

# MASTER MODULE JUST TRANSITION TO A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

## TILBURG UNIVERSITY

### ENGAGE.EU EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE 2023 – 2024

<b>Module timeframe:</b>	Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semester
<b>Study level:</b>	Master
<b>Module certificate:</b>	Completion of all 18 ECTS within the module will result in a module certificate.
<b>Admission:</b>	The module is offered to a maximum of 10 students. Admission to individual courses is also possible by selecting single courses in the application form. There are no admission requirements for the module. However, courses may have prerequisites (see below).
<b>Courses in module:</b>	441802-M-6 Social Change and Sustainable Development (6 ECTS) 600330-M-6 Climate Change Law (6 ECTS) 310162-M-6 Seminar Environmental and Resource Economics (6 ECTS) <u>Note:</u> Single courses of the module are available via the Online Exchange Initiative.
<b>Module content:</b>	<p>Climate change is one of the most urgent problems our society faces today. The Glasgow Climate Pact and the European Green deal have resulted in new, more stringent goals to combat climate change. To realize the energy transition, international, European, and national energy and climate goals must be translated into concrete action in the coming years. Not only governments but also private actors, such as multinationals, are required to adopt a proactive approach to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Even though new technologies can help accelerate the energy transition, the most critical obstacles to realizing such a transition are not technological but administrative, legal, financial, economic, psychological, and social. For example, citizens lack a clear incentive to change their behavior; complex regulations discourage and hamper innovation; rules do not match bottom-up initiatives; laws often fail to prescribe appropriate corporate conduct, leaving green initiatives to the realm of voluntarism; cooperation between government, business and societal organizations is complex, and coordination is lacking; and the business case is not always straightforward. Therefore, what is needed is not (only) technological innovation but (also) social innovation.</p> <p>Given that barriers to the energy transition relate to both the behavioral and societal dimensions, the role of the social sciences (law, economics, and sociology) in analyzing climate change became of pivotal importance. To understand society and contribute to ‘wicked problem solving’, we need to approach the topic from an interdisciplinary perspective by posing the following question: What changes in law, business, governance, and behavior are necessary for societies to react to the ‘creeping’ climate crisis? This question is relevant for public and private actors. It relates to multiple</p>

dimensions of corporate social responsibility, human rights obligations, and democratic participation in the green energy transition.

The ENGAGE University Module “Just Transition to a Sustainable Society”, offers comprehensive and multidisciplinary courses covering crucial aspects of the climate and energy transition's social, legal, behavioral, economic, and governance factors. By following the module, students will understand on a deeper level the various aspects that are relevant to this transition to a sustainable society. The module offers a total of 18 ECTS

<b>Lecture periods:</b>	<b>Fall semester:</b>	end of August – December
	Block 1:	end of August – October
	Block 2:	October – December
	Exam period	December 2023 - January 2024
	Re-sit period	January 2024 and mid-June/July 2024
	<b>Spring semester:</b>	end of January – May
	Block 3:	end of January – April
	Block 4:	April – May
	Exam period	May/June 2024
	Re-sit period	mid-June/July 2024

**Course catalogue links:** The course codes link to the course catalogue information of the current academic year for information purposes. The course information including tentative exam dates and the link to the schedule will be updated for Fall 2023 by mid-August 2023 and for Spring 2024 in December 2023.

Course code	<a href="#">441802-M-6</a>
Course title	<b>Social Changes and Sustainable Development</b>
Study cycle	Master
Year of study	Master year 1
Semester	Block 1
Credits	6 ECTS
Learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand, critically analyze, and compare leading concepts and theories on sustainable development social change, and (sustainable) (digital platform) business models;</li> <li>• understand different frameworks, levels and dimensions of social change, and how they relate and reinforce each other;</li> <li>• apply relevant theories and concepts to analyze global (sustainable) development challenges and formulate targeted interventions at organizational level;</li> <li>• identify and distinguish different types of sustainable business models and assess their sustainability;</li> <li>• analyze, design, and discuss the advantages and shortcomings of digital platforms for sustainable development;</li> <li>• communicate clearly and concisely when presenting, discussing, and reporting about sustainable development challenges and organizational interventions to tackle them.</li> </ul>
Mode of delivery	online
Prerequisites	Bachelor degree in Social Sciences, preferably Sociology, Political Science, Organization Studies, Management, Business Administration, Economics, Psychology, Social Policy, or related disciplines
Course content	<p>In particular, the course will incorporate Sociology and Organization Studies perspectives by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presenting different frameworks to analyze social change, sustainable development goals and address different aspects of current dynamics of social change. This includes topics such as theories of social inequality, economic inequalities (wealth, income, poverty dynamics), gender inequality, migration, climate change and international crises in historical, comparative, and global perspectives; and</li> <li>2. exploring organizational interventions targeted at addressing sustainable development issues to create social and/or environmental value. This includes two core topics: sustainable business models (e.g., sustainable business models for the BOP, sustainable business model innovation) and digital platforms for sustainable development (e.g., sharing platforms, circular platforms).</li> </ol>
Required and/or recommended reading, learning resources or tools	Literature to be announced
Learning activities and teaching methods	<p>This course includes two types of meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures: The lecturers will give a presentation, but the students must come prepared (having read the assigned literature). There will be discussions on the topics and readings, and a critical engagement with the assigned literature.</li> <li>• Workshops: The workshops are organized in a flexible way and can consist of exercises (e.g., case studies, debates) where students apply what they have learnt in the lecture(s); questions that have arisen over the course of the week will be discussed and answered. Each workshop will also dedicate time discussing students' progress with the group assignment.</li> </ul>
Assessment methods and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Assignment (50%) – consisting of presentation (40%) and written</li> </ul>

assessment criteria	report (60%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oral exam (50%)</li></ul>
Language of instruction	English
Degree Program(s) or field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MSc. Sociology, track Global Management of Social Issues: Politics, Policy, and Societal Development</li><li>• MSc. Organization Studies, track Global Management of Social Issues: Organizing for Global Social Challenges</li></ul>

Course code	<a href="#">600330-M-6</a>
Course title	<b>Climate Change Law</b>
Study cycle	Master
Year of study	Master year 1
Semester	Block 3
Credits	6 ECTS
Learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student reproduces the basic science background and the interdisciplinary nature of laws and policies related to climate change;</li> <li>• the student understands the role of law in addressing climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) in an international (UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, Glasgow Climate Pact), EU (EU ETS Directive and other), and domestic context;</li> <li>• the student is able to assess the impact, both on the environment and on the economy, of legal and economic instruments aimed at mitigating climate change (particularly emissions trading, joint implementation, REDD+ and the Clean Development Mechanism);</li> <li>• the student understands the tension between climate change mitigation and development and is able to assess the role of law in addressing this tension in the global context where there exists a deep divide between developed countries, developing countries and emerging economies;</li> <li>• the student explains the meaning of the goals and principles of climate law (specifically the common-but-differentiated responsibilities principle, the sovereignty and no harm principles, and the precautionary principle) and is able to analyse and comment on current debates in climate law &amp; policy using these principles;</li> <li>• the student understands how human rights can be impacted by climate change and is able to assess the potential of a human rights-based approach to addressing severe impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities;</li> <li>• the student shows the various legal options to obtain compensation of damage caused by climate change and is able to assess which of these are the most effective;</li> <li>• the student understands the role of law in adapting society to the changing climate, particularly in the fields of water management, biodiversity conservation, agriculture, coastal and marine areas.</li> </ul>
Mode of delivery	online
Prerequisites	There are no prerequisites for the course. However, if you are not a law student, it is warmly recommended to audit a number of lectures in International and European law that Tilburg University offers online via the ENGAGE.EU course offer 2022-2023.
Course content	<p>Climate change is the most difficult and important international environmental problem that the world faces today, and probably will be for decades to come. This course covers climate law which includes the legal instruments aimed at reducing climate change and its risks. Climate law offers a case study of a difficult problem that cuts across all sectors of society, whose legal response is complex and multi-level. Furthermore, understanding responses to climate change requires a somewhat interdisciplinary approach to policy. Thus, the class will help you comprehend how economics, ethics, and politics intersect with the law. Topics are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change: The basic science, politics, and economics</li> <li>• Development of international climate law</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol</li> <li>• The Paris Agreement and Glasgow Climate Pact</li> <li>• EU Climate law</li> <li>• Climate change adaptation</li> <li>• Liability? The Urgenda case</li> <li>• Climate engineering</li> <li>• Climate change and human rights</li> </ul>
<b>Required and/or recommended reading, learning resources or tools</b>	They will be available on the course Canvas page.
<b>Learning activities and teaching methods</b>	Lectures and tutorials
<b>Assessment methods and assessment criteria</b>	take-home exam (50%) research paper (50%)
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English
<b>Degree Program(s) or field</b>	LLM International Law and Global Governance LLM European Law and Global Risk LLM Law and Technology

Course code	<a href="#">310162-M-6</a>
Course title	<b>Seminar Environmental and Resource Economics</b>
Study cycle	Master
Year of study	Master year 1
Semester	Block 4
Credits	6 ECTS
Learning outcomes	<p>After having completed the course, you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are able to identify the general (underlying) causes of environmental problems, including renewable and non-renewable resource management problems;</li> <li>• are able to analyze the relationship between economic activity and an environmental problem, identify the underlying causes and provide solutions;</li> <li>• can succinctly summarize and critically assess the current state of knowledge on a particular environmental problem, discussing the used methodology and the conclusions obtained, and (orally) present these insights to policy-oriented (scientific) audiences; and</li> <li>• can critically assess the quality of scientific papers, the reliability and generalizability of the conclusions drawn therein, and defend his/her position in a discussion.</li> </ul>
Mode of delivery	online
Prerequisites	This course requires a decent level of knowledge of economics, and then especially micro-economics. Students should have successfully taken at least a semester course in economics at bachelor level. Specific knowledge about environmental economics is not required.
Course content	The sustainable management of natural resources and the environment is among the greatest challenges society is currently confronted with. The seminar Environmental and Resource Economics aims to provide you with a state-of-the-art overview of the key issues in environmental economics and natural resource management. The topics addressed include general overviews of the key topics in environmental economics – pollution, renewable resource and non-renewable resource use, and valuation. In addition, more specialized sessions address issues such as the economics of climate change, trade and the environment, environmental conservation and economic growth, ethics, the economics of environmental crime, and behavioral economics and the environment.
Required and/or recommended reading, learning resources or tools	journal articles, to be announced
Learning activities and teaching methods	Online lectures
Assessment methods and assessment criteria	Oral exam counts for 100%
Language of instruction	English
Degree Program(s) or field	Economics