Syllabus for the course

Course code: HBA03W

Course title in the language of instruction: Winter University Global Changes for our Sustainable Future

Number of ECTS credits allocated: 8 for the on-campus programme (equalling 200-240 study hours). 4 for the online programme (equalling 150-180 study hours)

Mode of delivery: on-campus or online

Mode of completion: Combination of mainly lecture courses with self-study preparation, and group work. Students in the on-campus programme will participate in company visits.

Language of instruction: English

Level of course and year of study: The course targets graduate students. Undergraduate students in their final year are also welcome to apply.

Semester: 1 (winter)

Pre-requisites and co-requisites: Students in e.g. Arts, Theology and Religious Studies, Economics and Business and Social Sciences.

Aims of the course: Offer insights in the world of sustainability in small online interactive, multidisciplinary classes. Experts from KU Leuven faculties will introduce and illustrate the broad theme of sustainability from the humanities point of view, using several cases.

Learning outcomes and competences:

1. International subject Learning: The student is able to situate the subject 'Sustainability' within the international context, recognizes the fact that this is culturally determined and thus may lead to different approaches and practices and knows relevant international organisations in the field.

    The student is able to demonstrate the Key Competencies for Sustainability (System thinking -, Anticipatory -, Normative -, Strategic -, Collaboration - , Critical thinking -, Self-awareness -, integrated problem solving competency).

2. Interactive and collaborative learning in an authentic international environment: The student develops team work skills, collaborates with peers across disciplines and contexts, acquiring new international learning experiences and interacting with authentic international tools, systems and resources in a foreign language.

3. Intercultural skills and attitude: The student acquires cultural knowledge and a better understanding of cultural perspectives, including understanding of own cultural identity, that the student enhances and demonstrates cultural understanding and can apply intercultural awareness in culturally challenging circumstances.

4. Open-Mindedness: The student is tolerant to others, has an open attitude towards others, demonstrates willingness to improve knowledge (of foreign languages) and demonstrates self-confidence in interaction with peers and teachers.

5. Networked learning (= engage in networked learning): The student is able to use digital networks in/for learning and communication in international contexts or environments and is able to tackle complex, ambiguous and ill-defined issues and situations in (emerging or existing) social networks.

6. Media and Digital Literacy: The student is able to use resources effectively to learn, can assess the quality of resources and demonstrates "learner control".

7. Learning for Environmental Sustainability: The student embodies sustainable values, embraces the complexitiy in sustainability, Envisions sustainable futures and acts for sustainability.

8. Autonomy-driven learning: The student self directs, and regulates own learning process, independently chooses in what mode or context to study, what tools to (learn to) use and how to organize the learning process.

9. Active self-regulated learning: The student is able to self-regulate own learning process, can reflect on learning experience and one's own progress and can demonstrate that he/she has the agency of one's own learning.

Course contents:

- What is sustainability?
- Introduction to Carbon Emission Trade.
- The Ecology of Pope Francis and the Mitigation of Climate Change.
- The Anthropocene
- Are the Anthropocene and the pre-modern period two worlds apart?
- Imaging the End of the (Human) World: Literary Perspectives on the End Time.
- How to do a history of the present using historical methods for understanding contemporary sustainable development challenges.

Learning activities, teaching methods and workload (hours):

Type of teaching method	Hours of workload	
	Daily attendance	Combined form
Participation in lectures	4	
Preparation for lectures		4
Preparation of group work	2	6
Presentation of group work		2

Total	**90**	**12**

Assessment methods and criteria:

Requirement type	Weight	
	Daily attendance	Combined form
Active lecture/seminar/workshop/tutorial participation	x	
Group work (individual paper for students in online format)		x
Presentation		x
Total	**100%**	**100%**

Assessment: Students will be evaluated with a pass/fail grade.

1. Students need to participate in all lectures. When they fail to attend more than 2 lectures, they cannot be awarded 8 ECTS (on-campus format) or 4 ECTS (online format)

2. Each student team will delve into a self-chosen global challenge and formulate a possible evidence-based approach to a sustainable future. Students work in team on a topic dealt with in the winter university. In teams of 4, students prepare a 20 min. PPT presentation, followed by a 10 min. Q&A. Students have to show their critical reflection and analytical skills.

Preparatory assignments:

Reading: All participants are expected to prepare at least 4 preparatory readings/MOOCs before the start of the programme. These articles will be selected by guest lecturers.

Assignment "Define your global challenge": Describe in a 1 pager (approximately 500 words) a Global Challenge for our sustainable future you would want to work on during this online winter university. Include some background information on this Global Challenge and your personal motivation for this specific challenge. The background information might, however no need, include references used in this winter university. During the 1st facilitated groupwork each group decides on which Global Challenge they will work on for the duration of the winter university.