Module number	Module name **Sustainability Planning and Assessment**	
Course of study MSc Environmental Governance	**Type of course** Elective module	**Semester / Rotation** 3rd / Summer Term
Teaching methods Lectures, group work, research	**Prerequisites for attendance** None	**Language** English
Type of examination (duration) Presentation and paper /policy brief		**ECTS-LP (Workload)** 5 (150h, of this 55 attendance)

Module coordinator

Prof. Dr. Heiner Schanz, Email: heiner.schanz@envgov.uni-freiburg.de

Additional teachers involved

Lea Preisenberger (Deputy Director – Competence Center Renewable energy, Regional State Council Baden-Württemberg), Michael Fink (Deputy Project Director – Environmental and Regulatory Affairs, Schluchseewerk AG), N.N. (Environmental NGO)

Syllabus

In this module, students will be introduced to emerging concepts of public planning with regard to sustainability, i.e. appreciating the spatial and temporal dimensions of sustainability transformations.

Starting from conventional frameworks of spatial planning, the evolution of strategic planning concepts in the sustainability context will be reviewed. This includes an overview of the characteristics, strengths, and limitations of major planning theories. At the core of the module stands a state-of-the-art understanding of specific and integrated strategies for sustainability planning and environmental assessments: conceptual approaches, theoretical underpinnings and methodologies.

The module structure is as follows: each day obligatory (self) preparation of lectures through intensive reading of core article, during contact hours: student facilitated discussion in groups and followed by Socratic method-lecture based on reading summary. Theoretical contents will be illustrated

- through a case study on “Planning and Implementing the Energy Transition in the State of Baden-Württemberg”, including field excursions.
- in a one-day workshop using the iSDG-System Dynamics Model developed by the Millennium Institute (http://www.millennium-institute.org/)

Grading will be based on individual presentations and preparation of a final policy brief on a topic related to sustainability planning and assessments in the student’s respective home country.

Learning goals and qualifications

In this module students learn to:

- understand the historical and theoretical origins of planning approaches for sustainability
- evaluate different sustainability assessment approaches, models, appraisals, and methodologies
- appreciate the spatial and temporal dimensions of sustainability transformations
- develop critical thinking, reading, and research skills
- learn to effectively and concisely present their findings through oral presentations
- facilitate group discussions and provide constructive feedback to classmates’ presentation

Core readings

Obligatory readings during module and in preparation of lectures (one per day):

Davoudi, S., & Pendlebury, J. (2010). Centenary paper: The evolution of planning as an academic discipline. Town Planning Review, 81(6), 613-646. doi: 10.3828/tpr.2010.24

Healey, P. (2009). In Search of the “Strategic” in Spatial Strategy Making. *Planning Theory & Practice, 10*(4), 439-457.

Morgan, R. K. (2012). Environmental impact assessment: the state of the art. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal, 30*(1), 5-14

Lawrence, D. P. (2000). Planning theories and environmental impact assessment. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review, 20*(6), 607-625

Van Assche, K., & Verschraegen, G. (2008). The Limits of Planning: Niklas Luhmann's Systems Theory and the Analysis of Planning and Planning Ambitions. Planning Theory, 7(3), 263-283.

Dortmans, P. J. (2005). Forecasting, backcasting, migration landscapes and strategic planning maps. *Futures, 37*(4), 273-285

Garud, R., & Gehman, J. (2012). Metatheoretical perspectives on sustainability journeys: Evolutionary, relational and durational. Research Policy, 41(6), 980-995.

Holden, M. (2008). The Tough Minded and the Tender Minded: A Pragmatic Turn for Sustainable Development Planning and Policy. *Planning Theory & Practice, 9*(4), 475-496.

Kelly, R. A., Jakeman, A. J., Barreteau, O., Borsuk, M. E., ElSawah, S., Hamilton, S. H., . . . Voinov, A. A. (2013). Selecting among five common modelling approaches for integrated environmental assessment and management. *Environmental Modelling & Software, 47*, 159-181

Allen, C., Metternicht, G., & Wiedmann, T. (2016). National pathways to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A comparative review of scenario modelling tools. *Environmental Science & Policy, 66*, 199-207.