

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	Eco-Social Economics Area: Sciences & Discourse
Course code	96010
Scientific sector	SECS-P/06 – Economia Politica
Degree	Master in Eco-Social Design (LM-12)
Semester	II
Year	1st and 2nd
Credits	6
Modular	No
Lecturer	Adelheid Biesecker Office 4.01a, Adelheid.Biesecker@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/35976-adelheid-biesecker
Scientific sector of the lecturer	Economics
Teaching language	English
Teaching assistant (if any)	-
Office hours	By appointment only
Teaching language	English
Total lecturing hours	30
Total hours of self-study and/or other individual educational activities	about 120
Attendance	not compulsory but recommended
Prerequisites	-
Course page	http://pro2.unibz.it/projects/blogs/essen/

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 a discussion of the concept of sustainability and the principle of (re)productivity. Finally, the course aims at an understanding of the concept of Social Contract and the development of manifold small New Social Contracts for the transformation towards sustainability with the help of manifold new community oriented eco-social projects. They can make transition tangible.

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, based on an overview about the history of economic thought; discourse about sustainable development; the necessary new configuration of the economic realm and the concept of labour; action principles and social contracts for the construction of a sustainable economic system.

Approximately 30% of the teaching is dedicated to the projects of students and the related issues.

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 for analyzing 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 capable of critically reflecting different concepts of economic theory and of discussing and judging economic proposals for a transformation 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 or regional 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 transformation
- 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 for a transformation 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

- Kate Raworth (2017): Doughnut Economics. Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist
Other supplementary readings will be declared during the lecture.