



Transformations towards sustainability: Responsible consumption and production

Susanne Arvidsson, Business Administration, LUSEM

Cristina Chaminade, Economic History, LUSEM

The course will revolve around the system transformations needed to achieve SDG12 on sustainable consumption and production in a globalized world. The students will be provided with perspectives from a variety of disciplines like economics and business administration, innovation studies, development studies, etc. to understand the opportunities and challenges of transforming current systems of production and consumption. The course will cover different levels of analysis from individuals and organizations; industries and whole economics and global systems. Illustrations will come from a variety of areas like food production and consumption, energy, mobility, from both the Global North and the Global South. The course is strongly based on readings and discussions. The course should give an introduction to topics that the students can further explore.

The course will be 7,5 credits. It will be structured around four modules

1. Conceptual foundations - Introduction to the course

The opening module will introduce the students to the basic economic concepts to be used throughout the course (for example, circular economy, sustainable and inclusive innovations). It will be divided into at least two sessions providing respectively an overview of the theoretical approaches to sustainable economic development.

2. Micro perspective – Responsible consumers and producers

How environmental and social sustainability influence the private sector: discussion on the challenges for business of incorporating social and environmental sustainability in their business activities. Students could learn about current practices regarding transformation of production systems, sustainable value chains and sustainability reporting. Students will also analyze different motivations for consumers to take in environmental and social issues when making consumer decisions. In addition, how environmental communication and marketing affects consumer behavior will be analyzed.

3. Meso perspective – Responsible industries, cities and communities

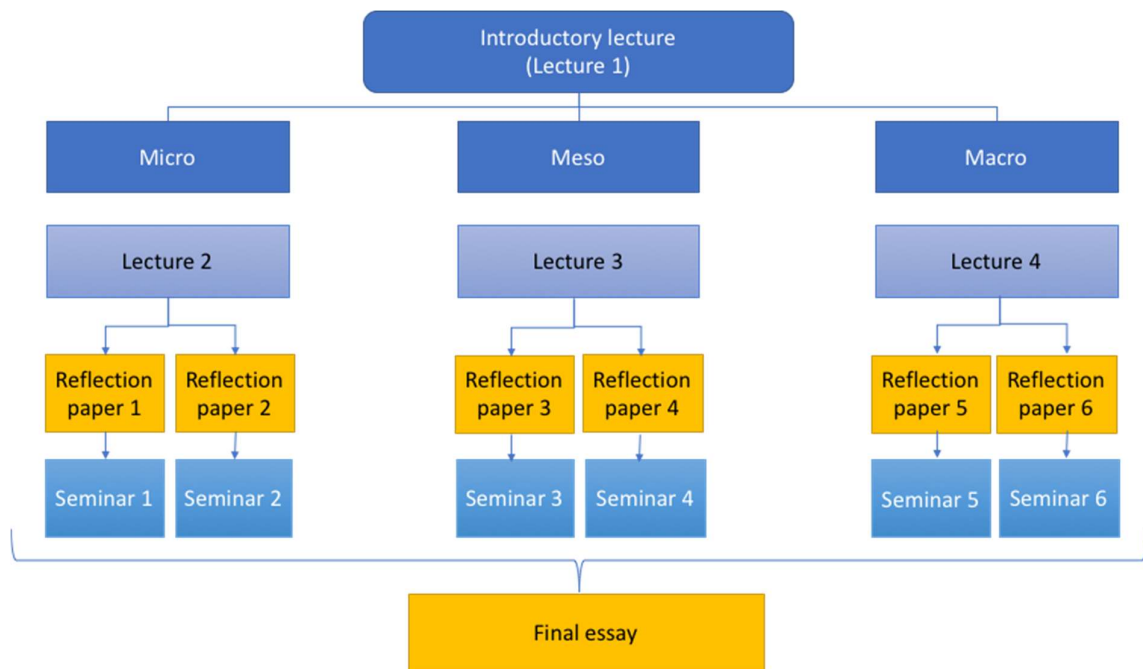
This module will introduce theories of transition to understand processes of industrial transformation towards sustainable futures. It will focus on transformations of particular socio-technical systems (energy, mobility, food) involving simultaneously changes in producers, consumers and the socio-technical and economic system in which they are embedded. The students will also be introduced 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. This module has strong overlaps with SDG11.

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

The final module of the course is based in the acknowledgement that production and consumption systems are highly globalized and that changes in one company, industry, region or country can have important implications globally. This last module focuses on understanding how trade and other global economic processes affect the possibilities of countries to address SDG12 through structural change. It introduces issues of global governance and institutional innovations affecting global production and consumption.

The course will be organized around lectures, seminars and readings. A reflection paper revolving around some pre-highlighted questions will be handed in by the students before each seminar session.



Lecture plan: Module 1

Week 45 – Lecture 1: Introduction

7th November, 9-12, Room EC1:138

Week 45 – Lecture 2: Responsible consumers and producers

8th November, 10-12, Room EC1:131

Week 46 – Seminar 1: Responsible consumers and producers

15th November, 10-12, Room EC1: 136

Week 47 – Seminar 2: Responsible consumers and producers

22nd November. 10-12, Room EC2:063

Week 48 – Lecture 3. Responsible industries, cities and communities

25th November – 10-12, Room EC1:138

Week 48 – Seminar 3. Responsible industries, cities and communities

29th November , 10-12, Room EC1:135

Week 48 – Seminar 4. Responsible industries, cities and communities

5th December, 10-12, Room Alfa1:1010

Week 49 – Lecture 4. Responsible consumption and production in a globalized world

6th December, 10-12, Room Alfa1:1010

Week 50 – Seminar 5. Responsible consumption and production in a globalized world

13th December, 10-12, Room Alfa1:1010

Week 51 – Seminar 6. Responsible consumption and production in a globalized world

18th December, 10-12, Room Alfa1:1010