

Course Descriptions None 2025-2026

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|---|---|-----------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Course Title | Multi Criteria Analysis | | | | | | | |
| Course Code | SSP4015 | | | | | | | |
| ECTS Credits | 1,0 | | | | | | | |
| Assessment | Pass / Fail | | | | | | | |
| Period | Period | Start | End | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
| | 3 | 12-1-2026 | 23-1-2026 | C | | | | |
| Level | Introductory/Intermediate | | | | | | | |
| Coordinator | Filippo Oncini For more information: filippo.oncini@maastrichtuniversity.nl | | | | | | | |
| Language of instruction | English | | | | | | | |
| Goals | <p>After studying the SA skills course the students are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Apply some widely-used methods/tools of sustainability assessment; * Discuss the strengths, weaknesses, and pitfalls of these methods/tools; * Reflect on the contribution of the methods/tools to a sustainability assessment. | | | | | | | |
| Description | <p>In this Sustainability Assessment Skills (SAS) sub-course we focus on policy analysis and introduce a specific approach suitable for integrated sustainability assessments: Multi-criteria analysis (MCA). MCA is a method for evaluating multiple (conflicting) criteria in a policy context. This skills sub-course focuses on MCA, and critically evaluates its application to real-world sustainability problems. The course starts with an introduction lecture providing an overview on the field of and different approaches to policy analysis, and a brief introduction to the specific method of MCA. Throughout three tutorials, students will then deepen their understanding of the specific steps of an MCA (tutorial 1), jointly elaborate a design for MCA in relation to a real-world sustainability problem (tutorial 2), and apply the chosen design to a simulation game where students take the role of MCA facilitators and stakeholders (tutorial 3).</p> | | | | | | | |
| Literature | <p>- Runhaar et al. (2006). Policy analysis for sustainable development: The toolbox for the environmental social scientist. International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education 7(1): 34-56. - Department for Communities and Local Government: London, (2009), Multi-criteria analysis: a manual, Wetherby: Communities and Local Government Publications. Only read chapter 6 (pp 46-72): https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7612/1132618.pdf - Participative multi-criteria analysis for the evaluation of water governance alternatives. A case in the Costa del Sol (Málaga) http://www.upo.es/ghf/giest/GIEST/publicaciones/573_Ecological_economics.pdf (Links to an external site.) - Combining participative and institutional approaches with multicriteria evaluation. An empirical study for water issues in Troina, Sicily https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921800900001622 (Links to an external site.) - Multi-criteria analysis of heating sector sustainability in Northern Europe https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2210670721001165 - Application of Multi-Actor Multi-Criteria Analysis for Transition Management in Energy Communities https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/4/1783 (Links to an external site.) - Stakeholder engagement and multi-criteria decision aiding in the electricity transmission grid https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09640568.2017.1395317 - Value Measurement Analysis of Energy Tradeoffs in South Africa https://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/dlc/bitstream/handle/10535/9941/V.%20Prado%20%28et.%20al%29%20%20Value%20Measurement%20Analysis%20of%20Energy%20Tradeoffs%20in%20South%20Africa.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y (Links to an external site.) - A social multi-criteria evaluation of non-conventional water alternatives in Metropolitan Barcelona https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652611003519 (Links to an external site.) - A degrowth approach to urban mobility options: just, desirable and practical options https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13549839.2022.2025769</p> | | | | | | | |
| Prerequisites | Exchange students should refer to the International Relations Office via email in case they would like to register for this course: iro-incoming-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl . Only limited spots available, first-come first-serve principle. | | | | | | | |
| Keywords | | | | | | | | |
| Transitional Regulations | | | | | | | | |
| Teaching methods | PBL / Lecture / Assignment / Groupwork / Skills | | | | | | | |
| Assessment methods | Attendance / Assignment | | | | | | | |
| 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 - Business for Sustainability | | Compulsory Skills | | | | | |
| | Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society - Policy for Sustainability | | Compulsory Skills | | | | | |
| | SBE Exchange Master | | Master Exchange Courses | | | | | |