

Syllabus

Introduction to Sustainable Development Studies II

(Einführung in die nachhaltigen Entwicklungsstudien II)

Bachelor seminar

Summer semester 2023

(as of April 17, 2023)

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1. General information

1.1 Course content

The seminar will cover topics in international development with a focus on pressing issues and debates, for example, in the areas of: macroeconomic policies, debt and economic crises, free and fair

trade, political and civil liberties, climate change and the environment, conflict, and international aid. More specifically, this year's course will cover the following four books:

I.

Banking on Beijing: The Aims and Impacts of China's Overseas Development Program

Authors: Dreher, Axel | Fuchs, Andreas | Parks, Bradley | Strange, Austin M. | Tierney, Michael J.

Cambridge University Press, 2022

Meetings:

- Monday, May 8: ch. 1-3
- Monday, May 15: ch. 4-7
- Monday, May 22: ch. 8-9, postscript

IIa.

Farewell to Growth (Petit traité de la décroissance sereine)

Author: Latouche, Serge

Polity Press, 2009

Meeting:

- Monday, June 5: ch. 1-3

IIb.

Limits: Why Malthus Was Wrong and Why Environmentalists Should Care

Author: Kallis, Giorgos

Stanford Briefs, 2019

Meeting:

- Monday, June 12: Introduction + ch. 1, ch. 2, and 3
- Monday, June 19: ch. 4 and ch. 5 + Epilogue

III.

The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality

Author: Pistor, Katharina

Princeton University Press, 2019

Meeting:

- Monday, June 26: ch. 1-3
- Monday, July 3: ch. 4-6
- Monday, July 10: ch. 7-9

1.2 Course goals

By end of this course, students will be familiar with basic theoretical concepts and empirical research in selected topics in the field of sustainable development studies from a regional and global perspective. They will be able to present and critically discuss existing research and to write scientific book reviews.

1.3 Prerequisites

None.

1.4 Credit points

6 ECTS-LP (seminar: 2 SWS).

1.5 Registration

Please register via FlexNow by 24 April 2023.

2. Course overview

2.1 Description of the teaching and learning methods

The students work independently on varying topics and prepare book reviews that meet scientific standards. They present the publication in the seminar to the other participants and engage in a subsequent critical discussion. **The course language is English.**

2.2 Meetings

Every Monday, 14:15-16:00 (!), see EXA for room

- First meeting: Monday, April 17
- Last meeting: Monday, July 10

- No meetings on April 24, May 1 (Labor Day) and 29 (Whit Monday)

In the **introductory session on April 17**, we will introduce how to write a book review and allocate the chapters to students. If you cannot participate in the introductory session, please send an email to laura.wedemeyer@uni-goettingen.de before April 17 so that you can receive one of the remaining chapters.

Communication:

Instead of emails, we will use the two communication fora on Stud.IP (one for content-related and one for organizational questions)

2.3 Examination and grading of the module

Examination prerequisite:

- Active participation in the seminar

The grading consists of two components:

- Presentation of chapter and short critical discussion (15 minutes plus discussion with the audience; **chapters and dates are allocated in the introductory meeting; submit your slides by 8am on the day of your presentation**) [3C]
- Independent book review(s) of book(s) I, II, or III in written form (4 pages +/-10%; we will randomly allocate topics by July 14; **submission deadline: August 20**) [3C]
- Note: You will not be allocated to write a review of the same book from which you presented a chapter

2.4 Course materials

- We will read 4 books. The required readings are announced above.

3. Term paper requirements

The term paper is a book review. The length of each book review should be 4 pages +/-10%. The cover sheet, reference list, figures, and tables (if any) are excluded from the page count. Please use the following formatting: Font size: 12 pt, line spacing: 1.5 times, alignment: justification, margin (right, left, top and bottom margin): 2.5 cm each. Please make sure that you are consistent in your referencing and bibliography.

Use a referencing style that is in line with basic conventions in the economics literature. Always quote within a work using the same method. The Chair recommends the in-text author-year citation style (see, for example, information sheet “Citation according to the Harvard system”). All sources that you have cited in the text must appear in the reference list. Everything that you have only read but not cited in the text must NOT appear in the reference list. Book reviews need to be written in English. The work must be done independently by the student.

Every idea, statement or fact taken from the refereed book or any other sources must be appropriately cited. Quotes need to be indicated as such. Plagiarism is sanctioned with the grade 5 (failed). The general rules of the Faculty of Business and Economics apply. A signed declaration must be attached to each scientific work: “I hereby declare that I wrote this book review independently, without assistance from external parties, and without use of other resources than those indicated. All information taken from other publications or sources in text or in meaning are duly acknowledged in the text. I give my consent to have this thesis checked by plagiarism software.”