UCLouvain

lbir2050a

2026

Challenges of sustainable development and transition

3.00 credits	15.0 h + 7.5 h	Q1 or Q2

Teacher(s)	Delzenne Nathalie ;Swaen Valérie ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Learning outcomes	
Evaluation methods	Written exam (multiple-choice questions) administered in a classroom setting during the exam session. The same assessment format is used in the second session. PLEASE NOTE: This course is scheduled for Q1 (exam in January) in some programs and for Q2 (exam in June) in others. Carefully check which session you are scheduled to take the exam in.
Teaching methods	This course is taught entirely online via the course's Moodle platform. It is organized into six modules, consisting of videos, texts, and exercises, which students work through at their own pace. No in-person classes are scheduled. Academic support is provided through two synchronous sessions on Teams: · an introductory session at the beginning of the term to present the course structure and answer initial questions; · a question-and-answer session at the end of the term, before the assessment. This structure allows for flexible and self-directed progress throughout the term.
Content	What do the concepts of "sustainable development" and "transition" encompass? What are their origins? What are the social and environmental challenges of the 21st century? What options are available for transforming our lifestyles toward a form of development that better respects planetary boundaries? In this course, we address these questions from a scientific and academic perspective. By bringing in experts from various fields (law, philosophy, engineering, management, agronomy, economics, medicine, and more), this course invites you to develop in-depth knowledge of the challenges of sustainable development and transition, to understand the conflicting perspectives that fuel the debate, and to cultivate the critical perspective needed to put these points of tension into context. We believe the interdisciplinary approach adopted in this course is essential for gaining a comprehensive understanding of the challenges of sustainable development. Each discipline offers a distinct perspective on social and environmental issues and their causes, and then opens the door to specific courses of action and solutions. It is by fostering dialogue among these different disciplines that we can advance knowledge and society toward a more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future. Thus, the added value of this course lies in the connections you will be able to make between the various topics covered. There is a wealth of knowledge on sustainable development issues, and it is constantly evolving. This course does not claim to provide a comprehensive overview, but it invites you to delve into the vast body of scientific research aimed at advancing society in these areas.
Inline resources	LBIR2050A course Moodle: https://moodle.uclouvain.be/course/view.php?id=10881
Other infos	*This course is taught in French. Please consult the French version of the course description.*
Faculty or entity in charge	AGRO

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Bachelor in Human and Social Sciences	HUSO1BA	3		
Master [120] in Biomedicine	SBIM2M	3		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: German, Dutch and English	GERM1BA	3		
Bachelor in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures	LAFR1BA	3		
Master [60] in Biomedicine	SBIM2M1	3		
Advanced Master in Brewing Engineering	BRAS2MC	3		
Master [120] in Public Health	ESP2M	3		
Master [120] in Chemistry and Bioindustries	BIRC2M	3		
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology	SOCA1BA	3		
Bachelor in Economics and Management	ECGE1BA	3		
Bachelor in Political Sciences: General	SPOL1BA	3		
Master [120] in Agricultural Bioengineering	BIRA2M	3		
Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General	ROM1BA	3		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures : General	ROGE1BA	3		
Advanced Master in Water-Energy-Food Nexus	NEEA2MC	3		
Bachelor in Biology, Anthropology and Archaeology	BABA1BA	3		