

Module number 94115	Module name Sustainability and Governance	
Course of study M.Sc. Environmental Governance	Type of course Core module	Semester / Rotation 1 st / Winter Term
Teaching methods Lecture, excursions, group work	Prerequisites for attendance None	Language English
Type of examination (duration) Exam (90 min), group work		ECTS-LP (Workload) 5 (150h, of this 55 attendance)
Module coordinator Prof. Dr. H. Schanz, Email: heiner.schanz@envgov.uni-freiburg.de		
Additional teachers involved Prof. Dr. U. Schmidt, Prof. Dr. M. Pregernig		
Syllabus <p>'Sustainable development' is an ambivalent term: it stands out both for its strong political appeal and its high degree of analytical vagueness. Based on a <i>historical</i> overview of natural resource conservation efforts, students get familiarized with the cultural roots of the concept and major shifts in its meaning. Today, sustainable development is a concept used in many different forms in at least as many different contexts. The module highlights the importance of the concept in local, national and international political processes and it critically assesses the opportunities as well as the challenges of operationalizing sustainable development, <i>inter alia</i> by means of criteria and indicators and the 'Sustainability Matrix' approach. Different approaches to sustainable development are illustrated using examples of urban development, natural resource conservation and development cooperation.</p> <p>Sustainable development requires adequate <i>governance</i> processes. Although governance has received increasing attention as a research object from many different disciplines, no simple understanding has evolved yet. Students will be introduced to the different meanings, modes and theoretical approaches of the governance concept. Subsequently their promises and pitfalls with respect to the conservation of natural resources and sustainable development will be elaborated based on various case studies from different regions of the world. The key topics of this module will be imparted by means of interactive lectures ('Socratic teaching'), guided reading exercises, excursions, and the preparation and presentation of cases in groups.</p>		
Learning goals and qualifications <p>In this module students learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ describe the history of natural resource conservation efforts and their link to sustainable development (1); ▪ understand the interests and world views that have influenced the discourse on 'Sustainable Development' in the various phases of its diffusion (2); ▪ identify challenges of assessing sustainability by means of indicators and develop the capacity to deal with conflicts that may result from trade-offs and diverging priorities (3); ▪ identify and interpret the different meanings, modes and theoretical approaches of the governance concept (2); ▪ understand the changing roles of governments, private sector actors and civil society in the governance of human-environment interactions (2); ▪ apply basic literature and internet research skills (3); ▪ demonstrate basic presentation skills (3). 		
Core readings <p>A list of relevant texts will be made available at the start of the course; obligatory readings (and part of the voluntary readings) will be made available online in electronic form.</p> <p>Agrawal, Arun & Lemos, Maria C. (2007): A Greener Revolution in the Making? Environmental Governance in the 21st Century, <i>Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development</i>, 49/5: 36-45.</p> <p>Dryzek, J.S. (2005): Environmentally Benign Growth: Sustainable Development. <i>The Politics of the Earth: Environmental Discourses</i>. J. S. Dryzek. Oxford, Oxford University Press: 145-152.</p> <p>Schmidt, U.E. (2002): Der Wald in Deutschland im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert. Saarbrücken: Conte. (excerpts translated into English)</p>		