We are pleased to announce a new interdisciplinary course to be held on Åbo Akademi University’s Vaasa Campus and video screened to Turku in March to May 2015 (5 ects)

The Complexity of Sustainable Development
An Interdisciplinary Approach

Aim and Content

The course will distinguish many different ways to define the politically strongly emphasized concept of sustainability. The aim is to offer a broad interdisciplinary and multicultural view of sustainability from the research fields of sociology, philosophy, pedagogy, science, history, geography and political science highlighting especially the social sustainability dimensions. The views move between micro and macro perspectives in various contexts.

Learning Outcome

The students on this course will

• receive a complex picture of sustainability, so they can understand diverse environmental standpoints and are able to reflect on and discuss sustainability issues by means of a multidimensional consciousness
• become familiar with different ways to actively act on the basis of sustainability requirements in various sectors and fields of activity, as well as in the role of active citizens
• know how to link issues of sustainability to different physical and social contexts
• understand how various interest groups may diverge in their views of sustainability.

Level
Advanced level (Master)

Target
Finnish and international students and staff from all disciplines at the Åbo Akademi University
Schedule

- Introduction, 3.3 room B215*  
  (Peter Ehrström, Postdoctoral Researcher, RUM (Rural-Urban-Miljö/Environment)
- Social Sustainability and Gentrification, New Locality, 10.3 room B215  
  (Peter Ehrström, Postdoc)
- Sustainable Rural Development, 17.3 room B215  
  (Kjell Andersson, Professor in Rural Studies)
- The Human Relationship with Nature - A Foundation for Sustainable Development,  
  24.3 room B624  
  (Pia Sjöblom, Lecturer in Biology and Geography Education)
- Towards more Sustainable Energy Technology, 31.3 room B624  
  (Margareta Wihersaari, Professor in Energy Technology)
- Sustainability and Teacher Profession, 7.4 room B624  
  (Maria Hofman, Assistant at Department of Political Science)
- User-Centered Sustainability - Why Listening to End-Users Matters, 14.4 room B624  
  (Susanne Hägglund, UX Researcher, Mediacity)
- Sustainable Leadership, 28.4 room B624  
  (Lili-Ann Wolff, University Lecturer in Education, University of Helsinki)
- Sustainable Development from a Social and Economic Perspective, 5.5 room 624  
  (Mikael Nygård, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy)
- Final Seminar with all the Lecturers, 12.5 room 624

* In Turku every time in ASA B129 Mellanvågen, Fänriksg. 3 B

Forms of Examination

Diary during the course, presentation of own essays at the final seminar, active participation on lectures and on the Internet platform.

Term

March 3 to May 12, 2015 every tuesday in March and April: 1 to 3 p.m.

May 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**All students sign up at MinPlan at latest February 17, 2015 (code 705270.0)**

Turku students also contact S. Suomalainen (see below)

For more practical information and staff members’ sign up

Annika Lindberg in Vaasa (annika.h.lindberg@abo.fi) or

Sinikka Suomalainen in Turku (sinikka.suomalainen@abo.fi)

Responsible persons

Kjell Andersson, examiner (kjell.andersson@abo.fi), Peter Ehrström (pehrstro@abo.fi) Lili-Ann Wolff (lili-ann.wolff@helsinki.fi)