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**Sustainable Economics and Business**

**Course Content:**

Economic activity is always embedded in society and nature: the climate crisis, conflicts in light of increasing inequality and the current mode of globalization influence entrepreneurial behavior. The course enables students to navigate socioeconomic interrelations to better understand the complexity of contemporary developments.

Accordingly, **Sustainable Economics and Business means:**

* Not to deny change, but to shape it: “The only thing certain is that it won’t stay as it is” (maybe: The only constant is change). Transformation happens, either by design, spontaneously or by disaster.
* To acquire the ability (individually and collectively) to perceive and work with contradictions: There are often no simple truths or a single path towards a good future (right-wrong); the recognition of other perspectives can widen your own horizon.

**The course is divided in six blocks:**

1. Sustainable Ways of Thinking
2. Environment (in transition / in change) Or: A Changing Environment
3. A Changing Economy
4. A Changing Globalization
5. A Changing Society
6. Sustainability - The Art of Evaluation

The course builds on the principle of blended learning; students will prepare the learning content online and later apply, deepen and discuss it together in class.

**Learning Outcomes:**

After the successful completion of the course students are able to:

* Understand contemporary societal challenges and to identify key areas of conflict
* Use the advantages of a multi-perspective approach (“theoretical lenses”)
* independently address present issues (in writing) with the help of different theories and concepts

**Attendance:**

The course requires attendance of at least 60%. Therefore, a minimum of four units must be visited. There is no attendance list, but quizzes (at the beginning of the unit) and case studies that present students can use to earn points. Additionally, there is the possibility to receive bonus points in class (a total of 10 points).

Please note that the successful completion of the course with only 60% attendance is possible, but very unlikely. Do not take this considerable risk. **Regular attendance will commonly result in the positive conclusion of the course.**

**Course Design:**

* Lectures (and discussions) on current topics of sustainable economics and business
* Inputs from and discussions with experts
* Work with databases and examples
* Practice scientific writing
* Peer learning in small group discussions
* The course is continuously supervised by Prof. Novy and two tutors? (Name?).
* The course is taught according to the inverted classroom principle: Students prepare the learning content at home and apply it in class. Hence, students should allow for enough time to independently study and understand the learning materials.

**Grading:**

The successful completion of the course is based on the following deliverables:

* 5 quizzes: at the beginning of unit 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (max. 18 points)
* Independent work on case studies in class (max. 9 points)
* 3 home exercises (max. 18 points)
* Multiple-choice exam (max. 55 points)
* Additionally, there is the possibility to earn 10 bonus points during class (2 points per unit)

**Evaluation:**

To pass the course it is required to receive at least 30 points in the multiple-choice exam. Grading scheme:

100 - 92 points: very good

91 - 83 points: good

82 - 74 points: satisfactory

73 - 65 points: sufficient

**Deregistration** from the course is only possible within the respected deadline. After the expiration of this period, please independently send an Email to [zuwi@wu.ac.at](mailto:zuwi@wu.ac.at) (subject: course deregistration).

1. **Quiz (max. 18 points):** the quiz at the beginning of every unit checks whether the preparation module (on learn@wu) has been completed and understood. All units build on the preparation modules. Learning contend will be practiced together in class. Quizzes are worth between two and four points.

You must use your matriculation number (student id) to participate in the quizzes. Any problems regarding the quizzes must be reported immediately to the tutors in class.

It is not permitted to use two devices for the quizzes. In the event of a violation, concerned students will lose all points from the quiz.

1. **Independent work on case studies in class (max. 9 points):** short questions about lecture casts and lectures to be answered on learn@wu. We will provide general feedback and conduct random tests.
2. **Homework (max. 18 points):** three written home exercises test the discussed theories and their application to specific questions regarding sustainable economics and business.

**All three home exercises need to be submitted**. After the completion of the third exercise one work is randomly selected and evaluated. You will receive between 0 and 18 points on the randomly selected work. The submission of only two home exercises will lead to a maximum score of 12 points; with only one completed homework a maximum of 6 points can be reached.

* The homework exercises need to be submitted using the “Task” tool.

**ATTENTION: Work not uploaded on learn will not be graded.**

The deadline for submission is always at 11:55 p.m. one day ahead of the respected unit. Please upload on time!

* For each homework students need to read one popular science article. All information and directions can be found under “Tasks” on learn@wu.
* In the case of plagiarism, the entire course will be assessed negatively! Suspected plagiarism will lead to zero points for the homework.

1. **Multiple-choice exam (max. 55 points) at the end of the course:** the exam is based on the content of the preparation modules, lectures and slides as well as materials of all three home exercises and case studies.

If you are registered for the course, you are automatically registered for the exam and must attend it. The duration of the exam is one hour. The day and time of the respective examination will be announced in the examination plan. The assigned lecture hall can be found on LPIS.

Exam date: ?

**There is the possibility to attend a replacement exam** (in which case you are **automatically registered**) if you:

* Are excused and could not attend the first examination date for justified reasons
* Did not achieve sufficient points for a positive assessment (i.e. if you achieve less than 65 points in total or less than 30 points in the multiple-choice exam)

The replacement exam date will be announced.

1. **Bonus points (max. 10 points):** Bonus points are rewarded during the lessons.

Further information will follow under the header “Other” and “Insight” on learn@wu.

**Literature:**

Author: Andreas Novy, Richard Bärnthaler, Veronika Heimerl

Title: “Zukunftsfähiges Wirtschaften”

Publisher: Juventa Verlag GmbH

Year: 2019

Exam material: yes

Recommendation: Essential literature for all students

Type: script

**Availability:**

zuwi@wu.ac.at

**Structure of the multiple-choice exam (max. 55 points; at least 30 points for a positive grade):**

* 20 questions
* 5 possible solutions per question (a, b, c, d, e)
* At least 1 alternative is correct
* 2, 3 or 4 alternatives can also be correct!
* We would like to point out that there are no "trick questions" and that no answers contain "traps". Typing and spelling mistakes cannot always be avoided, but they do not change the content of the statement!
* There are partial points that can be calculated according to the following scheme:

In the individual tasks, partial points are awarded for every correctly selected answer; points are deducted for each incorrectly selected answer. If a question has only one correct answer, no partial points will be awarded for it (= mixed partial point system).

Example: A question with a maximum of 2 points. The answers a, d and e are correct (and therefore b and c incorrect). For each correct answer 0.67 (= 2/3) points are awarded and 1 (= 2/2) point is deducted for every incorrect answer.

**Examination Regulations:**

* Student ID must be brought to the exam!
* Bring a black or blue ballpoint pen!
* Any "aids" (books, slides, transcripts from the course, cell phone, etc.) may not be used during the exam! However, students whose mother tongue is not German are allowed to use a general (!) Dictionary.
* Visiting the toilet during the test is not permitted!
* During the last 15 minutes of the examination time, it is no longer possible to hand in the exam early and the examination room must not be left!
* Please ensure that you arrive on time as it is no longer possible to take the exam 10 minutes after the examination time started.

**To review your results:**

Web access (<http://learn.wu.ac.at/einsicht/>):

On the web you can view your scanned answer slip, a list of selected answers, the correct answer options and the received total number of points and grade. Generally, it is possible to check your results 2 to 3 days after the exam.

Physical review:

There is also the possibility to physically (?) look over your results. To do so, please register via zuwi@wu.ac.at.

Please note the following points:

* All candidates who attend the physical review (?) are expected to already taken the opportunity to look at the results on the web.
* The main purpose of the physical review is the possibility to discuss mechanical reading errors or incorrect corrections. If such complaints are justified, the points or achieved grade can be corrected on the spot. It is also possible to discuss any ambiguities, but no points are awarded for this.
* Errors and mistakes on your part (e.g. forgot to select, selected in the wrong option, etc.) cannot be taken into account!
* Physical reviews are not intended to discuss the exam in detail, to raise general complaints or to demand a better grade than the achieved score.
* We would like to expressly point out that the physical review does not award any additional points for contested answers.

The respective review dates can be found in the examination documents or will be announced.