

# Syllabus

## *Kursbeschreibung*

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| <b>Titel der Lehrveranstaltung</b>                  | Ökonomie des Klimawandels                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Code der Lehrveranstaltung</b>                   | 27360                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Zusätzlicher Titel der Lehrveranstaltung</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Wissenschaftlich-disziplinärer Bereich</b>       | ECON-02/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Sprache</b>                                      | Englisch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Studiengang</b>                                  | Bachelor in Wirtschaftswissenschaften und Betriebsführung                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Andere Studiengänge (gem. Lehrveranstaltung)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Dozenten/Dozentinnen</b>                         | Prof. Laura Grigolon,<br>Laura.Grigolon@unibz.it<br><a href="https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/54137">https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/54137</a>                                            |
| <b>Wissensch. Mitarbeiter/Mitarbeiterin</b>         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Semester</b>                                     | Zweites Semester                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Studienjahr/e</b>                                | optional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>KP</b>                                           | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Vorlesungsstunden</b>                            | 36                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Laboratoriumsstunden</b>                         | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Stunden für individuelles Studium</b>            | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Vorgesehene Sprechzeiten</b>                     | 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Inhaltsangabe</b>                                | <p>The course introduces students to the economic theory and instruments of climate policy.</p> <p>Core topics include the science of climate change, integrated assessment models, the social cost of carbon, and economic policy tools for mitigation and behavioral change.</p> |

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|                                           | <p>Students learn to apply economic theory to evaluate climate policies, critically assess data and models, and understand behavioral biases in decision-making.</p> <p>The course combines analytical frameworks with empirical evidence and case studies to equip students with practical skills for climate policy analysis.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Themen der Lehrveranstaltung</b>       | <p>This course provides an introduction to the economics of climate change, combining economic theory with empirical evidence and practical policy analysis. Students first build the analytical foundations: understanding why markets fail when pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions impose costs on society, and how economists measure both the value of a clean environment and the damages of a warming planet. The course introduces methods for valuing non-market environmental goods, approaches for estimating the health and economic effects of air pollution, and the central concept of the social cost of carbon — the price economists place on one additional ton of CO<sub>2</sub> and a crucial input into climate policy.</p> <p>The second part of the course turns to mitigation and policy solutions. Students examine the economic logic behind the main climate policy instruments — corrective taxes, subsidies, emissions trading systems such as the EU ETS, and renewable-energy and clean-electricity standards — and learn to weigh their costs, benefits, and trade-offs. Because the power sector is central to decarbonization, special attention is given to how electricity markets function, how carbon pricing reshapes them, and how market structure and competition affect the success of climate policy. Throughout, students apply economic reasoning to real-world data and case studies, developing the skills to critically evaluate the climate and energy policies shaping our future.</p> |
| <b>Stichwörter</b>                        | Climate Policy; Environmental Economics; Mitigation and Adaptation; Carbon Pricing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Empfohlene Voraussetzungen</b>         | Statistics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Propädeutische Lehrveranstaltungen</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Unterrichtsform</b>                    | The course is taught through a combination of lectures, in-class                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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|                                                               | <p>discussions, and applied exercises. While lectures provide the theoretical and empirical foundations of climate economics, students are actively involved in discussing assigned case studies, research papers, and newspaper articles. Hands-on data exercises give students the opportunity to work with real environmental and energy data using statistical software (R), and optional practice problem sets, with solutions provided, help students consolidate the analytical tools introduced in class and prepare for the final exam. In-class simulations, such as a carbon-market trading game, allow students to experience first-hand how climate policy instruments work in practice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Anwesenheitspflicht</b>                                    | Not compulsory but recommended                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Spezifische Bildungsziele und erwartete Lernergebnisse</b> | <p>ILO 1 Knowledge and understanding</p> <p>ILO 1.1 Knowledge of the economic theory of demand and supply of goods and services, equilibrium and price formation mechanisms in the market economy</p> <p>ILO 1.2 Knowledge of the fundamentals of political-economic action and collective decision-making</p> <p>ILO 1.3 Understanding the role and management of public goods, the role of institutions and information</p> <p>ILO 1.4 Understanding the impact of economic policies in specific sectors and the role of research, development and innovation</p> <p>ILO 1.5 Understanding the management of finite resources and principles of sustainability</p> <p>ILO 2 Ability to apply knowledge and understanding</p> <p>ILO 2.1 Be able to assess the role of governments and the need for political economy interventions in market economies</p> <p>ILO 2.2 be able to formulate economic policy objectives and evaluate their outcomes and use available information to assess the appropriateness of monetary and fiscal policies in relation to macroeconomic variables</p> <p>ILO 2.3 be able to analyse economic activity in terms of sustainability</p> <p>ILO 3 Making judgements</p> <p>ILO 3.1 recognise the main problems in complex decision-making situations</p> <p>ILO 3.2 critically analyse the facts and the situations to be dealt</p> |

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|                                                                                           | <p>with</p> <p>ILO 4 Learning skills</p> <p>ILO 4.1 Obtain information to update the constantly changing general and specific context of reference</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Spezifisches Bildungsziel und erwartete Lernergebnisse (zusätzliche Informationen)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Art der Prüfung</b>                                                                    | <p>For attending students, grading is based entirely on a final written exam (100%) consisting of open questions that cover all course material. Non-attending students are assessed through the same final written exam (100%), also covering all course material. The exam consists of open questions requiring students to explain core concepts, apply them to policy-relevant problems, and develop well-reasoned arguments. This format ensures the evaluation of students' knowledge and understanding of core economic concepts in climate and environmental economics (ILO 1), their ability to apply these concepts to policy-relevant questions (ILO 2), and their capacity for critical analysis and sound judgement (ILO 3).</p>                                                                                                   |
| <b>Bewertungskriterien</b>                                                                | <p>The written exam evaluates students on their ability to demonstrate a clear understanding of core concepts in the economics of climate change and to apply these concepts to concrete policy questions. Answers are assessed based on the accuracy of economic reasoning, the ability to integrate scientific and empirical evidence, and the clarity and coherence of argumentation.</p> <p>The exam contributes to the following Intended Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>ILO 1 – Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p>The exam assesses students' knowledge of fundamental economic principles, including market mechanisms, political-economic decision-making, public goods, institutional frameworks, and sustainability. Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of how economic policies operate within different sectors.</p> |

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|                                 | <p><b>ILO 2 – Ability to Apply Knowledge and Understanding</b></p> <p>Students are required to apply theoretical concepts to concrete economic and policy contexts. This includes assessing the role of governments in addressing market failures, formulating and evaluating economic policy objectives, and analysing economic activity from a sustainability perspective.</p> <p><b>ILO 3 – Making Judgements</b></p> <p>The exam evaluates students' ability to identify and structure complex economic problems, critically assess alternative policy approaches, and develop well-founded arguments supported by appropriate evidence.</p> <p><b>ILO 4 – Learning Skills</b></p> <p>Students demonstrate their ability to independently draw on relevant theoretical and empirical knowledge, integrate information from different sources such as academic papers and newspaper articles, and apply it to evolving economic challenges.</p> |
| <b>Pflichtliteratur</b>         | <p>Lecture slides and materials provided by the instructor are the primary reference for the course and the exam.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Weiterführende Literatur</b> | <p>The slides are complemented by selected journal articles, policy reports, and newspaper articles distributed during the course. As accessible background on the economics of climate change, students can read the following overview articles (<i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i>, Vol. 32, No. 4, 2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hsiang, S. &amp; Kopp, R. E. (2018). "An Economist's Guide to Climate Change Science," pp. 3–32.</li> <li>• Auffhammer, M. (2018). "Quantifying Economic Damages from Climate Change," pp. 33–52.</li> <li>• Gillingham, K. &amp; Stock, J. H. (2018). "The Cost of Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions," pp. 53–72.</li> </ul> <p>These are complemented by selected journal articles, policy reports, and newspaper articles distributed during the course.</p>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Weitere Informationen</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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| Ziele für nachhaltige<br>Entwicklung (SDGs) | Maßnahmen zum Klimaschutz |
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