University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Political Economy of Sustainability, PG_00202507		
Field of study	Economics, International Economic Relations, International Business, Logistics and Mobility		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	English
Semester of study	4	ECTS credits	5.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Maria Matusiewicz	
	Teachers	dr Maria Matusiewicz	

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	0.0	95.0	125

Subject objectives	The course aims to develop a critical understanding of the relationships between the economy, society, politics, and the environment in the context of contemporary challenges related to climate change and sustainable development. The course aims to familiarize students with the economic, social, and geopolitical determinants of the climate crisis and analyze alternative models of economic development and climate policy. In this course, students develop the ability to interpret contemporary economic and social processes, critically analyze debates on economic transformation, and assess the impact of globalization, inequality, and power structures on the possibilities of achieving sustainable development.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[IBL3_W06] knows and understands the relations and regularities between international business stakeholders i.a. business entities, public institutions, organisations; functioning in the national, international and intercultural realms	The student knows the relationships between economic entities, public institutions and organizations in the context of global climate challenges and economic transformation.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[EKONMU2_W04] has an in-depth knowledge of different types of economic and social ties and regularities governing them; has an in-depth knowledge of economic and financial ties between enterprises	The student knows and understands the impact of contemporary climatic, economic and geopolitical crises on economic and social relations on a national and international scale.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[IBL3_U07] can take part in a debate, is able to present, evaluate and discuss various viewpoints in the field of international business	The student is able to participate in debates on the relationship between the economy, politics and sustainable development and present different perspectives on contemporary global issues.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[IBL3_U01] can interpret and explain economic phenomena, analyse their causes, course and connections within these phenomena using the acquired knowledge of international business, economics and finance and complementary disciplines	The student is able to interpret and analyze contemporary economic and social phenomena related to climate change, globalization and sustainable development.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[MSGMU2_W04] has an in-depth knowledge of different types and elements of economic structures and institutions, including institutions, organisations and economic entities; understands the causes, course, scale and consequences of changes occurring in them, as well as relations between them on a national, international and intercultural scale; knows the theories explaining relations among them	The student knows and understands the impact of globalization processes, climate change and geopolitical tensions on the functioning of contemporary economic structures and institutions.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[EKONMU2_K06] is ready to observe and develop in his/her professional life principles of business ethics and corporate social responsibility, respect others, be loyal to their employer, taking into account changing social needs.	The student demonstrates readiness to take into account the principles of business ethics and corporate social responsibility in the context of socio-economic transformation.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[EKONL3_W04] knows the types of economic and social ties and the regularities governing them	The student knows the basic relationships between economic, social and environmental processes.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[EKONMU2_U01] can creatively interpret and explain economic and social phenomena and relations between them, using acquired knowledge of economics, finance and management sciences	The student is able to interpret and explain the relationships between the economy, society and the environment in the context of contemporary global challenges.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[EKONL3_K03] participates in the preparation of economic and social projects, being able to reconcile legal, economic, ecological, political and social requirements	The student is ready to participate in projects related to sustainable development, taking into account the economic, social, ecological and political aspects of contemporary climate challenges.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[MSGL3_K05] correctly identifies, diagnoses and solves dilemmas and various options of solutions related to the profession	The student is able to identify and analyze dilemmas related to sustainable development, climate policy and economic transformation.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[MSGMU2_U01] can creatively interpret and explain complex and atypical economic phenomena and the relations occurring between them, using the acquired knowledge in economics, finance and international economic relations	The student is able to interpret complex economic and geopolitical phenomena related to sustainable development and globalization.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[IBL3_K05] is ready to perform professional role in responsible manner, abide business ethics and business standards in working environment	The student is ready to perform his/her professional role taking into account the principles of business ethics and sustainable development.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[IBL3_W08] knows and understands principles of economic decision making by individuals acting within social and business structures	The student knows and understands the influence of social, economic and environmental factors on economic decision-making.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[EKONMU2_U02] can use acquired knowledge to describe and analyse the causes and course of economic and social processes and phenomena, and can formulate his/her own opinions and critically select data and analysis methods based on the achievements of economic and social sciences	The student is able to critically analyze contemporary economic and social processes and formulate his/her own opinions on sustainable development and climate policy.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[IBMU2_W01] has an in-depth knowledge of the discipline of economics and finance; understands the differences between contemporary trends in the theory of international business	The student knows contemporary economic trends and understands their importance for the debate on sustainable development and the future of the global economy.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[EKONMU2_W03] has a knowledge of relations between economic phenomena, entities and organisations as well as public institutions functioning in the national, international and intercultural spheres	The student knows the relationships between economic, social and political phenomena in the context of contemporary global challenges.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[MSGL3_K06] is ready to be guided in his/her professional life by business ethics and corporate social responsibility, to respect others and to be loyal to his/her employer	The student is ready to be guided by the principles of business ethics and corporate social responsibility in the context of the challenges of sustainable development and climate change.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[EKONL3_U07] is able to participate in analyses and evaluations of alternative solutions to economic and social problems and to choose the methods and instruments to resolve them rationally	The student is able to analyse and evaluate alternative solutions to problems related to sustainable development and climate change.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[EKONL3_K06] is willing to be guided in his professional life by business ethics and corporate social responsibility, to respect others and to be loyal to his employer	The student demonstrates readiness to take into account the principles of business ethics and corporate social responsibility in the analysis of contemporary economic and environmental problems.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[IBMU2_K06] is ready to observe and develop the principles of professional ethics and corporate social responsibility, takes into account changing social needs, respects the diversity of opinions and cultures	The student understands the interdependencies between economic entities, public institutions, and organizations in the context of global climate challenges and economic transformation.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[EKONMU2_K02] is aware of the level of their knowledge in the area of solving complex problems in economic,; understands the need to extend and update this knowledge throughout his/her life	The student understands the need to continuously update knowledge regarding contemporary economic, climatic and social problems.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report

	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[EKONL3_U02] is able to use the knowledge of theory and data to analyse concrete economic and social processes and phenomena and to analyse these phenomena using methods developed in economics, finance and management sciences	The student is able to use data and theoretical knowledge to analyze problems related to climate change, inequality and sustainable development.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[EKONL3_U03] is able to analyse the causes and course of specific economic and social processes and phenomena, and accurately analyse these phenomena using adequate methods and tools economic and social	The student is able to analyze the causes and consequences of contemporary economic, social and environmental problems.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents

I. Physical foundations and limits

1. Climate system and earths energy balance - Greenhouse effect and feedbacks - The role of co and other greenhouse gases

2. Anthropogenic climate change: causes and evidence - Emissions since the industrial revolution - Empirical and observational data

3. Climate models, scenarios, and tipping points - Climate models (ipcc) - Emission scenarios and warming trajectories - Tipping points of the earth system

II. Society impacts, inequality, economic systems

4. Social and environmental impacts of climate change - Impacts on health, food, and water - Climate migration - Regional and global differences

5. Climate change and global inequality - Historical responsibility - Climate justice - Global north vs. Global south Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

6. Capitalism, growth, and ecological limits - A critique of economic growth - The ecological crisis as a systemic crisis - The relationship between climate and capitalism

7. Doughnut economics and degrowth - Planetary boundaries and social foundations - Degrowth as a response to the climate crisis - Alternative models of prosperity - (doughnut economics; less is more)

III. Policy governance, power, responses

8. Climate politics and power structures - States, corporations, and fuel interests - Lobbying and blocking the transformation - Political conflicts surrounding climate

. Global climate governance - Limitations of global agreements - Geopolitics of climate

10. Climate policy instruments - Regulations, emissions markets, carbon taxes - The myth of the technological fix - Adaptation vs. Mitigation

11. Media, discourse, and public debate - The role of the media in shaping the debate - Climate disinformation - Analysis of press releases

12. Climate futures and policy choices - Transformation scenarios - Politics vs. systemic change - The limits of climate policy in the current order

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	preparing elaborated presentation on chosen subject	70.0%	50.0%
	attendance	80.0%	40.0%
	participation in discussion	50.0%	10.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Andrew E. Dessler, Edward A. Parson, The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change: A Guide to the Debate, Cambridge University Press, 2019. The Guardian journal K.Raworth, Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist, Cornerstone 2017. Jason Hickel, Less Is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World, Random House UK Ltd 2021. Naomi Klein, This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate, Penguin Books Ltd 2014.	
	Supplementary literature	Hans Rosling Factfulness (2018) Amitav Ghosh The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable (2016) Steven Levitsky & Daniel Ziblatt How Democracies Die (2018)	
	eResources addresses		

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	• Can infinite growth exist on a finite planet? • Consumerism and planned obsolescence • GDP vs wellbeing • Logistics and overconsumption • Fast fashion and global supply chains • Kate Raworth and planetary boundaries • Degrowth vs green growth • Can we consume less and still live well? • Circular economy real solution or greenwashing? • The future of work in a post-growth economy • Oil and gas lobbying • COP summits and political interests • Climate policy vs corporate power • Greenwashing • inequality, economic systems 4. Social and environmental impacts • Heatwaves and urban vulnerability • Water stress and food insecurity • Climate migration in Africa and South Asia • Supply chains under climate pressure • Why do poorer countries suffer more? • Climate colonialism • Why are global agreements weak? • Climate geopolitics: China, USA, EU • Energy transition and critical minerals • Climate and wars • Carbon taxes effective or unfair? • EU ETS system • Electric vehicles solution or illusion? • Technological optimism vs systemic change • Climate narratives in media • Social media and climate disinformation • Why do people ignore climate change? • Climate anxiety and public opinion • Smart cities and green logistics • Physical Internet and sustainable transport • Adaptation vs transformation • What kind of economy is possible in the future? • Arctic amplification • Feedback loops: melting ice and methane emissions • Industrial revolution and fossil capitalism • China, USA and histori • cal emissions • Climate denial and scientific consensus • Why are emissions still increasing? • IPCC scenarios • AMOC collapse and extreme weather
Work placement	Not applicable

Document generated electronically. Does not require a seal or signature.