

Environmental Sociology

LEVEL	SEMESTER	ECTS	FORMAT	LANGUAGE
Bachelor - Master	Summer	4 ECTS	Lectures and seminars	English

Course description

This course examines the relationship between human societies and the natural environment from a sociological perspective. It introduces key concepts, theories and approaches in environmental sociology and social ecology, focusing on how environmental problems are socially constructed, experienced and addressed. The course explores climate change, environmental policies, environmental movements, public attitudes, social inequality, economic development, risk and sustainability. It also introduces sociological research on environmental issues and considers different approaches to building resilient and sustainable societies.

Main topics

- Introduction to environmental sociology and social ecology
- Society, nature and the environment: key sociological perspectives
- The development of environmental sociology and social ecology
- Human ecology and the relationship between society and the environment
- Environmental policies and global environmental strategies
- European environmental policies and climate governance
- Climate change and its social consequences
- Public perceptions and attitudes towards environmental issues
- Environmental research and sociological approaches to environmental problems
- Environmental movements, activism and environmental justice
- Environmental problems, economic development and global inequalities
- Risk society and environmental risks
- Consumption, lifestyles and environmental change
- Sustainability, resilience and new directions in environmental sociology

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- understand key concepts, theories and perspectives in environmental sociology and social ecology
- analyse the relationship between human societies and the natural environment
- explain major social dimensions and consequences of environmental change
- understand the social causes and consequences of climate change
- analyse environmental policies and strategies from a sociological perspective
- examine public attitudes and perceptions of environmental issues
- understand the role of environmental movements, activism and environmental justice
- analyse environmental problems in relation to economic development and social inequality
- apply sociological perspectives to contemporary environmental issues
- understand the concepts of risk, sustainability and social resilience
- critically compare sociological and ecological perspectives on environmental problems
- apply basic sociological research approaches to the study of environmental issues.

Teaching methods

Lectures, seminars, discussions, analysis of contemporary environmental issues, individual and group work, student presentations, and independent reading.

Assessment

Active participation, ongoing assignments based on the course literature, and a presentation on a selected environmental topic.