

# Course Descriptions Master 2020-2021

Course Title Integrated Sustainability Project  
 Course Code SSP2071  
 ECTS Credits 5,0  
 Assessment Whole/Half Grades

Period	Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
5		12-4-2021	28-5-2021					

Level no level  
 Coordinator Marc Dijk For more information:m.dijk@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Language of instruction English

Goals

- \* carry out a sustainability assessment for a real-life case as part of a project team;
- \* develop an integrated description of a complex societal problem;
- \* identify and formulate policy options/ strategies to deal with such problems;
- \* assess and compare alternative policy options;
- \* formulate recommendations for the relevant client/ policy makers;
- \* advise on ex-post monitoring, evaluation and learning;
- \* reflect on the sustainability assessment process and draw lessons from it

Description PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHOD(S) USED IN THIS COURSE IS WITH RESERVATION. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HERE IS BASED ON THE COURSE SETUP PRIOR TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE CRISIS, COURSE COORDINATORS MAY BE FORCED TO CHANGE THE TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS USED. THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEACHING/ASSESSMENT METHOD(S) WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE COURSE SYLLABUS. The Sustainability Assessment project requires students to compare, combine and integrate different concepts, methods and tools, and transferring them to the case study context in order to develop a sound research plan, which will be carried out by the student project team during the course. In groups, students will further develop essential skills and sharpen their ability to design, conduct and evaluate a sustainability assessment on a real-life case study. Ample attention will be paid to the challenges that can emerge when applying these methods and tools in practice. This includes dealing with uncertainty, incomplete information, data quality, indicators, critical assumptions, different perspectives etc. Moreover, the relations between the selected tools ('how tools work together') will be discussed. The students will be coached on the contents and scientific quality of their assessment and on their skills in conducting integrative research. At the end of the course, project work and results (including policy recommendations) will be presented in student presentations and project reports.

This course is designed around the Project-Centred Learning (PCL) educational model, in which students work together in a project team on a specific sustainability case study. Just as Problem-Based Learning, the PCL model is small scaled and student oriented. Building on previous courses, lessons learned are applied to a typical sustainability issue (case study) and associated research question(s) chosen at the beginning of the course.

Literature

Prerequisites

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 Project(s)