I. Qualification profile

- (1) Graduates of the minor “Media and Communication” know fundamental theories and methods of media and communication research. They are able to analyse and reflect on media and communication processes in individual, social and international environments. They are able of applying their knowledge to work on relevant problems in their area of science.
- (2) Graduates of the minor “Media and Communication” are able
 - to understand and apply theories and models in media and communication research,
 - to model, analyse and reflect on media and communication processes,
 - to establish media references in the context of their own field of study,
 - to classify technologically and ideologically abridged views of media and communications dynamics.

II. Admission

- (1) The minor “Media and Communication” covering 30 ECTS-Credits can be selected by degree students of Bachelor’s programmes at the University of Innsbruck, providing the relevant curriculum allows for the option to pass a minor.
- (2) The minor can be passed, providing the availability of places.

III. Types of courses, maximum number of participants and allocation of places

- (1) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
Lectures with integrated practical parts (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 30
- (2) For courses with a limited number of participants, the course places are allocated as follows:
 1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
 2. If the criterium in no. 1 does not suffice to regulate the admission, the available places are drawn by random.

IV. Modules

The following compulsory module covering 30 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Module: Social Communication and Media Change	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Media Communication and Democracy Building of a sound knowledge about the challenges for democracies through the increasing power and presence of digital platforms, data economy as well as algorithmisation and surveillance.	2	5
b.	VU Media Dynamics and Social Change Providing basic knowledge about theories and models of media dynamics and the complexity of social transformation processes associated with digitisation, medialisation, globalisation and individualisation.	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning Outcomes: Graduates are enabled to question the tension between communication, media technologies and democracy. They are able to locate processes triggered by technological advances in terms of media history, to name their current specifics and to identify relevant fields of		

	action.
	Prerequisites: none

2.	Module: Theoretical and Methodological Fundamentals	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Media and Communication Theories Building a sound knowledge of basic terms, concepts and theories in media and communication studies.	2	5
b.	VU Methods of Empirical Media and Communication Research Imparting, advancing and practising of methodological competences in the field of qualitative and quantitative empirical media and communication research.	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: The graduates have basic methodological and theoretical knowledge of media and communication research and are able to critically assess research results. Furthermore, they have a basic understanding of the applicability of theories of media and communication studies.			
Prerequisites: none			

3.	Module: Specialisation in Media and Communication Science	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Digital Communication Development of a sound knowledge of changed public communication and discourse cultures, social media interactions, forms of communication and (dis)information processes as a consequence of digitisation.	2	5
b.	VU Current Discourses in Media and Communication Science Exemplary examination of current specialist scientific discourses with regard to the practical processing of concrete tasks in a selected topic area.	2	5
	Total	4	10
Learning Outcomes: The students have acquired the ability to use digital communication constellations to judge their individual, organisational and social impact. They have in-depth knowledge of media and communication science in a specific sub-area of the subject.			
Prerequisites: none			

V. Examination regulations

- (1) The performance of the modules is evaluated by course examinations, in the case of courses with continuous performance assessment by means of an evaluation based on oral and/or written contributions of the participants.
- (2) Before the start of the semester, the course instructors have to inform the students about the objectives, contents and methods used in their courses as well as on the contents, methods and evaluation criteria and standards of the course examinations in a suitable manner.

Minor “Media Practice”

I. Qualification profile

- (1) Graduates of the minor “Media Practice” are qualified to understand and apply basic aspects of media practice in the fields of print media, audiovisual media and social media.
- (2) Graduates of the minor “Media Practice” are able
 - to select and apply media and media tools,
 - to understand, analyse and implement media, their forms of design and the respective output channels,
 - to take up current events and implement them in the media,
 - to plan and carry out practical media projects, also in the context of one’s own field of study.

II. Admission

- (1) The minor “Media Practice” covering 30 ECTS-Credits can be selected by degree students of Master’s programmes at the University of Innsbruck, providing the relevant curriculum allows for the option to pass a minor.
- (2) The minor can be passed, providing the availability of places.

III. Types of courses, maximum number of participants and allocation of places

- (1) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
Lectures with integrated practical parts (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 30
- (2) For courses with a limited number of participants, the course places are allocated as follows:
 1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
 2. If the criterium in no. 1 does not suffice to regulate the admission, the available places are drawn by random.

IV. IV. Modules

The following compulsory modules covering 30 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Module: Print Production and Trimediality	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Production of Print Media Imparting of a general insight into the production and distribution conditions of print media of all kinds and the transformation processes to which they are exposed.	2	5
b.	VU Trimedia Practice Basic information about the essential characteristics of radio, television and online media and knowledge of how these are used in the interaction of media practice.	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning Outcomes: Graduates have a general insight into the production and distribution conditions of daily and weekly newspapers and other print media. They know the actors involved in this media system as well as the professional requirements. The students are aware of the interplay between audiovisual media and print media and can apply their knowledge in a targeted manner to practical media examples on the respective channels.		

Prerequisites: none

2.	Module: Social Media and Public Communication	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Social Media & Online Communication Imparting of knowledge about the basics of social media and online communication, selected methods of online communication and logics of "user generated content".	2	5
b.	VU Public Affairs and Strategic Communication Imparting knowledge in the field of strategic communication in internal and external organisational environments as well as skills in the effective publicity and target-oriented application of practical media measures.	2	5
Total		4	10
Learning Outcomes: After completing this module, students understand the basics of social media and online communication. They are able to deal with questions of public affairs and strategic communication and have practical media skills for using online platforms and online instruments for communication with different target groups and organisations.			
Prerequisites: none			

3.	Module: Media-Practical Focus	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Writing for Media Practice and Communication Training Imparting knowledge of different forms and techniques of writing for the various media formats and their application, also in the form of communication training.	2	5
b.	VU Current Developments in Media Practice Imparting of current developments in media practice with a view to expanding media practice knowledge in a specific focus area.	2	5
Total		4	10
Learning Outcomes: Graduates know different writing techniques and can use them appropriately. In addition, they have specific knowledge in a current area of media practice (e.g. in the field of methods of visual communication, political communication or knowledge and scientific communication.			
Prerequisites: none			

V. Examination regulations

- (1) The performance of the modules is evaluated by course examinations, namely by courses with continuous performance assessment for which the evaluation is based on oral and/or written contributions of the participants.
- (2) Before the start of the semester, the course instructors have to inform the students about the objectives, contents and methods used in their courses as well as on the contents, methods and evaluation criteria and standards of the course examinations in a suitable manner.

Minor “Methods in Empirical Social Research”

I. Qualification profile

- (1) Graduates of the minor “Methods in Empirical Social Research” know the characteristics of qualitative and quantitative social research, are aware of the special features of data collection and data evaluation and are capable of understanding basic social-scientific methods (such as questionnaires, interviews, analysis of content, discourse, text and network) and statistical procedures (hypothesis tests and regression analyses) and apply them to the solution of pertinent problems from their field of research.
- (2) The graduates are able
 - to develop social science research designs and implement them in the context of their own field of study,
 - to select and apply methods in social science in the context of their own field of study
 - to collect and evaluate data independently.

II. Admission

- (1) The minor “Methods in Empirical Social Research” covering 30 ECTS-Credits can be selected by degree students of Bachelor’s programmes at the University of Innsbruck, providing the relevant curriculum allows for the option to pass a minor.
- (2) The minor can be passed, providing the availability of places.
- (3) Students of the Bachelor’s Programme in Political Science and the Bachelor’s Programme in Sociology may not pass the minor “Methods in Empirical Social Research”.

III. Types of courses, maximum number of participants and allocation of places

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
Lectures (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. No maximum number of participants
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
 1. Introductory seminars (PS) introduce students interactively to scientific literature through the treatment of selected issues. They convey knowledge and methods of academic work. Maximum number of participants: 35
 2. Seminars (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 35
 3. Lectures with integrated practical parts (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 35
- (3) In courses with a limited number of participants, course places are allocated as follows:
 1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
 2. If the criterium in no. 1 does not suffice to regulate the admission, the available places are drawn by random.

IV. Module

(1) The following compulsory modules covering 20 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Introduction to Empirical Social Research	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Introduction to Empirical Social Research	2	5
b.	PS Introduction to Empirical Social Research	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students can characterise the basics of empirical research. They can assign the most important qualitative and quantitative survey methods to the respective epistemological and methodological background and decide which research questions require which methods. They are able to critically evaluate existing empirical studies and independently carry out the first phases of a research process (formulation of a research question, data collection, method reflection) qualitatively and / or quantitatively or in terms of method triangulation.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

2.	Compulsory Module: Statistics	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Statistics	2	5
b.	PS Statistics	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students can understand the logic of the current statistical procedures and approaches in empirical research in the social sciences and understand their application in the context of empirical research. They will be able to critically question statistical statements and carry out simple data analyses independently.</p>			
Prerequisites: none			

(2) From the following elective modules, one module covering 10 ECTS-Credits must be chosen:

1.	Elective Module: Applied Methods – Enhanced Level	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Applied Methods – Advanced Study	2	7.5
b.	Project Outline	-	2.5
	Total	2	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to independently develop and carry out a research design to answer a scientific question. The research design includes both data collection and data analysis. Students learn to apply valid and replicable research.</p>			
Prerequisites: successful completion of compulsory module 1 and/or 2.			

2.	Elective Module: Qualitative Social Research	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Qualitative Social Research	2	5
b.	SE Applied Qualitative Methods	2	5
	Total	4	10

	<p>Learning Outcomes: The students understand the logic of the qualitative research paradigm. They know the most common qualitative methods and can use them to answer a sociological research question. Qualitative data can be evaluated methodically in a controlled manner and the results can be clearly presented in the form of a research report. Overall, they are able to draft a qualitative research design and independently carry out the entire research process from the research question to the report.</p>
	<p>Prerequisites: successful completion of compulsory module 1.</p>

3.	Elective Module: Multivariate Analysis Methods and Statistics – Advanced Study	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Multivariate Analysis Methods and Statistics – Advanced Study	2	5
b.	SE Applied Multivariate Data Analysis	2	5
	Total	4	10
	<p>Learning Outcomes: The students are able to investigate a research question with quantitative data based on theory and to apply structure-testing procedures to test hypotheses. The students can independently carry out the most common multivariate analysis methods with statistical software, interpret the results in a sociologically meaningful way and present them clearly with tables and graphics in research reports and presentations. The positive completion of the module enables the critical reception of quantitative-oriented contributions in the social science literature. Furthermore, the participants get their first insights into the possible uses of “big data” for the social sciences.</p>		
	<p>Prerequisites: successful completion of compulsory module 1 and/or 2.</p>		

V. Examination regulations

- (1) The performance of modules is evaluated by course examinations, namely
 1. in the case of lectures by examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in a single course and for which the evaluation is based on a single exam at the end of the course.
 2. in the case of course with continuous performance assessment the evaluation is based on oral and/or written contributions of the participants.
- (2) The “Project Outline” in elective module 1 is evaluated by the course instructor of the VU “Applied Methods – Advanced Study”.

Before the start of the semester, the course instructors have to inform the students about the objectives, contents and methods used in their courses as well as on the contents, methods and evaluation criteria and standards of the course examinations in a suitable manner.

Minor “Sustainability” at the University of Innsbruck

I. Qualification profile

- (1) The minor “Sustainability” at the University of Innsbruck is aimed at students who wish to place specialist knowledge acquired in their studies in the context of ecologically, socially and economically sustainable development.
- (2) The minor “Sustainability” is based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The SDGs are understood as a global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, whose explicit goal is to counteract inequalities and "leave no one behind". The diversity of the topics addressed and to be dealt with, between which there are numerous tensions, is at the same time the strength and weakness of Agenda 2030. This variety is reflected in the minor.
- (3) Graduates of the minor “Sustainability”
 - have an understanding for systemically networked thinking,
 - have the ability to handle multidimensional and complex decision situations, which have economic, ecological and social restrictions, to analyse them and name the conditions for participatory and fair decision-making,
 - have developed an understanding of power structures that sustain the exploitation of human and non-human beings,
 - have basic knowledge of the phenomenon of climate change,
 - have knowledge of sustainable use of resources in different areas,
 - understand how education systems contribute to maintaining or overcoming unsustainable structures,
 - are aware of the challenges of sustainable development in a wide range of practical fields and have relevant knowledge in selected specialist areas that complement the field of their Bachelor’s programme,
 - have an advanced ability to think and act in a transdisciplinary way and have the ability to consider the sustainability perspective in different professional fields as well as to promote its implementation.

II. Language

The language of instruction of this minor is German. Individual modules (or courses) of the minor may be held in English. The necessary language skills are a precondition.

III. Admission

- (1) The minor “Sustainability” covering 30 ECTS-Credits can be selected by degree students of Bachelor’s programmes at the University of Innsbruck, providing the relevant curriculum allows for the option to pass a minor.
- (2) The minor can be passed, providing the availability of places.

IV. Types of courses and maximum number of participants for a course

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
Lectures (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. No maximum number of participants
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
 1. Seminars (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 30.
 2. Lectures with integrated practical parts (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of

participants: 30

For the following lectures with integrated practical parts the maximum number of participants is 60:

- a) Sustainable Decision-Making and Behaviour: a Socio-Economic Management Perspective 1
 - b) Sustainable Decision-Making and Behaviour: a Socio-Economic Management Perspective 2
3. Excursions (EX) take place outside the university and serve to provide practical experiences outside the course and deepen course contents. Maximum number of participants: 20.

V. Allocation of places for courses with a limited number of participants

For courses with a limited number of participants, the course places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If the criterium in no. 1 does not suffice to regulate the admission, the available places are drawn by random.

VI. Module

The following modules covering altogether 30 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Module: Governance and Partnership	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions – Prerequisites and Goals for Sustainable Development Introduction to the topic of sustainable development. Imparting of basic knowledge about the subject of participatory societal design on a national, trans- and international level as the basis for peaceful / non-violent transformation processes towards sustainability.	1	1
b.	SE Acting in Partnership. Locally and Globally In-depth discussion of different concepts and perspectives of participatory decision-making, social justice, global responsibility, global partnership and sustainable development. Acquisition of knowledge about the functioning of trans- and international governance structures.	2	4
	Total	3	5
	Learning Outcomes: The students have a basic knowledge of the subject of participatory social and political design and nonviolent transformation processes, as well as the functioning of trans- and international governance structures. They are able to grasp their complexity, to discuss them critically and to question and evaluate them.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Module: Climatic Conditions and Ecological Challenges	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Recognising, Understanding and Communicating Climate Change Increasing the knowledge about the earth's climate system and climate history. Discussion of the causes of the sometimes dramatic climatic changes and their relationship to current and future changes. To use the acquired knowledge effectively in climate debates on different level, climate-related communication skills are trained.	2	2.5

b.	VU Ecology – Current and Future Challenges Presentation of basic concepts and methods for the understanding of components, structures and processes in selected aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, also considering current and future changes. In-depth discussion of theoretical and practical applications for explaining and communicating ecological relationships. Discussion of risks, uncertainties and potential solutions for a knowledge-based understanding in nature and environmental protection as well as in sustainable ecosystem management.	2	2.5
	Total	4	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students know basic ecological concepts and relationships as well as the main features of the earth's climate system. They have knowledge of current changes and challenges as well as the corresponding role of people. Students can communicate their knowledge about sustainable solutions in society.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Module: Sustainable Use of Resources	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Sustainable Use of Resources - Green and Blue Cities and Municipalities in Mountain Regions After a general introduction, selected points of sustainable use of resources with reference to SDG 6, 7 and 12 will be studied in detail. These include, in particular, the concept of integrated water resource management and the technical and social challenges facing the water cycle. The use of hydropower, geothermal energy, wastewater treatment and ecological and economic aspects of energy generation and supply are discussed. Aspects of sustainable waste management, building, mobility and transport are also discussed.	2	4
b.	EX Experiencing Sustainable Use of Resources in Mountain Regions This excursion focuses on the implementation of SDGs 6, 7 and 12 in mountainous regions. It illustrates the relevance of sustainable resource use in these regions using practical examples and expands transdisciplinary experience.	0.5	1
	Total	2.5	5
	Learning Outcomes: After completing the module, students are able to understand the background to the development of SDGs 6, 7 and 12, to analyse and evaluate their implementation in mountain regions and to develop innovative suggestions for their better implementation.		
	Prerequisites: none		

4.	Module: Basic Human Needs – “Right to a Good Life”	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Basic Needs and Endogenous Regional Development “Basic needs and endogenous regional development” in their multi-dimensionality, multi-scalarity and mutual interdependence are presented and discussed. In addition, best practice examples (from the excursion) are reflected upon, revisited and related to the general conceptual-theoretical part at the beginning of the module.	1	2.5

b.	EX Basic Needs and Regional Examples The excursion “Basic Needs and Regional Examples” present best-practice examples	2	2.5
	Total	3	5
Learning Outcomes: The students are able to identify and analyse factors of inequality in a multi-scalar dimension (from local to global) and to assess them for the perspectives of sustainable development. The students understand the role of endogenous regional development in achieving the goals of SDGs 1, 2, 3 and 10.			
Prerequisites: none			

5.	Module: Social and Economic Development	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Sustainable Decision-Making and Behaviour: a Socio-Economic Management Perspective 1 This module focuses on the economic and operational decisions in the context of sustainability. In particular (but not exclusively) decision-making problems relating to sustainable economic growth (SDG 8), innovations for sustainable infrastructure (SDG 9) and developments in sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) are analysed. The complex, interdependent challenges for sustainable decision-making are presented and the consequences discussed. Theoretical principles and practical experience with regard to the complexity behind achieving the SDGs are imparted.	2	2.5
b.	VU Sustainable Decision-Making and Behaviour: a Socio-Economic Management Perspective 2 In addition to advanced theoretical contributions, VU2 focuses on the solution of complex case studies and actual problems from the political, economic and operation practice in the context of the SDGs selected for the course. Considerations of interdependencies with all other SDGs should also be included.	2	2.5
	Total	4	5
Learning Outcomes: Students develop a strong understanding of complex decision-making problems and their theoretical background in the context of sustainability from an economic and business management perspective. They will acquire an understanding of relationships and interdependencies in long-term, complex decision-making processes. They are able to understand decision-making conflicts when different interest groups are involved and to develop well-founded solutions. Students have the ability to understand interregional and intergenerational trade-offs in resource use and to discuss them carefully.			
Prerequisites: none			

6.	Module: Universal Values	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Education for Sustainable Development This seminar critically reflects the concept of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). It deals with the deconstruction of power structures and ideologies in society and the educational system and deepens knowledge of participatory and transformative educational concepts that emphasise ethics and social and ecological justice for humans and non-	2	2.5

	human animals.		
b.	SE Participatory Process Design The seminar focuses on the role cities play in a sustainable food system. Participatory development processes, sustainable thinking and action are reflected upon, including modules 1-4.	2	2.5
	Total	4	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students of this module can independently develop concepts for the implementation of participatory projects in the context of regional food systems, taking into account economic, ecological and social framework conditions. They are able to initiate critical and creative learning processes within society that can lead to a more ethical and sustainable world for humans, animals and nature. Students can independently research information from various media and disciplines, evaluate it critically and select it for the development of innovative solutions.		
	Prerequisites: none		

VII. Examination regulations

- (1) The performance of modules is evaluated by course examinations, namely
 1. in the case of lectures by examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in a single course and for which the evaluation is based on a single exam at the end of the course.
 2. in the case of course with continuous performance assessment the evaluation is based on regular oral and/or written contributions of the participants.
- (2) Before the start of the semester, the course instructors have to inform the students about the objectives, contents and methods used in their courses as well as on the contents, methods and evaluation criteria and standards of the course examinations in a suitable manner.