



Sustainability Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities: Applications and Explorations

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 obligatory</p>		<p>Education cycle 2025/26</p> <p>Subject code UJ.WPAJBSSSHS.880.16586.25</p> <p>Lecture languages english</p> <p>Subject related to scientific research Yes</p> <p>Disciplines Sociology of science, Learning about the culture and religion, Political science and administration</p> <p>ISCED classification 0288 Interdisciplinary programmes involving broad field 02</p> <p>USOS code</p>	
Subject coordinator	Piotr Szwedo		
Lecturer	Basil Bornemann		
Period Semester 4	Examination graded credit	Number of ECTS points 3.0	
	Activities and hours Discussion class: 28		

Goals

C1	This course aims to build on the methodological foundation provided in the previous course “Sustainability Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities: Approaches and Methods” by enabling students to apply SSH-based approaches and methods in small research projects. Students will gain hands-on experience in designing, conducting, and presenting research. The course emphasizes project-based learning, collaboration, and the practical application of research skills. It also aims to strengthen cohort cohesion through group projects and regular meetings.
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Subject's learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Effects	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student knows and understands:			
W1	how to conceptualize, design and implement SSH-based research projects on a specific sustainability issue.	JBS_K1_W04, JBS_K1_W06	credit with grade, project, presentation
W2	how to what end different research methods can be applied in real-world settings.	JBS_K1_W07	credit with grade, project, presentation
Skills - Student can:			
U1	conduct small-scale research projects using SSH methodologies, focusing on one specific method.	JBS_K1_U01, JBS_K1_U03, JBS_K1_U04	credit with grade, project, presentation
U2	synthesize and present research findings effectively.	JBS_K1_U02	credit with grade, project, presentation
Social competences - Student is ready for:			
K1	to collaborate effectively in research teams and can reflect on their own roles and competences.	JBS_K1_K01, JBS_K1_K02	credit with grade, project, presentation
K2	to present their research in a professional setting.	JBS_K1_K05	credit with grade, project, presentation

Calculation of ECTS points

Activity form	Activity hours*
Discussion class	28
preparation for classes	14
preparation of a project	30
preparation of a multimedia presentation	10
preparation of a paper	8
Student workload	Hours 90
	ECTS 3.0

* hour means 45 minutes

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
1.	Introduction to Course and Project Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of course goals, structure, and expectations • Introduction to project-based learning • Organizational matters and project assignments 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
2.	Project Design and Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of project design • Developing research questions and hypotheses • Creating a project plan and timeline 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
3.	Group Work Session I: Initial Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussions on project ideas • Refining research questions and methodologies • Instructor feedback on project plans 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
4.	Data Collection Techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods • Practical considerations for data collection • Ethical issues in data collection 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
5.	Group Work Session II: Data Collection Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing data collection plans • Group discussions and peer feedback • Preparing for fieldwork or data gathering 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
6.	Group Work Session III: Data Collection in the Field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork outside the classroom • Collecting data based on research design • Supervision and support by the instructor 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
7.	Data Analysis Techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to data analysis methods • Practical exercises in qualitative and quantitative analysis • Tools and software for data analysis 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
8.	Mid-Project Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations of project progress • Peer and instructor feedback • Adjusting project plans based on feedback 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
9.	Group Work Session IV: Data Analysis Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for data analysis • Group discussions and feedback on analysis plans • Instructor guidance on analysis techniques 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
10.	Group Work Session V: Data Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting data analysis • Group work on synthesizing findings • Instructor support and feedback 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
11.	Preparing Research Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of effective research presentations • Designing presentation slides and materials • Practicing presentation skills 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
12.	Group Work Session VI: Finalizing Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing research findings • Preparing for the conference-style event • Group discussions and peer feedback 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2
13.	Project Conference: Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of group projects • Peer and instructor feedback • Discussion and Q&A sessions 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2

No.	Course content	Subject's learning outcomes
14.	Conclusion and Course Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection on project experiences • Lessons learned and future research directions • Course evaluation and feedback 	W1, W2, U1, U2, K1, K2

Course advanced

Teaching methods :

text analysis, project method, conversation lecture, discussion, peer review

Activities	Examination methods	Credit conditions
Discussion class	credit with grade, project, presentation	Group project presentation (70% of the final grade); individually written reflective journal to reflect on the research process, including references to personal strengths and competences that need further development (30% of the final grade); active participation in group projects.

Entry requirements

None

Literature

Obligatory

- Bianchi, G. (2020). Sustainability competences. A systematic literature review. Bornemann, B., & Simoens, M. (Hrsg.). (2026). Handbook of Research Methods and Applications in Sustainability Transformations: Social Science Perspectives. Edward Elgar. Fahy, F., & Rau, H. (Hrsg.). (2013). Methods of sustainability research in the social sciences. Sage. Franklin, A., & Blyton, P. (2011). Researching sustainability: A guide to social science methods, practice and engagement. Earthscan.

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_K02	The graduate can demonstrate considerable entrepreneurial initiative, autonomy, and readiness to act in complex and changing environments, especially in the context of supporting, undertaking, and co-organising activities beneficial for a sustainable society.
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_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_U04	The graduate can plan and effectuate simple sustainability-related projects under supervision and in the context of personal lifelong learning, both individually and in a team, using appropriate transversal skills and taking shared responsibility for the outcome.
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).
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.