

Module Description: Bachelor- and Masterlevels

1.	Module Code	pbx052
2.	Module Title	Ecological and Transformational Economics
3.	Module Coordinator	Prof. Dr. John-Oliver Engler
4.	Teaching Staff	Beth Cunningham, M.A.
5.	<p>Competences</p> <p>Broadening and Deepening of Knowledge</p> <p>Understanding of Knowledge</p> <p>Utilisation, Application, and Generation of Knowledge</p> <p>Communication and Cooperation</p> <p>Academic Self-Concept/ Professionalism</p>	<p><u>Upon completion of the module, students will have:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A broad knowledge of the various fundamental concepts and methods of ecological economics and how they are relevant to sustainability, social-ecological transformations and their study;</li> <li>• the ability to structure and analyze various interdisciplinary problems and to present the results of one's own considerations in a logically coherent and comprehensible manner, both verbally and in writing;</li> <li>• a deeper understanding of the core concepts of ecological economics and transformational economics.</li> </ul> <p><u>Students are able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• independently apply basic methods from ecological economics to problems of social-ecological transformation and evaluate options for action on the basis of ecological-economic thinking;</li> </ul> <p><u>Students will be able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe various aspects relevant to social-ecological transformations and apply basic economic thinking to situations that arise in sustainability-oriented transformations;</li> <li>• Generate and understand excerpts from English language scientific texts and apply this information to problems similar, but not identical;</li> <li>• describe and prioritize sustainability science issues more precisely using economic methods;</li> <li>• Gain insight into how to properly perform and document ecological-economic analyses.</li> </ul> <p><u>Students will be able to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriately explain results of ecological-economic analyses of sustainability issues;</li> <li>• exchange ideas, problems and solutions in the field of sustainability research with experts and non-specialists;</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an initial professional self-image that is aligned with the goals and standards of professional action in sustainability research and transformational practice;</li> <li>• assess and reflect on their own abilities with regard to their professional self-image;</li> <li>• justify and reflect on their own professional actions with knowledge from ecological and transformational economics;</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take into account ecological-economic findings in education for sustainable development;</li> <li>• assess their professional actions in a fundamentally critical and appropriate manner with regard to societal expectations and consequences.</li> </ul>
6.	Content	<p>This English-taught, introductory course explores the transdisciplinary field of ecological economics (EE). Integrating principles from natural and social sciences, EE seeks to address the systemic problems arising within/from our economic systems, in ways which promote sustainability, human wellbeing and justice. Students will examine how natural systems function as the foundation for economic activity, challenging traditional growth-oriented economic models and evaluating the limitations of related economic policies and tools as interventions for ecological and social crises.</p> <p>The seminar series (“Journal Club”) will provide an overview of key topics, debates and analytical frameworks in the EE discourse, including: thermodynamic principles applied to the economy; the debate on the valuation of nature; GDP growth and alternative economic indicators; and economic policies for environmental and social sustainability.</p> <p>Through critical analysis of mainstream economic paradigms and emerging alternatives, students will develop frameworks for evaluating the long-term viability of economic systems within planetary boundaries.</p>
7.	Selected Literature	<p>Heinrichs, H. and G. Michelsen (2015), <i>Sustainability Science</i>, Springer Spektrum</p> <p>Daly, H. and J. Farley (2010), <i>Ecological Economics – Principles and Applications</i>, Island Press</p>
8.	Courses (hours per week)	<p>pbx052.1 Introduction to Ecological and Transformational Economics (SE) (2 SWS)</p> <p>pbx052.2 Journal Club (SE) (2 SWS)</p>
9.	Required Prerequisites according to examination regulations	none
10.	Recommended Prerequisites	none
11.	Rotation Schedule	annually
12.	Offered in (Winter/Summer Semester)/ Recommended Semester of Study	Winter semester/ 2nd semester and later
13.	Form of Assessment according to examination regulations	Portfolio
14.	Workload	contact hours: 56                      overall workload: 180

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		self-study: 124	Credit Points: 6 CP
15.	<b>Applicability of Module</b>	Elective course (Profilierungsbereich) Bachelor and Master	
16.	<b>Further Information (e.g., registration, maximum number of participants )</b>	As per Section 3 subsection 3 of the Examination Regulations of the cross-curricular field of studies, students have no claim to the provision of certain offers or a regular repetition of modules.	