Course Descriptions None 2021-2022

Course Title	Master Thesis
Course Code	SSP3021
ECTS Credits	15,0
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
5	11-4-2022	3-6-2022				X	
6	20-6-2022	1-7-2022				X	

Level	no level
Coordinator	Clarence Bluntz For more information:c.bluntz@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English

Goals

After completion of the Master Thesis, you have shown the ability:
* to study a sustainable development issue in an independent and critical way and largely autonomously
* to link the research subject being studied to a scientific theory and/or analytical framework
* to translate a sustainable development issue into a scientific research question
* to apply a research design and methods that are suitable to address the research question
* to process the collected data and information into a logically structured scientific report
* to present the research in a clear and convincing way to a wider audience, both in written and oral form
* to give recommendations for further research, policy and/or society in pursuing sustainable development
* to adopt a scientific problem-solving attitude to sustainable development issues

Description

The thesis trajectory of the Master SSP programme consists of two phases: first, the Thesis Research Proposal (SSP3011) and second, the Thesis Research, Writing and Presenting period (SSP3021).

The Master's thesis builds on knowledge, attitude and skills (competencies) you have acquired in the courses of the SSP programme. Content-wise, your thesis should focus on a real-world sustainable development problem and comprise an (integrative) analysis that might result in recommendations for further research and/or policymaking in pursuit of sustainable development. Methodologically, your thesis should be based on a scientific approach in the emerging field of Sustainability Science and, where appropriate, makes use of different methods for data collection and analysis.

The Thesis Research, Writing, and Presenting period is scheduled after the other courses of the SSP programme. The entry point is your final Thesis Research Proposal (TRP). During this period most of your time will be spent on doing research (e.g., reading literature, collecting data, analyzing data) before you start writing your thesis. You submit drafts of the thesis (or parts of it) to your supervisors, and meet according to the time schedule your supervisors and you agreed. A good thesis gives a clear description of what you have done. It should not be a description of what you are planning to do. The research is done, and in the thesis you report it.

After completion and approval by the supervisors, you present your research to your supervisors, classmates and others interested in the topic. There are two rounds for presenting: in early July and in late August.

Through your Master thesis you show that you are competent to organize and implement a piece of independent scientific research on your own, and that you are able to write up an account of that research in a report, and present it publicly. Your supervisors will guide you during this process, but you are mainly responsible for your own research and writing.

Your Master's thesis can be an important ‘entrance ticket' for your further career. So, make the best of it!

Literature	
Prerequisites	Prerequisite is that the Thesis Research Proposal (course) has been passed and that at least 5 of 7 core courses have been passed.
Keywords	
Teaching methods	
Assessment methods	
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society	Thesis