



Updated 27.06.2023



SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Aurora European Universities Alliance

Universität Innsbruck

Winter semester 2023/2024, course number: 800.873

Field of study: Interdisciplinary course
ECTS Credits: 5
Level: Master
Type of course: elective, VU 2h
(lecture with exercises)
Mode of delivery: online

Language : English
Academic/course directory:
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gina Moseley
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Course Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- think critically about their own lives and situations with respect to climate change and sustainability
- improve their knowledge of sustainability and climate change with respect to other cultures and be able to enter into discussion on the topic with people of other cultures
- understand the background and structure of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- improve their knowledge of sustainable earth systems, lifestyles and mobility with respect to SDGs and be able to reflect critically with respect to their own lifestyles
- undertake a sustainability assessment for a business
- understand communication strategies with respect to communicating research to the public and implementing policy changes



Contents

This Sustainability and Climate Change course will comprise five key components.

1. Introduction (6.10.2023)

University Holiday (13.10.2023)

2. Frontal lectures and small discussion groups on sustainability and climate change (20.10.2023; 27.10.2023; 3.11.2023; 10.11.2023)

4. Workshop #1 – Business Sustainability Assessment (17.11.2023)

3. Workshop #2a – IPCC , #2b – Sustainability in Museums (24.11.2023)

5. Workshop #3 – Industry Expert Seminar (01.12.2023)

Public Holiday (08.12.2023)

6. Synthesis and critical thinking of topics covered (15.12.2023)

7. Presentation of communication campaign (26.01.2024)

All sessions are taught online on Zoom on Friday mornings between 0900-1230 (Central European Time)

Participants will be admitted to a waiting room. **Please ensure you can be identified by your full name otherwise you will not be admitted to the live session.** Admittance to the live session begins 15 minutes before the start from 0845.



Course Staff

Irma Eloff (Universiteit van Pretoria, South Africa/University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Alice Elliott (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Christa Henze (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Anne-Karen Hueske (Copenhagen Business School)

Jordi Jaria (University of Rovira i Virgili, Spain)

Clara Esteve Jordà (University of Rovira i Virgili, Spain)

Ani Melkonyan-Gottsckalk (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Dario Minervini (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)

Gina Moseley (Course director) (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Jaap Seidell (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Miroslav Syrovátka (Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic)

Sarah Wade (University of East Anglia, UK)

Course Assistant

Anna Baldo (University of Innsbruck, Austria)



Participation

Students are requested to attend as many live sessions as possible in order that the pedagogic concepts of the course are maintained (e.g. discussion and exchange between cultures and expertise).

It is, however, acknowledged that sometimes personal circumstances prevent live attendance. If this situation applies to you then please inform the course director, Gina Moseley, or course assistant, Anna Baldo. All sessions are recorded and can be watched at a later date.



Unassessed Coursework

- Contribute to the development of questions for workshop #3.
- Throughout the course, make a note of open questions and add 1 question from lectures 1 to 8 (20.10.2023; 27.10.2023; 3.11.2023; 10.11.2023) to your participant folder on OLAT (Deadline 08.12.2023).
- Actively participate in discussions during the course.



Assessed Coursework

- A. Choose either one lecture or workshop #1 and write an essay that summarises the key concepts, arguments and discussion points. Include your own opinions, thoughts and critique.
- Maximum 1000 words excluding references, figures and citations
 - Upload to your participant folder on OLAT. Deadline 15.12.2023.
 - 50 % of the overall grade.
- B. Prepare a proposal for a museum display cabinet.
- During Workshop #2b (24.11.2023) you will be given the basic skills needed to complete this assignment.
 - On 26.1.2024, you will present a pitch for your idea to the group and will receive feedback on your idea.
 - Upload your press release and proposal for a museum display cabinet to your participant folder on OLAT. Deadline 23.02.2024
 - 50 % of the overall grade.



Assessment*

*If you are participating from a partner university, please check with your course director that this grading system can be accepted

1 Sehr gut/very good (89 to 100%)

- is the best possible grade and indicates outstanding performance with no or only minor errors.

2 Gut/good (76 to 88%)

- is the next-highest grade and is given for performance that is above-average standard but with some errors.

3 Befriedigend/satisfactory (63 to 75%)

- indicates generally sound work with a number of notable errors.

4 Genügend/adequate (50 to 62%)

- is the lowest passing grade and is given if the standard has been met but with a significant number of shortcomings.

5 Nicht genügend/unsatisfactory (<50%)

- is the lowest possible grade and the only failing grade



Beliefs Events and Values Inventory

Prior to the course, participants are invited to take part in a BEVI survey (Beliefs, Events, and Values Inventory). The idea behind this **completely voluntary** survey is to establish how your beliefs, ideas and values change by participating in the course. It is entirely anonymous but provides valuable feedback as to how you think as both a group and individuals.

You will be invited to take part in the BEVI prior to and after the course. It takes about 30 minutes to complete the survey. If too few people participate then the results cannot be interpreted, hence we would really appreciate it if you found the time to participate. It is also important that if you do the survey before the course, you also do the survey afterwards.

<https://thebevi.com/>



Introduction to the course (icebreaker)

06.10.2023 – 1030-1230

Lecturers: Alice Elliott and Gina Moseley (University of Innsbruck, Austria) plus additional staff from main lecture series

Learning Objectives:

- i) to consider ones own position with respect to climate change and sustainability and be able to put that in the context of other cultures
- ii) to be able to engage in discussion regarding climate change and sustainability with other cultures

Relevant SDGs: All



Introduction to Sustainability Orientation Towards Sustainability

20.10.2023 – 0900-1030

Lecturers: Christa Henze (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany) & Irma Eloff (Universiteit van Pretoria, South Africa/University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students will be able to understand the basic requirements of the concept of sustainable development.
- ii) Students will be able to amplify the interplay between the global relevance and local realities of sustainability.

Relevant SDGs: selected range of SDGs, according to pillars of sustainability



Introduction to Sustainability Exploring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

20.10.2023 – 1100-1230

Lecturers: Irma Eloff (Universiteit van Pretoria, South Africa/University of Innsbruck, Austria) & Christa Henze (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students will be able to identify the comprehensive structure of Agenda 2030, e.g. 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets.
- ii) Students will be able to detect (exemplary) interconnectedness and contradictions of the SDGs.

Relevant SDGs: All



Mobility Systems

27.10.2023 – 0900-1030

Lecturer: Ani Melkonyan-Gottschalk (Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Understanding of foundational concepts: Develop a way of thinking in inter-disciplinary fields, finding out the linkages between environmental and socio-economic sciences with focus on urban systems and mobility, Circular Economy, Industrial Symbiosis, sustainability policy, innovation management, mitigation and adaptation strategies, resilient infrastructures (including energy and mobility).
- ii) Development of intercultural, multidisciplinary competences: Develop skills to work interdisciplinary and internationally. Integration of theoretical knowledge into practical application.

Relevant SDGs: 7, 9, 11, 12, 17



Sustainable Lifestyles

27.10.2023 – 1100-1230

Lecturers: Dario Minervini (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Assemblage thinking. Students will be able to identify and reconstruct the heterogeneous network of social and material entities performing sustainable practices in urban everyday life.
- ii) Critical thinking. Students will be able to detect contradictions in the chain of “orders of worths” informing sustainable lifestyles and practices in the urban context.

Relevant SDGs: 11, 12, 17



Sustainable Earth Systems

03.11.2023 – 0900-1030

Lecturers: Anne-Karen Hueske (Copenhagen Business School)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students will be able to know different actions to climate change on different level of analysis (personal/consumer, organization/industry, policymaker)
- ii) Students will be able to reflect on scenarios related to different strategies responding to climate change

Relevant SDGs: 13 and related SDGs



Sustainable Earth Systems

03.11.2023 – 1100-1230

Lecturers: Jordi Jaria & Clara Esteve Jordà (University of Rovira i Virgili, Spain)

Learning Objectives:

- i) to identify the fundamental assumptions of hegemonic governance processes and institutions and its implications in terms of resilience and inclusiveness (particularly with reference to gender)
- ii) to assess its adequacy regarding to the governance in the Anthropocene and, particularly, climate action, bringing into the analysis climate justice issues (particularly with reference to gender)

Relevant SDGs: 5, 10, 13, 16



Sustainable Lifestyles

10.11.2023 – 0900-1030

Lecturer: Jaap Seidell (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Learning Objectives:

Understanding of: the global syndemic; the role of food systems in relation to non-communicable diseases and malnutrition; the impact of food systems on biodiversity, climate change, environmental degradation; the concept of triple duty action policies; the concept of transition of food systems; the barriers for the transition to healthy and sustainable food systems; the role of the life-course approach to health; the critical role of the first 1000 days after conception; the role of determinants of health inequalities; the importance of health and food literacy.

Relevant SDGs: Nutrition is a vital precondition to achieve SDG's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 14, 16; Achieving SDG's 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17 supports nutrition



Sustainable Development

10.11.2023 – 1100-1230

Lecturer: Miroslav Syrovátka (Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic)

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to critically reflect on three approaches to measuring sustainable development:

- (i) current well-being, i.e. “development”
- (ii) maintaining conditions for future well-being, i.e. “sustainability”
- (iii) integrated measurement of sustainable development

Relevant SDGs: SDG 17, specifically Target 17.9



Workshop #1: Business Sustainability

17.11.2023 – 0900-1230

Lecturer: Alice Elliott (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students are able to apply a framework of comprehensive sustainability criteria to any business
- ii) Students are able to critically assess those criteria and the overall validity of the criteria

Relevant SDGs: All



Workshop #2a : IPCC

24.11.2023 – 0900-1030

Lecturer: Georg Kaser (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Learning Objectives:

Relevant SDGs: All



Workshop #2b : Sustainability in Museums

24.11.2023 – 1100-1230

Lecturer: Sarah Wade (University of East Anglia, UK)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students are able to discuss the role that museums have in communicating issues of climate change and sustainability to the public
- ii) Students are able to develop a concept for a museum display cabinet

Relevant SDGs: All



Workshop #3: Industry Experts

01.12.2023 – 0900-1230

Lecturer: Gina Moseley (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Learning Objectives:

- i) Students appreciate the challenges and difficulties faced by different stakeholders with respect to communicating climate change and sustainability to the public
- ii) Students appreciate the motivations of different stakeholders with respect to communicating climate change and sustainability to the public

Relevant SDGs: All



Synthesis: Final Discussion & Open Questions

15.12.2023 – 0900-1230

Lecturers: Alice Elliott and Gina Moseley (University of Innsbruck, Austria) plus additional staff from main lecture series

Learning Objectives:

- i) to reconsider ones own position with respect to climate change and sustainability and be able to put that in the context of other cultures
- ii) to be able to engage in discussion regarding climate change and sustainability with other cultures

Relevant SDGs: All



Presentation of Proposals for Museum Display Cabinets

26.01.2024 – 0900-1200

Lecturers: Gina Moseley (University of Innsbruck, Austria) and Sarah Wade (University of East Anglia, UK) plus additional staff from main lecture series

Learning Objectives:

i) Students present the concept for their museum display case and receive feedback from staff and peers

Relevant SDGs: All