



The Ethics of Sustainable Development as Challenge for Democracy

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

<p>Field of study Joint Bachelor in Sustainability</p> <p>Speciality Social Sciences & Humanities</p> <p>Organizational unit Faculty of Law and Administration</p> <p>Study level first cycle (joint degree programme)</p> <p>Study form full-time degree programme</p> <p>Education profile General academic</p> <p>Mandatory elective</p>	<p>Education cycle 2025/26</p> <p>Realization year 2027/28</p> <p>Subject code UJ.WPAJBSSSHS.810.16604.25</p> <p>Lecture languages english</p> <p>Subject related to scientific research Yes</p> <p>Disciplines Philosophy, Political and Administrative Sciences</p> <p>ISCED classification 0312 Political sciences and civics</p> <p>USOS code</p>	
Subject coordinator	Piotr Szwedo	
Lecturer	Jeanette Behringer	
Period Semester 5	<p>Examination graded credit</p> <p>Activities and hours Discussion class: 28</p>	Number of ECTS points 3.0

Goals

C1	This seminar will address the tensions between the ethical foundations of sustainable development, including its global and intergenerational scope, the diversity of diverse ethical landscapes, and democratic ideas, institutions, and practices. Students will acquire a comprehensive and interdisciplinary understanding of these tensions, covering and combining theoretical, empirical and practical knowledge. Thereby, the seminar equips students with the knowledge and skills to analyze and critically reflect on the value dimension of sustainable development, trade offs and its implications for ideals, institutions and practices of democracy.
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Subject's learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Effects	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student knows and understands:			
W1	the complex network of ethical challenges of Sustainable Development and their implications for societal transformations and democratic processes on a national and global scale.	JBS_K1_W01, JBS_K1_W02, JBS_K1_W03, JBS_K1_W04, JBS_K1_W06	credit with grade, essay, presentation
Skills - Student can:			
U1	develop and present a clear and concise idea of how sustainable development challenges and can be implemented in democratic governance.	JBS_K1_U01, JBS_K1_U02, JBS_K1_U03	credit with grade, essay, presentation
Social competences - Student is ready for:			
K1	critically reflect on the ethical foundations of sustainable development and its implications for democratic governance.	JBS_K1_K04	credit with grade, essay, presentation
K2	identify tensions between sustainable development and democracy and to address them through reflective approaches to governance change, including polity, politics and policy aspects.	JBS_K1_K01, JBS_K1_K03	credit with grade, essay, presentation

Calculation of ECTS points

Activity form	Activity hours*
Discussion class	28
preparation for classes	16
preparation of a multimedia presentation	14
essay preparation	30
Student workload	Hours 88
	ECTS 3.0

* hour means 45 minutes

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
1.	Personal perceptions and experiences on Sustainable Development and formulation of ethical perspectives	W1, U1, K1, K2
2.	Sustainable Development as a normative model - reflection on the implications for the sphere of politics	W1, U1
3.	Excursion to the Swiss Parliament / Group 2030, debate with politicians on the role of ethical foundation for politics and their implications for democratic processes	W1, U1, K1, K2
4.	Ethical challenges of Sustainable Development for transformation processes in society	W1, U1
5.	The role of democracy and political participation for Sustainable Development and transformation processes in society	W1, U1
6.	Trade-offs between ethical challenges (e.g. equity, social justice) and global governance (democracy, multi-level governance, authoritarian regimes)	W1, U1
7.	Implementation of Policies for Sustainable Development as "collective commitment" - challenges for democratic governance and political participation	W1, U1, K1, K2

Course advanced

Teaching methods :

text analysis, brainstorming, conversation lecture, discussion, case study, practicals, peer-review

Activities	Examination methods	Credit conditions
Discussion class	credit with grade, essay, presentation	Presentation (50% of final grade), essay (50% of final grade); attendance and active participation required.

Entry requirements

None

Literature

Obligatory

1. James Meadowcroft/Oluf Langhelle/Audun Ruud: Governance, Democracy and Sustainable Development. 2012
2. Basil Bornemann/Henrike Knappe/Patrizia Nanz: The Routledge Handbook of Democracy and Sustainability. 2022

Effects

Code	Content
JBS_K1_K01	The graduate can encourage sustainability-driven practices in the workplace and appraise sustainability of own values, perceptions, roles, and actions, with a special focus on environmental wellbeing.
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_K04	The graduate can critically assess and verbalize own competencies and skills related to different aspects of sustainability as well as their need for development.
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_U03	The graduate can apply adequate methods and tools, including selected IT tools, to solve problems related to data collection, analysis, and management in the context of sustainability.
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_W04	The graduate can identify sustainability-related problems specific to selected cultural, geographical, and political contexts.
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).