

Syllabus

Introduction to Sustainable Development Studies II

(Einführung in die nachhaltigen Entwicklungsstudien II)

Bachelor seminar

Summer semester 2026

(as of March 30, 2026)

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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 2026, we cover the following three topics: (A) Green Economy, (B) Geoeconomic Conflict, and (C) Armed Conflict.

Topic A: Green Economy

A0 Introduction *April 14*

A1 Should rich countries be banned from exporting waste to poorer countries? *May 5*

A1a Waste worker in developing country

A1b Developed-country exporter

A1c Developing-country government

A1d Environmental NGO activist

A2 Are global companies responsible for fueling conflict in DR Congo? *May 12*

A2a Activist of human rights organization International Rights Advocates

A2b Congolese mining company executive

A2c Representative of German car manufacturer

A2d: Congolese cobalt miner

A3 Is the European Green Deal as Europe's major growth strategy an illusion? *June 3*

A3a Representative of agriculture industry

A3b Climate activist

A3c Official from the European Commission

A3d European business / industry representative

Topic B: Geoeconomic Conflict

B0 Introduction *April 21*

B1 Should the EU maintain, raise, or scrap its tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles? *June 9*

B1a European car manufacturer with China factories

B1b French commerce minister

B1c Climate economist

B2 Is Greenland's mineral wealth a blessing or a curse for its development? *June 16*

B2a Greenlandic government advisor

B2b NATO security analyst

B2c Inuit community representative

B3 Should Europe compensate the US withdrawal from development cooperation? *June 23*

B3a Finance minister of a Sub-Saharan African recipient country

B3b Member of European Parliament (Budget Committee)

B3c European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) analyst

Topic C: Armed Conflict

C0 Introduction *April 28*

C1 Are Israel and the United States doing the 'dirty work' for Germany in their conflict with Iran? *June 30*

C1a Representative of the United States

C1b Civilian in Iran

C1c International law advocate

C1d Representative of the German government

C2 Is Sudan's war a domestic power struggle or a regional proxy conflict? July 7

C2a Member of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF)

C2b Member of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)

C2c Representative of the Saudi Arabian government

C2d Sudanese civilian

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, 21 April 2026.

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 s.t., except for April 21 (18:00-19:30 s.t.), see EXA for room

- First meeting: Tuesday, April 14
- Last meeting: Tuesday, July 14
- No meeting on May 19 and May 26

In the **introductory session on April 14**, we will explain the format of the discussion sessions, how discussion questions are allocated to students, and begin with an introduction to **Topic A: Green Economy**.

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 16 10:00 am and Tuesday, April 21 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 17; ***submission deadline: September 6***; 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. Term Papers need to be written in English. The work must be done independently by the student.

Every idea, statement, or fact taken from any source 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.”