



Transformations towards sustainability: Responsible consumption and production, 7,5 credits

Course conveners and teachers:

Susanne Arvidsson, Business Administration, LUSEM

Ellen Hillbom, Economic History, LUSEM

Additional teachers:

Emily Boyd, LUCSUS

Lea Funschiller, LTH

Mina Islar, LUCSUS

Johan Jansson, LUSEM

This course revolves around the system transformations needed to achieve SDG12 on sustainable consumption and production in a globalized world. We provide students with perspectives from a variety of disciplines such as economics and business administration, innovation studies, development studies, etc. to understand the opportunities and challenges of the transformation process. We cover different levels of analysis from individuals and organizations to industries and global systems. Illustrations come from a variety of areas like food production and consumption, energy and mobility; from both the Global North and the Global South. The course is strongly based on readings and discussions and it gives an introduction to topics that the students can further explore.

The course is structured around five modules:

1. Conceptual foundations - Introduction to the course

We introduce the basic economic concepts we use throughout the course, for example, circular economy, sustainable and inclusive innovations. In addition, the students present their own research interests and expectations on the current course.

2. Micro perspective – Responsible consumers and producers

We discuss challenges for businesses of incorporating social and environmental sustainability in their activities. Students learn about current practices regarding transformation of production systems, sustainable value chains and sustainability reporting. Students also analyze different motivations for consumers to take in environmental and social issues when making consumer decisions. Environmental communication and the way marketing affects consumer behavior is also analyzed.

3. Meso perspective – Responsible industries, cities and communities

We introduce theories of transition to understand processes of industrial transformation towards sustainable futures. We focus on transformations of particular socio-technical systems (e.g. energy, mobility, food) involving simultaneously changes in producers, consumers and the socio-technical and economic system in which they are embedded. We introduce the students to economic geography discussions on regional transformations towards sustainability and the understanding that the context in which transformations take place matters for the direction and speed of the transformation.

4. Macro perspective – Responsible consumption and production in a globalized world –

We acknowledge that production and consumption systems are highly globalized and that changes in one company, industry, region or country can have important implications globally. We focus on understanding how trade and other global economic processes affect the possibilities of countries to address SDG12 through structural change. We also discuss global inequality in terms of outcomes of production and opportunities for consumption.

5. Workshop

The final module consists of a workshop where each students present their course paper. The topic of the course paper is flexible. It has to fall within the framework of the course topic, but each student can decide on a topic that corresponds with their research interests.

Participation and examination

The course is organized around lectures, seminars, readings and presentation of students own research. Before each seminar students are expected to read and prepare to discuss the course literature. Finally, the course ends with each student writing and presenting an individual course paper based on their own research interests.

Participation in the various course activities is mandatory (minimum 80 percent). This is something to consider before applying to the course. Students are expected to read the course literature and participate actively in the discussions at each seminar. The written assignment consists of a course paper that is graded Pass/Fail.

Schedule:

Title	Content	Date/Location	
Intro	Introduction Introduction to course Presentation of doctoral students and their research project	4 Nov 9.15-12 Zoom	Susanne Arvidsson, LUSEM Ellen Hillbom, LUSEM
Lecture 1	Micro perspective: Responsible consumers and producers	5 Nov 14.15-16 Zoom	Susanne Arvidsson, LUSEM
Seminar 1	Micro perspective: Sustainability reporting and corporate behaviour: Legitimacy, stakeholder and value perspectives	11 Nov 10.15-12 Zoom	Susanne Arvidsson, LUSEM
Lecture 2	Micro perspective: Consumers and sustainability: Attitudes, behaviors and influence	12 Nov 10.15-12 Zoom	Johan Jansson, LUSEM
Seminar 2	Micro perspective: Consumers and sustainability: Attitudes, behaviors and influence	18 Nov 10.15-12 Zoom	Johan Jansson, LUSEM
Lecture 3	Meso perspective – Responsible industries, cities and communities	19 Nov 10.15-12 Zoom	Mine Islar, LUCSUS
	Panel dicussion	23 Nov 9.15-12 Zoom	
Seminar 3	Meso perspective – Cities and communities	25 Nov 10.15-12 Zoom	Mine Islar, LUCSUS
Lecture 4	Meso perspective – Responsible industries and industrial transformations	26 Nov 10.15-12 Zoom	Lea Funfschilling, LTH
Seminar 4	Meso perspective – Responsible industries and industrial transformations	2 Dec 10.15-12 Zoom	Lea Funfschilling, LTH
Lecture 5	Macro perspective – Transition dynamics in a globalized world	3 Dec 10.15-12 Zoom	Emily Boyd, LUCSUS
Seminar 5	Macro perspective – Transition dynamics in a globalized world	9 Dec 10.15-12 Zoom	Emily Boyd, LUCSUS
Lecture 6	Macro perspective – Global inequality	10 Dec 10.15-12 Zoom	Ellen Hillbom, LUSEM
Seminar 6	Macro perspective – Global inequality	16 Dec 10.15-12 Zoom	Ellen Hillbom, LUSEM
Workshop	Course paper presentations	14 Jan 9.15-15 Zoom	Susanne Arvidsson, LUSEM Ellen Hillbom, LUSEM