

MILTON FRIEDMAN UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTION IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: FI83995

H-1039 BUDAPEST, KELTA UTCA 2. * MAIL: H-1312 BUDAPEST, PF. 16. * E-MAIL: ERASMUS@UNI-MILTON.HU

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|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Title of the course: | ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES | | |
| Course ID: | VE-NPT012 | | |
| Level of education: | Regular & Erasmus | Academic semester: | Fall Semester |
| Professor's name: | DR. PETER PRACZKI | Academic title: | |
| Hours per semester: | 2 hours/week | Credits: | 4 |
| Exam: | Written exam: | Pre-requisites: | Management |

Aims of the course

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" Mahatma Gandhi

Since the first industrial revolution, the excessive growth of humanity has resulted in the worldwide expansion of endless short-sighted economic activities. Environmental pollution started to be more and more significant, due to the profit oriented fossil energy based and socially unnecessary commodities production. Furthermore, as agriculture is getting even more intensive to feed the increasing population, ecosystems are continuously and globally destroyed. Humanity therefore needs to face a fast turnaround towards a radical new ecological economy. The revolving economic, social and energy crisis, the growing emphasis of the climate change, natural disasters, migration and the anticipated water & food shortage are all unsolved expressions of modern capitalism. One need to understand that the tackling of the biggest human global challenges, like climate change, nuclear weapons proliferation, robotisation, etc. can only be solved by international cooperation. The aim of the course is to recognize that ecologic viability depends on the sustainable use of healthy ecosystem resources and to perceive the need of a new way of ethical and social thinking for interpreting the historic changeover standing ahead of us. The course also discusses what we can do personally to implement these ecological processes.

Scope of the course

"Education is not the learning of facts, but training the mind to think." Albert Einstein

The lectures will be presented in an interactive way therefore session participation will be highly valued. The course highlights the importance of English interpretation, in terms of presentation, discussion and explanation. It helps to the student being able to share his thoughts with the others and actively engaging himself in discussions.

Each student will have to perform an environmentally pre-selected presentation; which subject will be discussed - based on assertive communication skills - by all participants. Each student's presentation will also address - in some slides - how the presented issue is dealt with in his own country. At the end of the course, students receive their grade based on self-evaluation, which is further individually discussed with the professor. The course is also paying attention on student's innovative contributions that add new ideas to the course development. The core idea of the course is the sharing of ideas, creativity development, and internal discussion management by learning assertive communication skills. It is important that students also meet outside experts and see some societal ecological results achieved. Therefore, some lectures are organized outside the university.

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Course outline

1. Environmental sustainability, ecology and environmental studies (basics)
2. Climate change / Global warming
3. Sustainable urban development / discussion with András Ekés - director Mobilissimus Co.)
4. Renewable energy resources – energy solutions, innovations and mobility
5. Disappearing wildlife
6. The scale & urgency of pollution cuts (visit to Rákospalota Waste Recovery Plant)
7. Demography and the environment – Societal resilience
8. Food & farming solutions, see Cowspiracy - The Sustainability secret (movie)
9. Circular economy
10. Environmental media and assertive communication
11. Soil damaging and degradation of forests
12. Environment and Artificial Intelligence\
13. Degrowth (non-productive) ecological alternatives / discussion with Vincent Liegey (French Degrowth Alternative)
14. Education and raising environmental awareness

Requirement and assessment

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| Interactive participation on sessions | 40% |
| Thematic presentations | 40% |
| Innovative contribution (adding new ideas to the course) | 20% |

Compulsory presentations

T. Colin Campbell, Thomas M. Campbell, (2006): China Study, Benbella Books, Inc. Dallas
Rosenberg M. B. (1999): Nonviolent Communication... A Language of Compassion, PuddleDancer Press, USA

Recommended readings

Acemoglu, D.-Robinson J. A. (2012): Why Nations Fail, Crown Business, New York
Alter A. (2014): Drunk Tank Pink: And Other Unexpected Forces That Shape How We Think, Feel and Behave, Penguin Books, New York
Adam M. G. (2016): How Non-Conformists Move The World, Random House, New York
Bakas A.-Creemers, R. (2010): Living Without Oil. Infinite Ideas Limited, United Kingdom
Bostrom Nick. (2014): Superintelligence, Oxford University Press
Duffy B. (2018): The Perils Of The Perception, Atlantic Books, London
Joy M. Ph.D. (2010): Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, And Wear Cows, Conari Press, San Francisco
Kip Andersen – Keegan Kuhn (2004): Cowspiracy - The Sustainability secret (movie)

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- Goleman, D.(2009): Ecological Intelligence. Penguin Random House, USA
- Gore, A. (2006): An Inconvenient Truth. Butler and Tanner Ltd. Great Britain
- Hopkins, R. (2008): The Transition Handbook. Green Books Ltd., Totnes
- Kohn A. (1986): No Contest, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York
- Kolbert, E. (2014): The Sixth Extinction. Henry Holt and Co., New York
- Ford M. (2015): The Rise of the Robots, Basic Books, New York
- Fromm, E. (1956): The Art of Loving, Harper & Brothers, New York
- Latouche, S. (2004): Degrowth Economics. Le Monde Diplomatique, November, France
- Liegey V.: (2013) *Un projet de décroissance. Manifeste pour une dotation inconditionnelle d'autonomie*, Utopia, France
- Lovins, A. (2013): Reinvent Fire. Rocky Mountain Institute, USA
- Vance A. (2015): Elon Musk, Penguin Random House, London
- Mayer V.-Cukier S. K. (2013): Big Data, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, Boston
- Paarlberg R. (2010): Food Politics, Oxford University Press
- Randers, J. (2012): 2052. A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years. Chelsea Green Publishing, USA
- Rosenberg M. B. (2003): Life-Enriching Education, PuddleDancer Press, USA
- Yuval Noah Harari (2014): Sapiens - A Brief History of Humankind. Clays Ltd. Great Britain
- Yuval Noah Harari (2016): Homo Deus - A Brief History of Tomorrow. Great Britain
- Yuval Noah Harari (2018): 21 Lessons for the 21th Century. Penguin Random House, Great Britain