

## SYLLABUS

### Course description

The course belongs to the class “affine” in the MA in Eco-Social Design (LM-12). This course is a compulsory subject in the area “Sciences & Discourse”

Course title	<b>Eco-Social Economics</b> <b>Area: Sciences &amp; Discourse</b>
Course code	<b>96010</b>
Scientific sector	<b>SECS-P/06 – Economia Politica</b>
Degree	<b>Master in Eco-Social Design (LM-12)</b>
Semester	<b>II</b>
Year	<b>1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup></b>
Credits	<b>6</b>
Modular	<b>No</b>
Lecturer	<b>Adelheid Biesecker</b> office F4, e-mail <a href="mailto:Adelheid.Biesecker@unibz.it">Adelheid.Biesecker@unibz.it</a> , tel. +39 0461 015199 Webpage <a href="https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/35976-adelheid-biesecker">https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/35976-adelheid-biesecker</a>
Scientific sector of the lecturer	<b>Economics</b>
Teaching language	<b>English</b>
Teaching assistant (if any)	-
Office hours	<b>By appointment only</b>
Teaching language	<b>English</b>
Total lecturing hours	<b>30</b>
Total hours of self-study and/or other individual educational activities	<b>about 120</b>
Attendance	<b>not compulsory but recommended</b>
Prerequisites	-
Course page	<b><a href="http://pro2.unibz.it/projects/blogs/essen/">http://pro2.unibz.it/projects/blogs/essen/</a></b>

## Course description

The course gives an overview of scientific contents in the field of Eco-Social Economics. It introduces to Eco-Social Economics in comparison with Standard Economics. It explains the basic concepts and action principles of an eco-social economic system including the principle of (re)productivity. The role of “commons” and “commoning” in Standard Economics as well as in Eco-Social Economics will be discussed. Finally, the course aims at an understanding of the concept of Social Contract and the development of a New Social Contract for sustainability with the help of manifold new community oriented social contracts.

## Educational objectives

### Students will be able to:

- take into account the environmental, social and economic impacts occurring within the tension between global and local dimensions;
- take into account the socio-economic aspects that characterize a territory, a community and a group of people;
- integrate socio-economic aspects and sustainability requirements in project design while considering the tension, which occurs between the local and the global dimensions;
- develop an individual way of thinking, leading to critical judgements and self-assessments;
- communicate, multilingually in a convincing way, through a variety of modalities (written, oral, visual);
- design by taking into account the needs and desires of a given territory, of a situation/set of circumstances, of a specific group of people, thanks to the ability of observing, listening, interacting and mediating amongst various stakeholders involved in the project;
- talk to experts about the project;
- read experts' articles, studies and reports related to one's own project issues and integrate those analysis with one's own project design;
- organize a research project while identifying relevant studies and researches, experts to collaborate with, methods and instruments to adopt;
- understands specialist literature so as to integrate it within their own research project;
- take into account the sustainability requirements of a product, a service, an application or an interactive system; integrate the sustainability requirements in the project and in one's own design.

### Knowledge will be acquired in the following fields:

- the relationships between politics and ecology, the ecological impact of political choices and the political impact of ecological choices, the frames within which to think, interpret and value such relations, with particular attention to the circumstances of the Alpine territories and their contexts;
- the relationship between economic development and sustainability, the relationship between innovation and sustainability, the eco-social management of enterprises, with particular attention to the situation of the Alpine territories and their contexts;

### **List of topics covered**

Economic theory, both standard economics and eco-social economics; discourse about sustainable development; action principles and social contracts for the construction of a sustainable economic system. “Commons” and “commoning” in perspective of standard economics as well as of eco-social economics.

### **Teaching formats**

Frontal lectures, group discussions

### **Learning outcomes**

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

Getting knowledge in the field of economics and having a clear understanding of the differences between standard economics and eco-social economics.

#### *Applying knowledge and understanding*

Applying economic knowledge to analyze the multifold eco-social crises and problems of sustainability in the global and local context. Understanding problems and possibilities of a transformation towards a sustainable economic system through the lens of eco-social economics.

#### *Making judgments*

Being able to critically reflect different concepts of economic theory and to discuss and judge economic proposals towards a sustainable economic system.

#### *Communication skills*

Being able to communicate with experts, both from the scientific field and from the every-day of life.

#### *Learning skills*

Being able to interpret different economic texts concerning the inherent theoretical concept as well as developing an own view of eco-social crises and an own idea of steps toward a sustainable economic system on the local level.

### **Assessment**

Oral exam with review questions and discussion of the students projects through the lens of eco-social economics.

**Assessment language:** English or German

### **Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks**

- Relevance, appropriateness and originality of the project with regard to an eco-social economic system
- Quality of the discussion related to eco-social economics (clarity of answers, ability of using scientific language as well as of its transformation into language of the daily life, ability to summarize, evaluate, and establish relationships between topics)
- Ability to critical reflect different economic concepts and their proposals towards sustainability

**Required readings**

- Biesecker, Adelheid/ Hofmeister, Sabine (2010): Focus: (Re)Productivity. Sustainable relations both between society and nature and between the genders. In: Ecological Economics 69 (2010), pp. 1703-1711
- Biesecker, Adelheid/ von Winterfeld, Uta (2016): Regeneration in Limbo: Ecofeminist Perspectives on the Multiple Crisis and Social Contract. In: Philips, Mary und Rumens, Nick (Hg.): Contemporary Perspectives on Ecofeminism. New York and London: Routledge, pp. 76-84

**Supplementary readings**

Supplementary readings will be declared during the lecture.