Subject examination regulations for the master's degree in Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History at the faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kassel dated 3 December 2025

Approved by the Faculty of Social Sciences in December 2025.
The translation does not have any legal binding effects. The official version in German is published in "Mitteilungsblatt" of the University of Kassel

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Study and examination plan

§ 1 Scope of application

The latest valid version of the specialist examination regulations for the consecutive English-language master's degree course 'Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History' at the faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kassel supplements the General Regulations for Subject Examination Regulations for Bachelor's/Master's Degrees at the University of Kassel.

§ 2 Academic degrees, profile category

(1) The faculty of Social Sciences awards the academic degree Master of Arts (M.A.) after the successful completion of the programme.

(2) The master's degree course 'Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History' is a research-oriented programme.

§ 3 Regular study period, scope of the degree course

(1) The regular study period for the master's degree amounts to four semesters, including the master's degree module.

(2) Overall, 120 credits are awarded to any candidate who successfully passes the master's degree course. Of this figure, 30 credits are awarded for the master's degree module.

§ 4 Start of the degree course

(1) The master's degree course 'Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History' is starting only in the winter semester.

§ 5 Examination board

(1) The 'Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History' examination board makes decisions regarding all examination matters for the above mentioned programme.

(2) The examination board consists of:

a. three professors of the Faculty of Social Sciences or Kassel Institute for Sustainability including one professor each from department of history and sociology at the University of Kassel,
b. one further academic staff member of Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kassel,
c. one student of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kassel.

§ 6 Admission requirements

(1) Candidates can be admitted to programme with

a. a bachelor's degree or an equivalent degree in sustainability studies, social sciences, cultural studies or humanities or a first state examination for teaching history or politics and economics with a study period of at least six semesters and 180 credits or
b. an equivalent degree in the above mentioned fields with a study period of at least six semesters and 180 credits,
c. and adequate knowledge of the English language (C1 level CEFR).

(2) The examination board will admit the students following the above mentioned admission requirements. All decisions will be made based on the written application documents. The examination board can admit students provisionally and request further documents.

§ 7 Examination regulations

(1) The module examinations accompanying degree courses are connected with the time and subject matter of any module.

(2) The following are relevant as examination work:

- written exam/written electronic exam,
- oral exam,
- written paper,
- portfolio,
- project report,
- masthe's degree dissertation.

The lecturer will set and explain the type of possible examinations at the beginning of the course, within the framework of the specifications of the study and examination plan.

(3) In addition to the types of examination mentioned in para. 2, coursework can also be required as a prerequisite for acquiring the module examination. The coursework is assessed as "passed" or "failed". It may include the following types of coursework:

- portfolio,

- protocol,
- oral report,
- thesis paper,
- essay,
- presentation,
- poster,
- moderation,
- chair of a session,
- interviews,
- source critic,
- reflection paper,
- poster presentation,
- book excerpt,
- book review.

(4) For written coursework and examinations, the required number of characters, including spaces, is specified. The cover page, table of contents, tables, graphics, bibliography, appendices and acknowledgements are not included in this count.

(5) The module examinations accompanying the course can also consist of two partial examinations. The module examination has been passed if all module individual examinations have at least been awarded with “adequate” (grade 4.0).

(6) Failed module examinations can be repeated twice. The same applies to partial examinations of a respective module. It is not possible to repeat module examinations that have already been passed.

(7) Module examination must be provided in English. Module examination can be provided in a different language in agreement with the examiners.

(8) Credits for a module are awarded after successful passing of all examinations for the module.

§ 8 Examination parts for the master’s degree course

(1) The master’s degree examination consists of the following module examinations including the master’s degree module according to Section 9 with the relevant credits:

Module number	Module title	Credits
Compulsory modules		
Module 1	Critical Sustainability	12 Credits
Module 2	Postcolonial Studies	12 Credits
Module 3	Gender and Intersectionality	12 Credits
Module 4	Nature, Culture and Economies in Past and Present Societies	12 Credits
Module 5	Socio-Ecological Transformations: Conflicts, Movements and (Un-)Learning	12 Credits
Module 6	Sustainability in Practice: Methods and Projects	24 Credits
Key Comptences		

Module 8	Academic Standards and Writing	6 Credits
Master degree module		
Module 7	Masters's Degree Module	30 Credits
Total		120 Credits

(2) The master's examination is passed if all required examinations in accordance with these examination regulations have been awarded with at least the grade of "adequate" or "pass".

§ 9 Master’s degree module

(1) The master’s degree module consists of the master’s degree dissertation and master’s degree oral examination. It is awarded with 30 credits. The master's degree dissertation accounts for 29 credits.

(2) The topic of the master‘s degree dissertation can only be assigned after passing of module 1 and 2. The examination board shall assign the topic and appoint the supervisor and examiners. The supervisor is one of the two examiners. The student has the right to make suggestions.

(3) The completion time for the master’s degree dissertation is 22 weeks and starts on the day that the topic has been announced. The topic of the master’s degree dissertation may only be handed back once and only within first 3 weeks. It must be provided in such a way that it can be completed within the envisaged deadline.

(4) If a candidate cannot meet the submission date for reasons, for which the candidate is not responsible for, the examination board can extend the submission deadline for a maximum of three weeks.

(5) The master’s degree dissertation must be written in English. In agreement with the supervisor and after approval of the examination board it can be written in a different language.

(6) The master’s degree dissertation must be submitted to the examination board by the deadline in two bound copies and in digital form on a USB stick or by email.

(7) The master’s degree dissertation must be presented at a master’s degree colloquium (oral examination). The first and second examiners will take part in the oral exam. The master’s degree oral exam should take place at the latest 6 weeks after the master’s degree dissertation has been handed in. The entire oral exam shall last max. 45 minutes. Participation in the master’s degree oral exam assumes that the master’s degree dissertation has been awarded at least the grade “adequate” (grade 4.0).

(8) In order to pass the master’s degree module, the master’s degree dissertation and master’s degree oral exam must be awarded at least the grade “adequate” (grade 4.0). The grade from the oral exam shall be added to the master’s degree module grade with 20%. A failed master’s degree oral exam can be repeated once. This repetition must usually take place within 6 weeks.

§ 10 Composition and weighting of the final grade

(1) A module is passed and can be counted towards the master's degree if the module has been graded with at least a “adequate” (grade 4.0).

(2) The overall grade for the master’s degree examination is calculated as the average of the module grades, weighted according to the credits assigned to the modules.

§ 11 Entry into force

These Examination Regulations shall enter into force after their publication in the Official Journal of the University of Kassel (Mitteilungsblatt der Universität Kassel).

Module Handbook

Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History

Master of Arts

Approved by the Faculty of Social Sciences in December 2025.
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Study objectives and learning outcomes

Academic qualifications: Graduates of the interdisciplinary master's programme 'Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History' have in-depth knowledge and analytical and reflective skills for theoretically and methodologically sound critical engagement with and analysis of sustainability and postcolonial studies. They are able to develop critical perspectives on sustainability concepts with a focus on gender, nature and history. Graduates have acquired elaborated skills to identify, analyse and critically examine complex interrelationships between colonialism, postcolonialism and global sustainability debates. They are aware of the temporality of specific discourses and practices of sustainability, while remaining mindful of the plurality of past and present sustainability concepts. They can independently design and carry out interdisciplinary scientific research projects at the nexus of sustainability and society. Graduates have acquired advanced techniques of academic writing. They are able to apply concepts from postcolonial studies to questions of sustainability and have strong skills in interdisciplinary heuristics and methods, theory- and empirical-based analyses, and can present research results clearly and precisely in both written and oral form. They are able to communicate their findings to academic and non-academic audiences in an accessible manner. The programme meets the qualification objectives of a research-oriented Master's degree at level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework. The skills acquired are internationally recognised and enable graduates to pursue a doctorate, particularly in the fields of history, sociology, political science and sustainability studies.

Professional qualifications: In recent years, there has been an increased demand for university education in the field of sustainability. The interdisciplinary master's programme 'Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History' responds to this demand with specific analytical and reflective contributions. Graduates will have the competence to critically examine sustainability concepts and practices from a social science perspective and to understand their global, historical and (post-)colonial dimensions. They can apply social science theories and concepts from sustainability and postcolonial studies to specific professional questions. Further, they are able to solve complex professional tasks and challenges in an analytical and practice-oriented manner. In addition, they have reflective and communication skills in developing and moderating discourses on sustainability in different contexts, as well as the ability to prepare complex issues in a way that is tailored to the target audience. Graduates of the programme also have an awareness of postcolonial, gender and power-critical perspectives and of the diversity of understandings of sustainability worldwide, as well as conceptual and consulting skills in the development, evaluation and implementation of innovative sustainability strategies in private and public organisations. Graduates are able to tap into new areas of work in the field of sustainability, develop and promote innovative approaches, and design work processes independently and cooperatively. The profile is complemented by skills in planning, implementing and evaluating interdisciplinary projects on sustainability topics, time management skills and the ability to work in interdisciplinary teams, enabling graduates to take on leadership roles.

Personal development: The content and perspectives of the programme are particularly well suited to address the possibility and necessity of social engagement and to support personal development. The majority of the teaching staff have extensive contacts and academic expertise in social movements, associations, trade unions or political parties, public administrations and companies, etc. This will inspire and support students. The programme as a whole promotes student independence as a basis for social engagement. Several modules explore different forms of participant involvement, civic engagement and knowledge transfer. Graduates have acquired skills in critical reflection, debate and development of relevant concepts and practices of sustainability in relation to postcolonial perspectives as well as expertise in how these can be constructively discussed and developed further. They have strong communication, organisational and methodological skills (integrated key competencies) as well as trans-cultural skills and have gained sensitivity to differences and reflective knowledge; they are also able to reflect on the unequal distribution of opportunities for participation. In addition, they are able to reflect on their own privileged positions and modes of life as well as on power structures.

Critical Sustainability

Module number / code	Module 1
Module name	Critical Sustainability
Type of module	Compulsory module
Learning outcomes, acquired competencies and qualification goals	Students can identify and explain different interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary basic and advanced theories, concepts and practices of sustainability in their historical diversity, global interdependence and local variation. They are able to explain and analyse the connections between contemporary sustainable development goals and concepts of sustainability in relation to development paradigms. Students can discuss key theories of sustainability and development and reflect on contemporary debates (e.g. provincialisation, decentralisation, extractivism, better life). They are able to analyse, interrogate and reflect sustainability practices and their entanglement with domination and power relations. Thereby they can develop elements of critique. Students are able to provide an overview of contemporary critical and future-oriented debates on sustainability as well as sustainability concepts and practices. They are able to identify areas for further study and participate in critical and constructive reflection on these concepts and practices.
Course types	1 VL + 1 S + 1 T (6 SWS)
Content	Students acquire interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary knowledge in areas such as • Contemporary and future-oriented concepts, theories, practices and debates on sustainability and development in their historical diversity, global interdependence and local variation • Current sustainable development goals and their connection to current development paradigms • The entanglement of sustainability practices in power relations
Title of courses	Lecture: Sustainable? Development?
Teaching and learning methods	e.g. blended learning, flipped classroom formats, lectures, teaching discussions, group work, collaborative or cooperative learning, learning by teaching, self-directed learning, problem-based learning, presentations
Usabilitiy in other programs	
Duration	one semester
Frequency of module offer	annually in winter semester
Teaching language	English
Recommended (knowledge) prerequisites	
Required prerequisites for participation	
Student workload	360 hours (90h in presence + 120h study at home + 150h examination)

Required course work	S1: Portfolio, protocol, presentation, thesis paper, essay, poster, moderation, chairing sessions, interviews, source criticism, reflection paper, poster presentation, book excerpt, book review, learning diary, as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Prerequisites for examination(s)	Course work S1
Module examination(s)	A term paper of approx. 40,000 characters (including spaces) or a 90-minute exam/e-assessment or a 30-minute oral exam or a portfolio of approx. 35,000 characters (including spaces) as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Credit points (ECTS)	12 cp
Teaching unit	Geschichte; Soziologie; Ökologische Agrarwissenschaften
Responsible person	Professur Human-Environment Interactions
Lecturer(s)	Prof. Dr. Andreas Braun, Professur Gesellschaftliche Konflikte in sozial-ökologische Transformationen
Media used	
Recommended literature	

Postcolonial Studies

Module number / code	Module 2
Module name	Postcolonial Studies
Type of module	Compulsory module
Learning outcomes, acquired competencies and qualification goals	Students will gain a historical overview of European colonialism in its various forms and the resistance to it, as well as foundational and advanced knowledge of postcolonial and decolonial studies. They will be able to discuss colonial rule, anti-colonial movements, and postcolonial theories and concepts, including their comparability with and explanatory potential for contemporary social phenomena and structures. They can identify and analyse colonial continuities. Students are able to discuss postcolonial perspectives on sustainability and engage productively with questions such as how positions in the Global South deal with "sustainable development" and what concepts and practices are being developed and negotiated in this context. They can also relate social relations with historical and decentralized concepts of nature that became hegemonic in modernity. Students can analyse and discuss post-development concepts and practices (e.g. 'Buen Vivir') when using concrete examples. They are able to reflect on the contingencies, power entanglements and Eurocentrism of prevailing conceptions of sustainability in order to create space for debates about creative and hybrid alternatives.
Course types	1 VL + 1 S + 1 T (6 SWS)
Content	Students acquire interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary knowledge in areas such as • European/transatlantic/transpacific colonialism in its various forms and the resistance to it • postcolonial and decolonial theories and concepts and their explanatory power for contemporary social phenomena • postcolonial and decolonial perspectives on sustainability and post-development alternatives
Title of courses	Lecture: Introduction to Postcolonial Studies Seminar: Postcolonial Perspectives on Sustainable Development
Teaching and learning methods	e.g. blended learning, flipped classroom formats, lectures, teaching discussions, group work, collaborative or cooperative learning, learning by teaching, self-directed learning, problem-based learning, presentations
Usabilitiy in other programs	
Duration	one semester
Frequency of module offer	annually in winter semester
Teaching language	English
Recommended (knowledge) prerequisites	
Required prerequisites for participation	

Student workload	360 hours (90h in presence + 120h study at home + 150h examination)
Required course work	S1: Portfolio, protocol, presentation, thesis paper, essay, poster, moderation, chairing sessions, interviews, source criticism, reflection paper, poster presentation, book excerpt, book review, learning diary, as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Prerequisites for examination(s)	Course work S1
Module examination(s)	A term paper of approx. 40,000 characters (including spaces) or a 90-minute exam/e-assessment or a 30-minute oral exam or a portfolio of approx. 35,000 characters (including spaces) as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Credit points (ECTS)	12 cp
Teaching unit	Geschichte; Politologie
Responsible person	Professur Neuere und Neueste Geschichte
Lecturer(s)	Prof. Dr. Hubertus Büschel, Prof. Dr. Aram Ziai
Media used	
Recommended literature	

Gender and Intersectionality

Module number / code	Module 3
Module name	Gender and Intersectionality
Type of module	Compulsory module
Learning outcomes, acquired competencies and qualification goals	Students are able to identify and describe social science approaches to intersectional and international gender, diversity and queer studies. They can reflect on the relationality, complexity and intersectionality of gender with other forms of inequality (e.g. racism, sexism and classism). In addition, students can discuss the constitutive importance of gender and intersectional processes of gendering for different socio-ecological, socio-economic and socio-political (sub)areas, the conflicts arising from them, and contemporary and historical social challenges from an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspective. Students have skills in applying theoretical and methodological approaches of intersectional, power- and domination-critical, and post-/decolonial gender studies and apply them to selected contemporary and historical empirical examples (e.g. nature-culture-technology relations, social reproduction, postcoloniality and post-migration relations, criticism of racism, environmental racism, human-environment relations, inequalities and unequal life situations, work (division of labour), decent work, sustainability, democracy, post-development, trade union organisations, social movements and transnational feminist and queer (gender or equality) politics). will be able to reflect on these empirical examples in terms of gendered and gender-producing dynamics, (knowledge-) orders and socio-ecological transformation processes. Students analyse intersectional gender relations with regard to social, political, economic, institutional, organisational and discursive processes of the construction of normality, marginality and hegemony and related (solidarity-based) possibilities for agency (e.g. solidarity-based economies, commons and care, sustainable political education and participatory forms of organisation).
Course types	2 VL / S (4 SWS)
Content	Students deepen and broaden their interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary knowledge in areas such as • social science approaches of intersectional diversity, gender and queer studies • theoretical, methodological and empirical approaches, particularly with regard to the relationality, complexity and intersectional entanglement of the categories of race, class and gender with other forms of inequality • intersectional processes of gendering, racialisation and classification, etc., and their relevance for different socio-ecological, socio-economic and socio-political (sub)areas and the resulting conflicts and challenges, inequalities and discrimination
Title of courses	
Teaching and learning methods	e.g. blended learning, flipped classroom formats, lectures, teaching discussions, group work, collaborative or cooperative learning, learning by teaching, self-directed learning, problem-based learning, presentations
Usabilitiy in other programs	
Duration	one semester

Frequency of module offer	annually in summer semester
Teaching language	English
Recommended (knowledge) prerequisites	
Required prerequisites for participation	
Student workload	360 hours (60h in presence + 90h study at home + 210h examination)
Required course work	S1: Portfolio, protocol, presentation, thesis paper, essay, poster, moderation, chairing sessions, interviews, source criticism, reflection paper, poster presentation, book excerpt, book review, learning diary, as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Prerequisites for examination(s)	Course work S1
Module examination(s)	A term paper of approx. 50,000 characters (including spaces) or a 90-minute exam/e-assessment or a 40-minute oral exam or a portfolio of approx.45,000 characters (including spaces) as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Credit points (ECTS)	12 cp
Teaching unit	Soziologie; Geschichte; Politologie
Responsible person	Professur Soziologie der Diversität
Lecturer(s)	Prof. Dr. Lisa Carstensen, Dr. Inga Nüthen, PD Dr. Mieke Roscher, Prof. Dr. Anne-Charlott Trepp, Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Tuider, Prof. Dr. Mi You
Media used	
Recommended literature	

Nature, Culture and Economies in Past and Present Societies

Module number / code	Module 4
Module name	Nature, Culture and Economies in Past and Present Societies
Type of module	Compulsory module
Learning outcomes, acquired competencies and qualification goals	Students deepen their skills acquired in the module 1 and 2 foundational modules through interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary analysis of human-nature and human-culture relationships, as well as economies as core elements of sustainability concepts and practices. They are able to discuss "nature" in the context of sustainability concepts and practices as a cultural and social construct. They critically analyse and de-essentialise these constructions of “nature” in order to deconstruct the nature-culture dichotomy. Further, they question this dichotomy from a historical and contemporary analytical perspective. In addition, students will be able to describe the interconnections between sustainability and society and analyse economic phenomena (e.g. efforts that have been or are being labelled as sustainable in specific historical or socio-cultural contexts). Students can describe the historically complex genealogy of the relationships between sustainability and nature, society and economies in local and global contexts and, not least, in contemporary and future-oriented debates. They explain sustainability concepts and practices in connection with the historicity of human-nature, human-culture and human-economy relationships. Therefore, they adopt environmental, social and economic historical perspectives and are able to set their own focuses (e.g. in debates on the post-human age, animal-human relationships, cultural preservation or forms of economic activity labelled as sustainable). Students have skills to describe non-European sustainability concepts and practices in relation to nature, culture and the economy that have been neglected in contemporary debates. They will establish and discuss theoretical and methodological points of reference (e.g. to science and technology studies, human animal studies, body politics and necro-politics, new materialism, new sustainable economy and actor-network theory).
Course types	2 VL / S (4 SWS)
Content	Students deepen and broaden their interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary knowledge in areas such as • Human-nature and human-culture relations • The historically complex genealogy of the relationships between sustainability, nature, culture and economics in local and global contexts, as well as contemporary and future-oriented debates • sustainability concepts and practices in relation to the historicity of human-nature, human-culture and human-economy relationships
Title of courses	
Teaching and learning methods	e.g. blended learning, flipped classroom formats, lectures, teaching discussions, group work, collaborative or cooperative learning, learning by teaching, self-directed learning, problem-based learning, presentations
Usabilitiy in other programs	
Duration	one semester
Frequency of module offer	annually in summer semester

Teaching language	English
Recommended (knowledge) prerequisites	
Required prerequisites for participation	
Student workload	360 hours (60h in presence + 90h study at home + 210h examination)
Required course work	S1: Portfolio, protocol, presentation, thesis paper, essay, poster, moderation, chairing sessions, interviews, source criticism, reflection paper, poster presentation, book excerpt, book review, learning diary, as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Prerequisites for examination(s)	Course work S1
Module examination(s)	A term paper of approx. 50,000 characters (including spaces) or a 90-minute exam/e-assessment or a 40-minute oral exam or a portfolio of approx.45,000 characters (including spaces) as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Credit points (ECTS)	12 cp
Teaching unit	Geschichte
Responsible person	Professur Mittelalterliche Geschichte
Lecturer(s)	Prof. Dr. Hubertus Büschel, Prof. Dr. Mischa Honeck, Prof. Dr. Christian Jaser, Prof. Dr. Jörg Requate, PD Dr. Mieke Roscher, Prof. Dr. Anne-Charlott Trepp
Media used	
Recommended literature	

Socio-ecological Transformations: Conflicts, Movements and (Un-)Learning

Module number / code	Module 5
Module name	Socio-ecological Transformations: Conflicts, Movements and (Un-)Learning
Type of module	Compulsory module
Learning outcomes, acquired competencies and qualification goals	Students acquire elaborated knowledge and skills for conducting research on sustainability and social transformation in the context of agency, power structures and the social functioning of knowledge, education and critique. They analyse different forms of power as a resource and collective capacity for asserting interests, as symbolic-discursive explanatory power and as political formative power in the context of socio-ecological transformations. They are able to describe and reflect on unequal access to power resources available to social groups and actors. They can analyse the mechanisms of consolidation and intensification of political, economic and discursive structures of domination (such as governance, subordination, oppression and exploitation of humans and nature) and critically reflect on them from an interdisciplinary and historical perspective. Students can discuss transnational and supranational fields of action and their inter- and transnational entanglements. They analyse conflicts and practices of socio-ecological transformations from the perspective of different actors (e.g. social movements and political protests, (international) non-governmental organisations, trade unions, international organisations such as the World Bank, the UN and the Council of Europe). They examine exemplary fields of socio-ecological transformations with regard to their interrelationships with power-knowledge regimes (e.g. democratisation of international politics, transformative science and sustainability education, social human rights, and social and ecological justice). Based on the state of art, students will be able to identify and compare debates on topics such as sustainability and social transformation in relation to preconditions for action, power structures and the social functioning of knowledge, education and critique. They will also be able to reflect on international research literature regarding to their own questions and arguments. In addition, they weigh up opposing points of view and discuss them in a differentiated manner. In doing so, they are able to argue constructively, develop and presents their own arguments, reflect self-critically and question their own positions.
Course types	2 VL / S (4 SWS)
Content	Students deepen and broaden their interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary knowledge in areas such as • the interrelationships between the capacity to act and power structures • conflicts and practices of socio-ecological transformations from the perspective of different actors, as well as unequal access to power resources available to social groups and actors • mechanisms of consolidation and intensification of political, economic and discursive structures of power
Title of courses	
Teaching and learning methods	e.g. blended learning, flipped classroom formats, lectures, teaching discussions, group work, collaborative or cooperative learning, learning by teaching, self-directed learning, problem-based learning, presentations
Usabilitiy in other programs	
Duration	one semester
Frequency of module offer	annually in winter semester

Teaching language	English
Recommended (knowledge) prerequisites	
Required prerequisites for participation	
Student workload	360 hours (60h in presence + 90h study at home + 210h examination)
Required course work	S1: Portfolio, protocol, presentation, thesis paper, essay, poster, moderation, chairing sessions, interviews, source criticism, reflection paper, poster presentation, book excerpt, book review, learning diary, as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Prerequisites for examination(s)	Course work S1
Module examination(s)	A term paper of approx. 50,000 characters (including spaces) or a 90-minute exam/e-assessment or a 40-minute oral exam or a portfolio of approx.45,000 characters (including spaces) as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Credit points (ECTS)	12 cp
Teaching unit	Soziologie; Geschichte; Politologie
Responsible person	Professur Gesellschaftliche Konflikte in sozial-ökologischen Transformationen
Lecturer(s)	Prof. Dr. Hubertus Büschel, Prof. Dr. Lisa Carstensen, Prof. Dr. Kristina Dietz, Prof. Dr. Mischa Honeck, Prof. Dr. Jörg Requate, PD Dr. Mieke Roscher, Prof. Dr. Mi You, Professur Gesellschaftliche Konflikte in sozial-ökologischen Transformationen
Media used	
Recommended literature	

Sustainability in Practice: Methods and Projects

Module number / code	Module 6
Module name	Sustainability in Practice: Methods and Projects
Type of module	Compulsory module
Learning outcomes, acquired competencies and qualification goals	Students will be able to deliver complex and balanced explanations of methodologies and methods of hermeneutic, interpretative and de-constructivist research. They will build relations to empirical questions in critical sustainability studies. Students can analyse practices and discourses, actor practices, experiences and narratives, structures and institutions, as well as areas of conflict and fields of action in sustainability research in their contemporary, historical and global contexts. They will acquire practical research methods. Students will be able to apply selected participatory, collaborative, emancipatory and dialogical-horizontal, inter- and transdisciplinary research methods as well as mixed methods in research projects developed in the fields of postcolonial studies, political ecology, critical sustainability studies, cultural studies, governmentality studies, critical racism studies and intersectional gender studies. Students are able to describe and reflect on the contingency, contextuality, structures and anti-essentiality of social phenomena relating to sustainability, as well as their global historical, intercultural, transcultural and contemporary entanglements. They can apply methods and techniques of data collection and analysis to selected research questions, such as oral history, qualitative interview methods and analysis, critical discourse analysis, hermeneutics, subjectification research, content analysis, video and image analysis, coding and decoding, digital ethnography, art-based research and mixed method approaches. Students are able to apply the theoretical and methodological knowledge and skills they have acquired in a research-based project contexts and to reflect on various practical fields. They are able to plan, carry out and evaluate projects independently and cooperatively and can present and communicate complex issues and project results in a manner tailored to the target audience. Students can communicate effectively in interdisciplinary teams, cooperate and resolve conflicts constructively. Furthermore, they can effectively implement time management and self-organisation in a longer-term project and deal critically and reflectively with their own and others' research approaches and results. This module aims to provide in-depth teaching and development of 1. Communication skills o moderation skills in seminar discussions o teamwork in interdisciplinary project groups o Analysis, argumentation and presentation skills 2. Methodological skills o Project-oriented application of interpretative research methods o Critical and reflective application of methodology and methods 3. Organisational skills o Project, time and resource management o Scientifically sound and goal-oriented examination of complex social scientific issues
Course types	2 VL / S (4 SWS)
Content	Students deepen and broaden their knowledge in areas such as • methodologies and methods of hermeneutic, interpretative and deconstructivist research and mixed methods approaches • methods and techniques of data collection and evaluation • practical research methods

Title of courses	Summer semester: Lecture: Research Methods (Studienleistung / coursework) Winter semester: research- and project-based seminar (Prüfungsleistung / examination)
Teaching and learning methods	e.g. blended learning, flipped classroom formats, lectures, teaching discussions, group work, collaborative or cooperative learning, learning by teaching, self-directed learning, problem-based learning, presentations
Usabilitiy in other programs	
Duration	two semester
Frequency of module offer	winter and summer semester
Teaching language	English
Recommended (knowledge) prerequisites	
Required prerequisites for participation	
Student workload	720 hours (60h in presence + 420h study at home + 240h examination)
Required course work	S1: Portfolio, protocol, presentation, thesis paper, essay, poster, moderation, chairing sessions, interviews, source criticism, reflection paper, poster presentation, book excerpt, book review, learning diary, as specified by the lecturer (to be announced at the beginning of the semester).
Prerequisites for examination(s)	Course work S1
Module examination(s)	A term paper/project report of approx. 60,000 characters (including spaces)
Credit points (ECTS)	24 cp, including 6 cp for key competencies
Teaching unit	Soziologie; Geschichte; Politologie
Responsible person	Professur Kunst und Ökonomien
Lecturer(s)	Prof. Dr. Lisa Carstensen, Dr. Inga Nüthen, PD Dr. Mieke Roscher, Prof. Dr. Anne-Charlott Trepp, Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Tuider, Prof. Dr. Mi You
Media used	
Recommended literature	

Master's Degree Module

Module number / code	Module 7
Module name	Master's Degree Module
Type of module	Compulsory module
Learning outcomes, acquired competencies and qualification goals	Students develop questions and hypotheses for their master's degree dissertation, drawing upon research debates and sources. These hypotheses will be the starting point for the master's degree dissertation. Students are proficient in the techniques and methods necessary to evaluate literature and sources equally for their informational value and to present them appropriately in a historical discourse. Students actively participate in contemporary research debates on their chosen topic and defend their methodologically and theoretically sound position in discussions and in the written elaboration of their master's degree dissertation. They select the research literature and sources that are relevant to their Master's thesis and justify their selection. The master's degree dissertation demonstrates that students have sufficiently included literature and sources in their arguments and have actively engaged with them. Students learn to make judgements based on academic standards and to discuss them in the research colloquium. Students expand and document their skills in independent research literature and sources on the respective topic of their master's degree dissertation. When writing the master's degree dissertation, students combine various sets of questions and topics into coherent lines of argumentation based on a guiding question and develop differentiated conclusions. In doing so, they demonstrate the skills they have acquired during their studies in applying the methods of source and literature analysis to questions they have developed themselves and in arriving at creative conclusions independently.
Course types	Individual supervision and a master's degree colloquium (oral examination)
Content	The master's degree dissertation is written as part of the master's degree module. It is an independently written academic paper of approximately 200,000 characters (including spaces). The topic must address a subject-related research question and is chosen by the student in consultation with their supervisor. The master's degree dissertation is written independently. This includes an appropriate definition and clarification of the topic and a clear structure. After submission, the master's degree dissertation is presented in a master's degree colloquium (oral examination).
Title of courses	
Teaching and learning methods	Independent work on the master's degree dissertation accompanied by the supervision of a designated supervisor.
Usabilitiy in other programs	
Duration	one semester
Frequency of module offer	Summer und winter semester
Teaching language	English
Recommended (knowledge) prerequisites	

Required prerequisites for participation	
Student workload	900 hours, including 870 hours for the master's degree dissertation (22 weeks of work) + 30 hours for the master’s degree colloquium (29h study at home + 1h examination)
Required course work	
Prerequisites for examination(s)	For examination P1: Successful completion of the modules: Critical Sustainability Postcolonial Studies For examination P2: Examination P1 Successful completion of the modules: Critical Sustainability Postcolonial Studies
Module examination(s)	Examination P1: Master's degree dissertation of approx. 200,000 characters (including spaces) Grade weighting P1: 80% Examination P2: Master’s degree colloquium as an oral examination lasting a maximum of 45 minutes Grade weighting P2: 20%
Credit points (ECTS)	30 cp
Teaching unit	Geschichte; Soziologie
Responsible person	Professur Geschichte der Frühen Neuzeit
Lecturer(s)	
Media used	
Recommended literature	

Academic Standards and Writing

Module number / code	Module 8
Module name	Academic Standards and Writing
Type of module	Compulsory module

Learning outcomes, acquired competencies and qualification goals	Students acquire essential skills for academic writing and are proficient in advanced techniques of academic writing in the social sciences. They are familiar with the central characteristics of academic language and scientific argumentation and can apply these language skills in reading and writing exercises. They deepen and differentiate their skills in academic writing in English. They have the ability to independently obtain an overview of the relevant literature on a specific topic through self-organised literature research, thereby linking concepts and the field of study. In addition, they are familiar with and have attained proficiency in the rules for citing other authors' ideas (direct and indirect citation) and are aware of the consequences of plagiarism and the use of unauthorised resources.
	
	This module aims to provide in-depth teaching and development of
	
	1. Methodological skills
	  ○ (Literature) research skills
	  ○ Knowledge of the rules of good scientific practice
	  ○ Argumentation structure and scientific language style
	2. Communication skills
	  ○ Development of discussion, argumentation and expression skills
	  ○ Confident use of subject-specific vocabulary
	3. Organisational skills
	  ○ Time and self-management: efficient time management and planning of the writing process

Course types	1 Ü (2 SWS)
Content	Students learn advanced techniques for academic research in the social sciences: reading, research and writing techniques in English, summarising and paraphrasing other author's ideas, structuring arguments, and oral and written presentation skills.
Title of courses	Academic Standards and Writing
Teaching and learning methods	e.g. lectures, teaching discussions, group work, collaborative or cooperative learning, learning by teaching, self-directed learning, problem-based learning, presentations
Usabilitiy in other programs	
Duration	one semester
Frequency of module offer	annually in winter semester
Teaching language	English
Recommended (knowledge) prerequisites	
Required prerequisites for participation	
Student workload	180 hours (30h in presence + 90h study at home + 60h examination)

Required course work	
Prerequisites for examination(s)	
Module examination(s)	Portfolio of approx. 20,000 to 25,000 characters (including spaces)
Credit points (ECTS)	6 cp, including 3 cp for key competences
Teaching unit	Soziologie; Geschichte
Responsible person	Professur Makrosoziologie
Lecturer(s)	
Media used	
Recommended literature	

Master Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies. Gender, Nature and History

Study Plan (exemplary)

UNIKASSEL VERSITÄT

1st Semester (WiSe) ***30 Credits***	**Critical Sustainability** 12 Credits	**Postcolonial Studies** 12 Credits	**Academic Standards and Writing** 6 Credits
2nd Semester (SuSe) ***30 Credits***	**Gender and Intersectionality** 12 Credits	**Nature, Culture and Economies in Past and Present Societies** 12 Credits	**Sustainability in Practice: Methods and Projects** 24 Credits
3rd Semester (WiSe) ***30 Credits***	**Socio-Ecological Transformations: Conflicts, Movements and (Un-)Learning** 12 Credits		
4th Semester (SuSe) ***30 Credits***	**Master's Degree Module** 30 Credits		

Legend

- Required Modules
- Academic Writing
- Research Practice
- Master's Degree Module

Notes

- Key Skills

VERSION: 15.10.2025