

Course Information

‘Critical Sustainability’

The course "Critical Sustainability" provides a digital space to learn, reflect, discuss and take action together. The participants will jointly analyze existing power relations as well as society-nature relations and democratize them. The course is the compulsory module of the Sustainability Certificate for Students issued by TU Berlin.

Through various interactive, artistic and group-dynamic formats, the participants will broaden their understanding of sustainability. For this they engage in individual work as well as small and large group work to jointly reflect and analyze their own positions/conditions in society. This will be the basis for their contribution to a socio-ecological transformation of society through individual and collective action.

Students of all study programs from all universities/colleges in Berlin and beyond are cordially invited. Non-Students are also warmly welcomed. In this course they come together to share and question their different knowledges, expertises and perspectives. Together they will explore societal problems across any borders between humans and mutually work on them.

The course is offered by Technische Universität Berlin without any costs. In order to allow for intensive and focused work, the course takes place twice per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 14.00 to 16.00 CET and lasts for 8 weeks. It starts on Tuesday, 03 November and ends on Thursday 07 January 2021 after 16 meetings. Upon successful completion, a certificate of performance of 6 ECTS points is handed out, which might contribute to one's own study program. At TU Berlin the course can be chosen as an elective in all study programs.

For further general information on the course and the certificate, see below and the website www.n-zertifikat.tu-berlin.de - detailed information, i.e. the link for the video conference will be provided a day before the course on the website.

Kind Regards

André Baier

Coordinator of the Sustainability Certificate for Students at TU Berlin

Course Information

‘Critical Sustainability’

SOME FACTS AT A GLANCE - CRITICAL SUSTAINABILITY

What is the Course Critical Sustainability about? Power Relations - Society-Nature Relations - Critical Theory - Merging Arts and Science - Intervention Research - Democratization - Social-Ecological Transformation

The participants expand their understanding of sustainability, especially with regard to social aspects such as power relations as well as society-nature relations and political ecology. The theoretical foundation for this is Critical Theory and theories of radical democracy. During the course, the participants work on societal challenges from different interdisciplinary and artistic perspectives and engage in corresponding practices. They conduct an intervention research project through which they contribute to a democratization of society and its social-ecological transformation.

Which learning outcomes? - Analyzing and Democratizing the Reciprocal Relations of Technology - Nature - Individuals - Society

The participants analyze and evaluate in a democratic process the present reciprocal relations of technology, individuals, nature, society and democracy. Based on this analysis and evaluation, they learn to democratize these reciprocal relations.

The participants acquire the competence to unveil the complex interdependency of their social, political, ecological and economic surroundings. This includes the consideration of different values, interests and needs within a global perspective as well as within one class(room). The course design encourages democratic decision-making not only to solve but also to define problems within the course itself and moreover outside of the classroom. In addition, the participants deal with artistic positions and practice artistic actions, for example through performances, and integrate these practices in their intervention research project.

How is it taught? - High engagement and interaction between the participants

The course promotes exchange and joint actions in digital as well as real life. This is why all participants are actively involved in the course again and again. Unlike many digital courses, this course lives from interactivity - dare to show yourself and contribute to the conduction of the entire course through individual, small and large group work as well as group-dynamic activities - only few lectures will be given. In order to achieve this high degree of interactivity, all meetings are intensely prepared and followed up with exercises by the participants through which they will intervene in their everyday-life. The single meetings build strongly up on each other so that the reciprocal relations of technology-individuals-nature-society-democracy are continuously unveiled over the entire course.

Course Information

‘Critical Sustainability’

Who can attend? - all those who are there :)

No matter if you are still studying or already working, no matter if in Berlin or elsewhere - every person is invited to participate. Thanks to video conferencing we can offer the course almost without limits and borders - so please let your friends outside of Germany know.

Which language is used? - English

The course will be conducted in English. Most participants will not be native speakers, so don't worry - enjoy the ride of and improve your English as well.

When? - Tuesdays and Thursdays - 14.00 > 16.00 CET - 03 Nov > 07 Jan

The course starts on Tuesday, 03 November 14.00 and consists of 16 meetings for 2 hours/120 minutes each. It finishes on Thursday, 07 January.

Where? - Video Conference and Learning Platform/Forum

The video conference is based on Zoom provided by TU Berlin. The preparation/follow-up activities are organized through a learning platform/forum. The links will be provided a day before the first session on our website.

How is it examined? - 6 ECTS Points - Portfolio Assessment

The course is credited with 6 ECTS points. The portfolio assessment totals 100 points - 5 points per meeting for preparation/postprocessing and face-to-face work - 80 points // Intervention research conducted in a small group - 20 points

How can I integrate the course in my own study program? - Certificate of Performance / Elective

A certificate of performance (Leistungsnachweis) will be issued upon successful examination at the end of the course. This certificate can be used to credit the course in your own study program - for instance as an elective or with some justification as a compulsory elective. In this case you must clarify the details with your university. Students of all study programs at TU Berlin can choose the course as an elective. Details for exam registration will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Course Information

‘Critical Sustainability’

How do I sign up? - Just be there in the first lesson.

The course is offered by Technical University Berlin and it is free of costs for students enrolled at any university/college. If you are not enrolled anywhere, please contact us beforehand for details. To participate in the course you must attend the first meeting. After the second meeting registration is closed and no newcomers will be accepted.

What about attendance? - Up to Two Missed Meetings

The course is based on the interaction of the participants and the mutual learning from each other. Therefore, only two meetings can be missed. Please write an email beforehand.

What is the Sustainability Certificate for Students?

The inter- and transdisciplinary Sustainability Certificate is awarded by the President of the TU Berlin and offers students the opportunity to set an individual focus on sustainability in their regular study program. The certificate program comprises 18 ECTS points - 6 for the compulsory course Critical Sustainability and 6 ECTS points for each of the two compulsory elective areas technology/nature and individuals/society. The latter courses are existing modules from a student's own degree program or free electives which show a clear focus on sustainability.

Where can I find more information? - On Our Website and in the first meeting

The website for the course Critical Sustainability is www.n-zertifikat.tu-berlin.de/menue/sustainability_certificate_for_students_s_certificate/critical_sustainability/

For further general information on the course and the certificate, see our website www.n-zertifikat.tu-berlin.de - or write an email info@n-zertifikat.de