

Syllabus

Introduction to Sustainable Development Studies II

(Einführung in die nachhaltigen Entwicklungsstudien II)

Bachelor seminar

Summer semester 2025

(as of April 16, 2025)

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1. General information

1.1 Course content

The seminar covers 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. In summer semester 2025, we cover the following three topics:

Topic A: Geoeconomic Conflict

A0 Introduction *April 22*

A1 De-coupling, de-risking, or business as usual with China? *May 13*

A1a CEO of a major German automotive company with significant China operations

A1b Human rights organization spokesperson

A1c Leading official at Federal Foreign Office (AA) responsible for the China Strategy

A2 Should Germany open Nordstream 2? *May 20*

A2a Spokesperson from the German Chemical Industry Association

A2b Security policy analyst specializing in Russian energy politics

A2c Climate activist from a prominent environmental NGO

A3 Should Europe compensate the US withdrawal from development cooperation? *May 27*

A3a Director of a European development NGO

A3b President of the European Taxpayers Association

A3c African Union diplomat

Topic B: Green Economy

B0 Introduction *April 29*

B1 Green hydrogen: Fueling decarbonization or ‘greening’ extractivism? *June 3*

B1a Environmental advocate

B1b Representative of ACWA Power (private company from Saudi Arabia)

B1c Energy economist of DIW Berlin

B2 Cobalt in Congo: Mining for a green future as an opportunity? *June 10*

B2a Activist of human rights organization International Rights Advocates

B2b Trade union representative of cobalt mining workers

B2c Representative of German car manufacturer

B3 Is the European Green Deal as Europe’s major growth strategy an illusion? *June 17*

B3a Representative of agriculture industry

B3b Climate activist

B3c Official from the European Commission

Topic C: Armed Conflict

C0 Introduction *May 6*

C1 Is the Houthi terror designation a path to peace or a humanitarian threat? *June 24*

C1a UN Special Envoy for Yemen

C1b Houthi political representative

C1c U.S. State Department official

C3 Sudan's War: A domestic power struggle or a regional proxy conflict? *July 1*

C3a Member of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF)

C3b Member of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)

C3c Representative of the Saudi Arabian government

1.2 Course goals

By end of this course, students will be familiar with basic theoretical concepts, research results, and state of policy debates 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 the state of the art of scientific and policy debates and write essays.

1.3 Prerequisites

None.

1.4 Credit points

6 ECTS-LP (seminar: 2 SWS).

1.5 Registration

Please register via FlexNow by Tuesday, 22 April 2025.

2. Course overview

2.1 Description of the teaching and learning methods

The students work independently on varying topics and prepare essays that meet scientific standards. They present the argument of one interest group in one of the issue areas listed above in the seminar to the other participants and engage in a subsequent critical discussion. **The course language is English.**

2.2 Meetings

Every Tuesday, 16:15-17:45, see EXA for room

- First meeting: Tuesday, April 15
- Last meeting: Tuesday, July 8
- Substitute meeting (if required): Tuesday, July 15

In the **introductory session on April 15**, we will explain the format of the discussion sessions and how discussion questions are allocated to students.

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 [3C]:** 12-minute presentation of a perspective of one interest group of one of the discussion questions listed above plus debating the arguments with the other interest groups and the general audience; please sign-up for the interest group between Thursday, April 17 10:00 am and Tuesday, April 22 10:00 am via Stud.IP (on a first-come-first-serve basis). Please choose a specific interest group for only one of the discussion questions, you will automatically become part of the general population for the other discussion questions.
IMPORTANT: Submit a position paper (1.5 pages—excluding references—outlining the main arguments that you want to contribute to the discussion in a concise (but still well-formulated) manner) ***and your slides by Monday morning 8:00 am before your presentation to Stud.IP***; please use file name: actorID_presentation_lastname.pdf (example: A1b_presentation_fuchs.pdf)
- **Term paper [3C]:** Essay with a length of 4 pages +/-10%; we will randomly allocate discussion questions by Friday, July 18; ***submission deadline: September 7***; please use the file name essay_lastname.PDF (example: essay_fuchs.PDF)
Note: You will not be allocated to write an essay on the discussion question of your presentation

2.4 Course materials

The readings will be announced in the introductory lectures.

3. Term paper requirements

The term paper is a short essay. The length of each essay 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 term paper 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."

IMPORTANT: You are not allowed to use AI-based chatbots, such as ChatGPT, to create text for your position paper, presentation slides, and term paper.