

PGDIP / MPHIL (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)

MODULE DATES AND DEADLINES 2022

| Block dates | Module/Event | Module code | Due date: Individual assignment | Due date: Journal article 871 modules |
|----------------------|--|------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 09 - 11 February | Orientation (only for new PGDip (Sust Dev) students) | | | |
| 14 - 25 February | Sustainable Development I (only for PGDip (Sust Dev) students) | 58718 771 | 11 April | |
| 07 - 12 March | Sustainable Development II (for students registered in any programme/exchange at SU except PGDip (Sust Dev)) | 58718 771/871 | 25 April | 09 May |
| 14 - 19 March | Complexity Theory and Systems Thinking | 11190 772 | 03 May | |
| 28 March - 2 Apr | Renewable Energy Policy | 11651 771/871 | 16 May | 30 June |
| 04 - 06 April | Mphil Research Dissemination (teaching and learning) | 11273 871 | TBA | |
| 09 - 14 May | Corporate Governance and Sustainable Enterprise | 13700 774 | 27 June | |
| 16 - 21 May | Globalisation, Governance and Development | 13701 771 | 06 July | |
| 04 - 09 July | Sustainable Economic Policy Options | TBA | 22 August | |

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|------------------------|--|------------------|--------------|--|
| 18 - 23 July | Food System Transitions | 13359 771 | 29 August | |
| 25 - 30 July | Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services | 11490 772 | 12 September | |
| 01 - 06 August | Capita Selecta (TBC) | 13702 771 | 19 September | |
| 15 - 20 August | Sustainable Cities | 11199 775 | 03 October | |
| 22 - 27 August | Leading Transitions and Socio-Ecological Ethics | TBA | 10 October | |
| 05 - 10 September | Capita Selecta (African Spirituality) | 13702 771 | 24 October | |
| 31 August | MPhil thesis submission (December 2022 graduation) | | | |
| 30 September | MPhil 2023 application & concept note | | | |
| 31 October | MPhil thesis submission (March 2023 graduation) | | | |
| 07 - 11 Nov | MPhil Research Methodology (research workshop) | 51764 871 | | |
| 10, 11 Nov | MPhil Research Dissemination (colloquium) | 11273 871 | | |
| TBA | Celebratory lunch for all PGDip/MPhil (Sust Dev) students and faculty | | | |
| 31 January 2023 | Research Methodology tests completed (MPhil 2023 applicants) | | | |
| 7 February 2023 | MPhil proposal submission | | | |

| Modules offered by the Faculty of Engineering | | | | |
|---|---|-----------|------------|--|
| 28 Feb - 04 March | Renewable Energy Systems | 64890 714 | TBA | |
| 06 - 10 June | Bioenergy | 64904 744 | TBA | |
| Module offered by the School of Public Leadership | | | | |
| 15 - 19 August | Development Planning & Environmental Analysis | 55492 771 | 03 October | |

Updated: 6 December 2021

CST MODULE DESCRIPTIONS:

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The overarching aim of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services module is to highlight the interconnectedness between society and ecosystems and to explore concepts and tools to better engage with these social-ecological systems. The underlying premise in this module is that the economy is embedded within society, which in turn is embedded within ecosystems. This module will introduce a range of concepts that can be employed to better understand and govern these complex interactions. Firstly, the critical concept of social-ecological systems highlights the interconnectedness between society and nature. Secondly, ecosystem services, demonstrates nature's contribution to people, both positive and negative. Thirdly, regime shifts, explains the phenomenon of system transition beyond a tipping point. Fourthly, the concept of multidimensional equity goes beyond just income inequality to describe the dynamic relationships between society and nature. Finally, this module explores the governance of protected areas and sustainable use of natural resources. Although largely conceptual and theoretical, the module will highlight several examples of application that can be applied to the management and governance of social-ecological systems.

Complexity Theory and Systems Thinking

This module equips students to conceptualise, analyse and operationalise sustainability challenges as complex adaptive systems. Students will be offered a historical and philosophical overview of the development of the theoretical and conceptual foundations

of complex adaptive system perspectives. By understanding the dynamic features and behaviour of complex systems, the interlinked nature of social and natural systems in which sustainability interventions are to be implemented is highlighted. A complex adaptive systems worldview offers new ways of thinking about the relational nature of complex adaptive social-ecological systems and inspires new ways of being and doing, especially for scholars and practitioners that will be working in an African context. This basic introductory course is designed to provide course participants with the key conceptual tools that will be required to fully integrate all the different dimensions of sustainability that are addressed in the other modules.

Corporate Governance and Sustainable Enterprise

Global megatrends, from shifting social dynamics to climate change and resource constraints, are changing the business landscape and the way in which individuals and organisations engage in economic activities. Business actors, whether large corporations or individual professionals, face increasing pressure to contribute to a more sustainable future. In this context, new initiatives, collaborations and business models are emerging that challenge traditional logics of production and consumptions. This module investigates how businesses and individuals respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by global challenges. With special emphasis on developing country contexts, particularly South Africa, we map the way in which change unfolds in theory and in practice. Going from an institutional level to an individual level of analysis, we explore a range of approaches and initiatives. We discuss how they emerge, how they are implemented, the challenges they face and opportunities they provide. An overarching question is: what role can individuals and

Food System Transitions

This module explores the activities and initiatives of the hundreds of thousands of individuals across the world who are working to transform the food system. These people and groups are all part of what has been called a 'growing countertrend' that has emerged to directly challenge the failures of the current food system. This 'alternative food movement' is diverse although not united, and consists of, among others, organic food, veganism and vegetarianism, slow food and fair trade, local food, urban agriculture, food justice and food sovereignty. During the module, we will explore these alternatives and responses by engaging with theories of food systems, as well as food regimes, transitions and change. We will also look at the frameworks that have been proposed that attempt to categorise the emerging responses to assess if they help us to better understand the initiatives and their potential impacts. Across the spectrum, these food system alternatives are not without their challenges and critics. We will examine these challenges and tensions during the course, as well as suggestions for how this alternative food movement could be strengthened.

Globalisation, Governance, and Development

This course aims to provide course participants with an introductory understanding of the range of alternatives to the current global order that have started to emerge from a selection of literatures. Course participants will be required to identify the differences between these approaches and the implications for action by different actors committed to radical social change. By the end of

the course, participants will be able to understand and apply the global debates about alternatives to the current crisis-ridden global economic order. Perspectives all address key questions of our times: What comes next? What should come next? The former question is about looking for patterns that can be interpreted in ways that may help to anticipate what may be emerging; while the latter is a more normative endeavour to formulate alternatives usually from paradigmatic starting points (ecological, Marxist or reformist). Core themes will be interrogated using a lens of decoloniality and gendered power to include a) dimensions of the global economic crisis of 2008/9 and its current impacts; b) elements of an economics of public value: from neo-liberalism to heterodox economics; c) explorations of commons-based peer-to-peer production and consumption; d) and ideas around the rethinking of governance: collibration and the commons, developmental states and sustainability transitions.

Leading Transitions and Environmental Ethics

This module focuses on the challenges of ethical leading within a context of participating in socio-ecological transitions. It aims to enable participants to reflect on their fundamental assumptions about transitions, socio-ecological ethics, leading, authority, authorship, notions of self, agency, activism, transgressive change, and our core relationship with nature. Exercising leadership is often a demanding, gruelling and risky endeavour, because it means being vulnerable, gentle and open to scrutiny. Questioning deeply a westernised notion of self and agency, an intensive experiential approach is followed that focuses on narrative and story, creating space for ensouling learning, and aims to shifting assumptions that may well profoundly affect the way we understand and address what is significant, beautiful and sacred in processes of transition. We aim to hold space for the unexpected and unpredictable, for quiet grace, and a sense of artistic pleasure in re-imagining activism.

Renewable Energy Policy

Many countries across the global south has set ambitious targets to achieve various outcomes that address, amongst others, energy security, climate change and socio-economic development. Realising these commitments will require significant policy interventions to potentially these developing countries towards a low-carbon economy that supports inclusive economic growth. The rise of renewable energy has the potential to disrupt and transform the country's political economy. This course will focus on key renewable energy policies within the power sector and investigate their potential contribution to a just transition towards sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The course will consider various policies that span a variety of scales and configurations of renewable energy, from utility-scale to municipal scale policies, to off-grid and grid-connected decentralised systems.

Research Dissemination (MPhil only)

The impact of academic research often depends on researchers' ability to communicate their findings in an effective and accessible way to an intended audience. This audience can be other scientists, the general public, a specific community, or even policy makers. Each audience tends to require a different style of engagement and is best reached using different means or "communication channels". Whereas communication towards an academic community may be best achieved through peer-reviewed journals or

conference participation, communication towards non-academic audiences may be best achieved through newspaper articles, policy briefs, talks, or audio-visual documentaries. Understanding how to engage adequately with an intended audience can enhance the reach of academic research, support innovation, inform policy decisions, promote community action, and contribute to specific projects that benefit society. The aim of the module is to equip students with an understanding and the means to effectively communicate their research results to an intended audience, either academic and/or non-academic. Building on the significant communication knowledge available within the Centre for Sustainability Transitions (CST) and beyond, we explore the range of communication options available to students and discuss the specific requirements and implications of these options. We examine how to design an appropriate dissemination strategy and the best way to implement it. We also discuss collaboration opportunities and examine ways of collaborating with peers and other researchers. Taking the view that there is no "one-size-fits-all" when it comes to research dissemination, the module helps students explore how to leverage their own skills, strengths, and dispositions to share their research findings credibly, efficiently, and creatively.

Research Methodology (MPhil only)

The challenges and problems that are posed by sustainable development are complex and mean that innovative approaches are required to investigate these challenges and problems. This module equips students to undertake a comprehensive investigation of an identified challenge or problem following appropriate non-conventional research approaches. Sustainability issues cannot be solved with conventional research approaches and mono-disciplinary theories. This is a five-day course that is intended to develop students' knowledge on research in sustainable development and in research paradigms and methods that they will utilise for their Master's study. The course runs in November of the year prior to a student's registration in the MPhil (Sustainable Development) programme and the research proposal resulting from the course is submitted in January of the following year. On the first day, the students will be introduced to research overview and planning. The students will further be exposed with broad understanding of the theory of various research methodologies and approaches, and the usefulness of the different research methods for sustainable development. Specifically, the methodologies that will be explored are: qualitative, quantitative & simulation, grounded theory and transdisciplinary research. On the second day and part of third day, the students will present their research concepts that will then be finalised into a research proposal. Additional aspects of research process will be discussed on the third day including: how to undertake literature review, research proposal writing, and information on the available resources to utilise during their research journey. On the last two days, the students will participate in a colloquium/symposium where students that are currently completing their MPhil in Sustainable Development will present their work; thereby providing some insight into the challenges for undertaking Masters-level research.

Sustainable Cities

This module provides a comprehensive overview of the spectacular transformation of the world as it crosses the threshold of becoming a majority urban world for the first time in human history. The module delves into the differential dynamics of worldwide

urbanisation, with particular reference to the global South. It demonstrates that these large-scale shifts in human movement, economic development and expansion of the built environment hold deeply troubling implications for sustainability. As part of understanding this phenomenon in a more rigorous manner, the module explores state-of-the-art thinking on how best to respond to the ecological implications of differential urbanisation for resource consumption and use, with a strong focus on the implications for the majority of urban citizens who find themselves in slums and reliant on informalised economic and eco-system processes. The challenge of designing, building and operating more sustainable urban infrastructure systems is a particular focus of the course. The module draws on case studies whenever possible in order to surface the complexity of everyday life and the institutional frameworks and structures that reproduce cities.

Sustainable Development I & II

This course focuses on the rise to global prominence of the challenge of sustainability in general and sustainable development in particular. Public policy debates at the global levels of governance are increasingly focussing on the challenges posed by natural resource limits to the ways production and consumption are currently structured and managed within a world that is sharply divided between the rich (located mainly in the global North) and poor (located mainly in the global South). The adoption by the UN of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 marks a turning point in global world history because it is the first time that there has been a global commitment to eradicating poverty and doing this in a way that is ecologically sustainable. The Paris Agreement in December 2015 on the climate and the Habitat III Conference in Quito to adopt the New Urban Agenda consolidated the commitment to the SDGs. The challenge facing the world today is not just about the redistribution of resources to ensure greater levels of social equity, but also about how to reorganise the extraction, use and disposal of those resources in order to ensure longer term survival of the eco-systems that sustain all life. However, it is unlikely this will be achieved if the current world economic order remains intact. This epochal challenge raises key questions: How do we rethink the relationship between society and nature so that the development of the former is not at the expense of the latter? What are the implications of this new relationship for strategies to reduce inequalities, and, in particular, is poverty eradication possible without consumption reduction amongst the rich? What will the transition to a more sustainable global economy look like? Can capitalism be reformed or is an alternative system required? This course will address these questions.

Sustainable Economic Policy Options

The aim of this course is to provide course participants with an understanding of South Africa's political economy. This will entail an understanding of four dimensions of this endeavour:

1. the way South African economic history has been understood from a political economy perspective; the dynamics of post-1994 economic policy making and why the challenge of radical economic restructuring has not been adequately addressed;
3. the challenge of state capture and corruption in general from the perspective of the literature on neo-patrimonialism; and
- 4.

potential alternatives, including industrial policy, radical green economy developments, 'radical economic transformation' and Fanonist perspectives on resistance and change.