Title of the course: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
Course ID: VE-NPT021
Level of education: Regular & Erasmus
Academic semester: Spring Semester
Professor’s name: DR. PETER PRACZKI
Academic title:
Hours per semester:
Credits: 4
Exam: Written exam:
Pre-requisites: Management

Aims of the course

“Though we travel the world over, to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us, or we find it not.” R.W. Emerson

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

“Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.” 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.
Course outline

1. Environmental sustainability (basics)
2. Global warming
3. Sustainable urban development / discussion with András Ekés - director Mobilissimus Co.)
4. Renewable energy resources – energy solutions, innovations and mobility
5. The scale & urgency of pollution cuts (air pollution, water pollution, etc.)
6. Food politics and carnism
7. Food and water security
8. Environment and assertive (non violent) communication
9. Nuclear Energy (Past or future?)
10. Mobility / Discussion with Károly Méhes Formule 1 expert
11. Environment and Artificial Intelligence
12. Ecological education
13. Overpopulation
14. Poverty, inequality and unemployment

Requirement and assessment

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

Compulsory readings


Recommended readings

Kip Andersen – Keegan Kuhn (2004): Cowspiracy - The Sustainability secret (movie)
Liegay V.: (2013) Un projet de décroissance. Manifeste pour une dotation inconditionnelle d’autonomie, Utopia, France
Lovins, A. (2013): Reinvent Fire. Rocky Mountain Institute, USA