

Addition information about the “Socio-Ecological Change, Policy, and Innovation” elective, Aalborg University

Module 1- Skills training: Sustainability and Project Management Course

Language of instruction: English

Date of instruction: February till the end of March

Content, Progress and Pedagogy of the Module

Objectives

The objective of this module is:

- to provide students with knowledge of current issues and theoretical perspectives related to sustainability and global governance, including global partnerships and transnational problem-solving
- to provide students with a broad understanding of the skills and strategies required for project management as well as key theories, concepts and tools of the field
- to enable students to apply distinct theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of selected cases in relation to various types of sustainability, such as social, political, economic and environmental

Content

The module provides students with a broad understanding of project management and its related theories, concepts, and tools. It also provides students with the analytical skills and empirical knowledge required to address and understand the complexities of and responses to global challenges related to sustainability. Emphasis will be on democracy and institution-building; interrelations between different levels of governance; local and transnational civil society perspectives on global challenges such as climate change, inequalities, and resource governance.

Type of Instruction

- The module consists of lectures, exercises, student contributions, reading groups and a simulation game with position papers.

Type of exam: Active participation/continuous evaluation

The examination for Sustainability and Project Management is an internally assessed individual examination consisting of a requirement of active participation in the module's teaching sessions and activities. The module coordinator will define the requirements for active participation, which will be communicated to the class at the beginning of the semester. Any re-examination will be a 72-hour take-home assignment set by the course instructor. The assignment paper must not exceed 8 pages. The criteria of assessment are stated in AAU's Examination Policies and Procedures

Module 2 – Introduction into the themes: Topical Seminar

Language of instruction: English

Date of instruction: February till the end of March

Content, Progress and Pedagogy of the Module

Objectives

The objective of this module is:

- To provide students with knowledge of selected topics and current issues within the specialisation
- To enable students to consider relevant theoretical perspectives and discuss key elements in relation to empirical cases and reflect on these on a scientific basis.
- To prepare the students for the writing the project by enabling them to define and delimit a potential topic and problem field within one theme of the specialisation.

Content

Students will have the opportunity to focus on one of the themes and its related literature. The module forms the basis for further empirical and theoretical analysis within in the project module. This module should be seen as a precursor to the semester project and teaching will take place in the form of tutorials.

Type of exam Written exam

The exam of this second module will be the research proposal (for requirements see ESST Handbook). The examination for Topical Seminar includes the ESST an internally assessed individual written examination based on the 7-point grading scale. The criteria of assessment are stated in AAU's Examination Policies and Procedures

Module 3 – thesis: Semester Project

Language of instruction: English

Date of instruction: April till the end of May

Content, Progress and Pedagogy of the Module

Objectives

The objectives of this module are:

- to provide students with additional factual and theoretical knowledge within one of the aforementioned themes, and to give them the opportunity to reflect on theories and their usability in specific contexts in a critical manner
- to gain experience with empirical data collection and reflect on this process
- to practice working actively in an English-language project process and to practice academic writing in English
- to organise problem-based project work and reflect upon progress in organisational and cooperation
- to train students in identifying a suitable research problem for the project and creating an appropriate research design which will enable them to complete the project within a set deadline.

Contents

To support students in the time management of their thesis project Aalborg University organises an infrastructure that provides meetings and deliverables. This module builds on the Topical Seminar module. Students define a problem relevant to one of the themes of the specialisation. The university provides academic supervision. Students must discuss various theories and select one or several, which they deem to be relevant. Unless it is a purely theory-based project, students must discuss which type of empirical data might be relevant in this context and organise the data collection. The topic of the project must be formulated as a problem, and students must seek to answer this problem. The answer must be based on theoretical reflection and – unless it is a purely theory-based project – be empirically grounded.

Type of Instruction

The module consists of the written student project. To help students with their time management, students submit the first draft of their thesis with a minimum of 20 pages and maximum of 25 pages. This paper includes the following:

- Introduction and background of the thesis topic (including explanation and justification of the research question)

- Literature review
- Theoretical framework
- Method section
- Analysis
- Conclusion

Oral exam based on a project

The examination for Project Module is an external (in person or virtual) oral examination on the basis of a written project report. The examination is based on the draft thesis (project report) produced by the students. Grading is based on the 7-point grading scale. The criteria of assessment are stated in AAU's Examination Policies and Procedures.