



JAGIELLONIAN
UNIVERSITY
IN KRAKÓW

Justice and Sustainability

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

Field of study Joint Bachelor in Sustainability		Education cycle 2025/26	
Speciality Social Sciences & Humanities		Realization year 2027/28	
Organizational unit Faculty of Law and Administration		Subject code UJ.WPAJBSSSHS.810.16603.25	
Study level first cycle (joint degree programme)		Lecture languages english	
Study form full-time degree programme		Subject related to scientific research Yes	
Education profile General academic		Disciplines Philosophy, Law	
Mandatory elective		ISCED classification 0223 Philosophy and ethics	
		USOS code	
Subject coordinator	Piotr Szwedo		
Lecturer	Michael Coors		
Period Semester 5	Examination exam	Number of ECTS points 3.0	
	Activities and hours Discussion class: 28		

Goals

C1	The primary goal of this course is to equip students with a robust understanding of how justice principles inform and drive sustainable practices. Students will explore foundational and advanced theories of justice and their application to sustainability challenges. The course aims to enhance students' ability to critically analyze empirical case studies and apply justice-oriented principles to real-world sustainability issues. Additionally, students will gain insight into non-Western and indigenous perspectives on justice and sustainability, preparing them to engage with diverse global challenges.
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Subject's learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Effects	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student knows and understands:			
W1	key theories and concepts of justice and their implications for understanding sustainability issues	JBS_K1_W01, JBS_K1_W02, JBS_K1_W03, JBS_K1_W05	oral exam
W2	the similarities, differences, and connections between different concepts of justice, including environmental justice, social justice, and climate justice	JBS_K1_W06, JBS_K1_W07	oral exam
Skills - Student can:			
U1	critically evaluate theoretical texts and empirical studies related to justice and sustainability	JBS_K1_U01	oral exam
U2	articulate and defend principles of justice in the context of sustainability, drawing on different theoretical perspectives	JBS_K1_U02	oral exam
Social competences - Student is ready for:			
K1	to engage in informed discussions on justice and sustainability	JBS_K1_K03, JBS_K1_K05	oral exam
K2	to apply justice-oriented principles to sustainability practices in their personal and professional lives	JBS_K1_K03	oral exam

Calculation of ECTS points

Activity form	Activity hours*
Discussion class	28
preparation for classes	24
preparation of a multimedia presentation	8
preparation for the exam	30
Student workload	Hours 90
	ECTS 3.0

* hour means 45 minutes

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
1.	Introduction to the Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of course objectives, structure, and assessment methods. • Clarification of organizational matters and expectations. • Introduction to key concepts: justice and sustainability. 	W1, W2, K1
2.	Theoretical Foundations of Justice and Sustainability I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of sustainability principles. • Introduction to justice theories: distributive, procedural, and restorative justice. • Discussion on the importance of justice in sustainability. 	W1, W2, K1
3.	Theoretical Foundations of Justice and Sustainability II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced theories of justice: capability approach, ecological justice. • Integration of justice theories with sustainability concepts. • Discussion on practical implications. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1
4.	Intergenerational Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts of intergenerational equity and responsibility. • Theoretical perspectives on intergenerational justice. • Case studies: climate change and resource depletion. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1
5.	Intragenerational Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of intragenerational equity. • Socio-economic dimensions of sustainability. • Case studies: global inequality and resource distribution. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1
6.	Environmental Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical development of environmental justice. • Key concepts: environmental racism, ecological debt. • Case studies from the Environmental Justice Atlas: pollution, waste management, land use. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
7.	<p>Social Justice and Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersection of social justice and sustainability. • The role of social justice in achieving sustainable development. • Case studies: housing, health, and education. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1
8.	<p>Climate Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition and scope of climate justice. • Theoretical frameworks for understanding climate justice. • Case studies from the Environmental Justice Atlas: global climate policies and their local impacts. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1
9.	<p>Justice in the Anthropocene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of the Anthropocene and its implications for justice. • Theories and debates on justice in the Anthropocene. • Case studies: planetary boundaries and human impact. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1
10.	<p>More-Than-Human Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding justice beyond the human sphere. • Theories on animal rights and ecological justice. • Case studies: biodiversity conservation and animal welfare. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1
11.	<p>Non-Western and Indigenous Perspectives on Justice and Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of non-Western and indigenous philosophies of justice. • Case studies: Sumak Kawsay (Ecuador), Ubuntu (Southern Africa), and Radical Ecological Democracy (India). • Implications for global sustainability practices. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1
12.	<p>Current Debates on Justice and Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging issues in justice and sustainability. • Debates on technology, innovation, and justice. • Case studies: geoengineering and sustainable energy transitions. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
13.	Practical Case Studies and Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of justice principles to real-world sustainability practices. • Detailed analysis of selected case studies from the Environmental Justice Atlas. • Group discussions and reflections on practical outcomes and implications. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
14.	Course Summary and Reflections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of key themes and concepts. • Reflections on learning outcomes and personal growth. • Course evaluation and feedback. 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2

Course advanced

Teaching methods :

project method, lecture with multimedia presentation, discussion, case study, practicals

Activities	Examination methods	Credit conditions
Discussion class	oral exam	Active participation (not graded) and small group presentations; oral exam (graded)

Entry requirements

Completion of the course "Introduction to Sustainability Ethics"

Literature

Obligatory

1. Agyeman, J., Bullard, R. D., & Evans, B. (Eds.). (2003). Just sustainabilities: Development in an unequal world. MIT Press.
2. Dobson, A. (1998). Justice and the environment: Conceptions of environmental sustainability and dimensions of social justice. Oxford University Press.
3. Fraser, N. (2009). Scales of justice: Reimagining political space in a globalizing world. Columbia University Press.
4. Martinez-Alier, J. (2002). The environmentalism of the poor: A study of ecological conflicts and valuation. Edward Elgar Publishing.
5. Walker, G. (2012). Environmental justice: Concepts, evidence and politics. Routledge.

Effects

Code	Content
JBS_K1_K03	The graduate can consider different visions of the future and develop own evidence-based opinions in reference to the balance of values linked to economic development, social welfare, and environmental protection.
JBS_K1_K05	The graduate can defend the importance of scientific data and methods as a basis for decision-making.
JBS_K1_U01	The graduate can critically analyse academic literature, formulate research questions and conduct research under supervision.
JBS_K1_U02	The graduate can present and report knowledge, methodologies, ideas, problems and solutions, clearly and comprehensively, in different forms destined for different audiences - including discussions and debates which require defending a substantiated opinion, as well as conversations in a foreign language at the CEFR B2 level.
JBS_K1_W01	The graduate can describe the concept of sustainability and recognize the differences in relevant definitions, models and approaches.
JBS_K1_W02	The graduate can explain the axiological background of sustainability and summarize key stages of development of the concept.
JBS_K1_W03	The graduate can give examples of sustainability-related dilemmas and hypothesize on the optimal course of action.
JBS_K1_W05	The graduate can identify essential international instruments and institutions related to sustainability and explain their potential role in resolution of a given problem.
JBS_K1_W06	The graduate can describe interconnections between various aspects of sustainability and identify their significance in the context of natural and social sciences, with a special focus on disciplines included in the selected specialisation track (law and politics; chemistry and physics; chemistry and biology; economics and geography; economics, management and engineering; humanities).
JBS_K1_W07	The graduate can apply the theory and methodology of disciplines included in the selected specialisation track to sustainability-related problems, taking into consideration practical limitations such as protection of intellectual property.