

Module “Sustainability and Governance” / Winter term 2022/23

Syllabus

(Schedule subject to minor modifications)

Course Description

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 (Final Grade Composition) PL Individual poster (20%) PL Written exam (80%), 90 minutes		ECTS-LP (Workload) 5 (150h, of this 60 contact hrs.)
Module coordinator Prof. Dr. H. Schanz, e-mail: heiner.schanz@envgov.uni-freiburg.de		SWS 4
Additional teachers involved Prof. Dr. M. Pregernig, e-mail: michael.pregernig@envgov.uni-freiburg.de Prof. Dr. U. Schmidt, e-mail: uwe.e.schmidt@ifp.uni-freiburg.de		
Syllabus <p>‘Sustainable development’ is an ambivalent term: it stands out both for its strong political appeal and its high degree of analytical vagueness. 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. It critically assesses the opportunities, as well as the challenges, of operationalizing sustainable development, <i>inter alia</i>, by means of criteria, indicators and application of 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 disciplines, no simple understanding of the term has evolved yet. Students will be introduced to different meanings, modes and theoretical approaches to the concept of governance. Their respective promises and pitfalls in relation to the conservation of natural resources and sustainable development will be elaborated based on case studies from different regions of the world.</p> <p>The key topics of this module will be imparted by means of interactive lectures, guided reading exercises, excursions, and the preparation and presentation of cases in groups.</p>		

Learning goals and qualifications

In this module students learn to:

- 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).

Classification of cognitive skills following Bloom (1956):

1 = *Knowledge*: recalling facts, terms, basic concepts and answers; 2 = *Comprehension*: understanding something; 3 = *Application*: using a general concept to solve problems in a particular situation; 4 = *Analysis*: breaking something down into its parts; 5 = *Synthesis*: creating something new by putting parts of different ideas together to make a whole; 6 = *Evaluation*: judging the value of material or methods.

Materials

The materials for the course (lecture slides, guiding questions, literature etc.) can be accessed via an online repository the link to which will be communicated at the start of the course. Further materials will be added during the course.

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Week 1

Monday, 26.9.	Tuesday, 27.9.	Wednesday, 28.9.	Thursday, 29.09.	Friday, 30.9.
Introduction	Part I: Sustainability			
11:15 – 13:00 / Room 100 General Course Introduction and “Roots of sustainability debates” Lecture /seminar H. Schanz	11:15 – 13:00 / Room 100 Lecture /seminar “Normativity and sustainability” H. Schanz	11:15 – 13:00 / Room 100 Lecture /seminar “Controversies of sustainability II: Trade-offs and paradoxes” H. Schanz	11:15 – 13:00 / Room 100 Lecture /seminar “Scientific discourses on sustainability” H. Schanz	11:15 – 13:00 / Room 100 Lecture /seminar “Politics of sustainability” H. Schanz
14:15 – 16:00 / Room 100 Lecture /seminar “Sustainability and the environment(s)” H. Schanz	14:15 – 16:00 / Room 100 Lecture /seminar “Controversies of sustainability I: models and concepts” H. Schanz	14:00 – 17:00 Freiburg City Tour “Environmental history of an urban region” U. Schmidt	14:15 – 16:00 / Room 100 Lecture /seminar “Measuring sustainability: criteria, indicator, verifiers” H. Schanz	14:15 – 16:00 / Room 100 Lecture /seminar “Business of sustainability” H. Schanz

Note: Preparation of individual assignment **“Understanding of and approaches to sustainability in home country”**, on individual basis before and after lecturers, **submission deadline Oct. 03. 2022** at 18:00 o'clock

Week 2

Monday, 3.10.	Tuesday, 4.10.	Wednesday, 5.10	Thursday, 6.10.	Friday, 7.10.
Part I cont. Sustainability		Environmental History	Part II: Governance	
National Holiday No classes, university buildings closed Submission of individual assignments per email Deadline: 18:00	Preparation of group work assignment Similarities in understandings of and approaches to sustainability in geographical regions Self-organized	9:15 – 10:00 / Room 100 Introduction to field trip Whole day Fieldtrip	9:30 – 13:00 / Room 100 Lecture /seminar “Governance: evolution of concepts and meaning” M. Pregernig	9:30– 13:00 / Room 100 Lecture /seminar “Governance: Paradigms and theories” M. Pregernig
	13:00 – 16:00 / Room 100 Groups presentations Presentation and discussion of group work results” M. Pregernig, H. Schanz	“Sustainable development? River governance in the Upper Rhine” U. Schmidt		

Week 3

Monday, 10.10.	Tuesday, 11.10.	Wednesday, 12.10	Thursday, 13.10.	Friday, 14.10.
Part II cont.: Governance			Exam	
9:30 –13:00 / Room 100 Lecture / seminar “Environmental Governance: Specificities” M. Pregernig	9:30 –13:00 / Room 100 Lecture / seminar “Environmental Governance: Approaches” M. Pregernig	9:30 –13:00 / Room 100 Lecture / seminar “Environmental Governance: Critique and alternative perspectives” M. Pregernig	Self-Study (preparation for exam)	09:15 – 11:00 / Room 100 + 400 Written exam 11:00-12:00 / Room 100 Course wrap-up & Evaluation
Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	Self-Study	

Responsible lecturers:

Part I – Sustainability: Prof. Dr. Heiner Schanz, Chair of Environmental Governance (heiner.schanz@envgov.uni-freiburg.de)

Part II – Governance: Prof. Dr. Michael Pregernig, Chair of Sustainability Governance (michael.pregernig@envgov.uni-freiburg.de)

Excursions – Environmental history: Prof. Dr. Uwe-Eduard Schmidt, Chair of Forest History (forstgeschichte@wfg.uni-freiburg.de)

Grading will be based on individual assignment (20%) and written exam (80%); **grading relevant parts are marked in red**