Course objectives

Having completed the course, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of sustainable development.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of how sustainable development and related concepts are used within scientific practices and discussions as well as in public debates.
- Reflect on trends, contestations and interpretations of selected key concepts related to sustainable development in interdisciplinary environmental science.
- Being able to apply selected key concepts to the student’s ongoing PhD research project.

Content:

The focus of the course is on key concepts and analytical approaches that are central to sustainability analysis within natural science, social science and humanities, as well as public debates on sustainability. The course provides an understanding of how key concepts and analytical approaches have evolved over time, are defined and applied in both scientific and policy contexts. Through the multidisciplinary approach, the course will address both natural and social science and humanities perspectives.

Lectures will provide contexts to key concepts and analytical approaches of importance for understanding and assessing sustainable development in various contexts. The seminars will be used to discuss the students’ readings of the literature and their understanding and assessment of strengths and weaknesses of the concepts and analytical approaches in general and also in relation to their ongoing PhD projects.

Examination:

Active participation at seminars, the participants must be able to show that they have read and reflected on the literature.

The participants also write a reflection paper (3-5 pages) with the aim to relate relevant parts of the course to their ongoing PhD projects. The paper is presented and discussed at the examination seminar. The participants have access to 0.5h supervision during the writing process.

Grading

The course will use the grades Pass or Fail.