



The Limits to Growth: Sustainability and the Circular Economy

Lecture 0: Organization

Prof. Dr. Benjamin Leiding M.A. Theresa Sommer





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- Updated versions of these slides will be available in our <u>Github repository</u>.





Team



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Research Group

- Emerging Technologies for the Circular Economy → ETCE
- Research focus:
 - Intersection of IT and sustainability
 - Circular Economy
 - Self-organized, decentralized and distributed systems
 - Machine-to-Everything Economy (M2X Economy)
- Other courses:
 - Emerging Technologies for the Circular Economy (SS M.Sc.)
 - IoT and Digitalization for Circular Economy (SS M.Sc.)

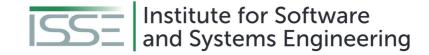




Research Group

- ETCE Website Link
 - Course material
 - Theses/project topics
- Our research in action:
 - ZDF documentary (German) Link
 - Klartext Preis 2020 (German) Link





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You want join us? Write us an email!

→ benjamin.leiding@tu-clausthal.de





Course Content

- Basics of climate change, environmental pollution, and dwindling non-renewable resources
- Introduction to the circular economy, sustainability, and related concepts (biocapacity, etc.)
- Sustainability goals
- Feedback loops and tipping points
- Implications of closed systems with a finite supply of resources
- Technology-focused and technology-critical approaches towards sustainability
- Circular Societies





Learning Outcome

- Understanding the concept of a circular economy, sustainability, and related concepts (biocapacity, etc.).
- Gain a basic understanding of causes, dimensions, and the characterization of climate change, environmental pollution, and dwindling non-renewable resources.
- Being able to make high-level, transdisciplinary assessments of decisions and measures in a social, economic, and political context.
- The ability to critically assess upcoming technological solutions enabling/facilitating sustainability and the circular economy.





Lecture Plan

- 19.04.2023 → Organization (L00) + Introduction (L01)
- 26.04.2023 → Challenges I: Climate Change (L02)
- 03.05.2023 → Challenges II: Pollution and Natural Resources (L03)
- 10.05.2023 → Sustainability and Political (In-)Action (L04)
- 17.05.2023 → Limits to Growth and Planetary Boundaries (L05)
- 24.05.2023 → From Cradle to the Grave: (Over-) Consumption, Environmental Impacts and the Life Cycle of Products (L06)
- 31.05.2023 → Circular Economy (L07)
- 07.06.2023 → Beyond the Circular Economy (L08)
- 14.06.2023 → Towards a Circular Society (L09)
- 21.06.2023 → Technologies And What They Can (Not) Do (L10)
- 28.06.2023 → Critical Thinking and Sustainable Everyday Practices (L11)
- 05.07.2023 → Invited Lecture (L11)
- 12.07.2023 → Invited Lecture (L12)
- 19.07.2023 → Now What? (L13)
- 02.08.2023 → Exam Q&A



Course Organization

- Course website Link
- News and updates:
 - Everyone: Please join the public Matrix room by using the following link:
 https://matrix.to/#/#public--LTG-Course-SS23:matrix.org
 - We will share news and updates here and you will also have the chance to ask questions to us and your fellow students.
 - CLZ students + DigiTec will additionally receive information via StudIP (Link)
- Slides and lecture recordings will be uploaded to StudIP (Link) and to Github (Link)
 - Please report bugs ;)
- Questions? Write us an email: <u>etce-ltg@tu-clausthal.de</u> ← We will <u>only</u> respond to emails written to this specific email address!





Course Organization - Asynchronous Learning & MOOC content

- Massive Open Online Course
 - Remote and (often) asynchronous online courses not just for students enrolled in a specific university, but ideally open for everybody
 - Usually consist of pre-recorded lectures, interactive content and online quizzes
 - Some of you might have visited MOOC on platforms such as edX, LinkedIn Learning, Coursera, Udacity, etc. before
- We are currently developing a MOOC for the Limits to Growth Lecture
- This semester will be the first test run for this asynchronous and digital learning content
 - We are very happy about any feedback you can give us to improve the course further! Just write us an email: etce-ltg@tu-clausthal.de





Course Organization - Asynchronous Learning

- This semester we will include asynchronous learning for two of the lectures (L10 and L11)
 - Consisting of short pre-recorded videos and interactive content
- We will announce further information about these two sessions during the semester

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 $31.05.2023 \rightarrow Circular Economy (L07)$

07.06.2023 → Beyond the Circular Economy (L08)

14.06.2023 → Towards a Circular Society (L09)

21.06.2023 → Technologies And What They Can (Not) Do (L10)

28.06.2023 → Critical Thinking and Sustainable Everyday

Practices (L11)

Practices (L11)

 $05.07.2023 \rightarrow Invited Lecture (L12)$

12.07.2023 → Invited Lecture (L13)

19.07.2023 → Now What? (L14)

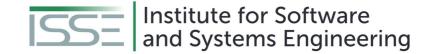
not be live lectures. Instead, you will find prerecorded videos and other content on our website.



Dates/Times/Locations

- Lecture:
 - Wednesday **2.15 pm to 3.45 pm** (Berlin time) **19.04.2023** to **19.07**.2023
 - Location: Goslar Gotec (Am Stollen 19 C, 38640 Goslar, Germany) or via BigBlueButton (Link)
- Exercise / O&A:
 - Wednesday 4 pm to 5 pm (Berlin time) 19.04.2023 to 19.07.2023
 - Location: Goslar Gotec (Am Stollen 19 C, 38640 Goslar, Germany) or via BigBlueButton (Link)





Exercises

- Individual work → no group submissions
- Submission of each exercise is mandatory
- You pass by submitting an exercise even if it is an empty page
- You will receive feedback on your submission
- Exercise = learning feedback

All exercises should be submitted through the Academic Cloud under the following link: https://sync.academiccloud.de/index.php/s/MW3wY8uOVJbTrei

- We do not accept email submissions, please use the file drop link to upload your submissions.
- Important: Always include your full name, your student email address and your student ID, so that we can track your submission.





Examination -

- Prerequisite for admission to the final exam (all criteria have to be fulfilled):
 - Submit all exercises
- Final exam:
 - No Specific date yet
 - Either written exam (120min) or oral examination (20-25min)
 - More Information in the next weeks





Self-Study Star

 Slides with the self-study star indicate optional/additional study material that is not mandatory but could be helpful or interesting



Literature

- This course is not based on a single book and you do not need to buy a book to pass the exam.
- Donella H. Meadows, Jorgen Randers, and Dennis L. Meadows. *The Limits to Growth* (1972).
- Donella H. Meadows, Jorgen Randers, and Dennis L. Meadows. Limits To Growth: The 30-Year Update (2004).
- Baccini et al. Metabolism of the Anthroposphere: Analysis, Evaluation, Design (2012).
- Walter R. Stahel. The Circular Economy: A User's Guide (2019).
- XR. This is not a Drill (2019)
- W. Brian Arthur. The Nature of Technology: What It Is and How it Evolves (2011).
- David Wallace-Wells. The Uninhabitable Earth, Annotated Edition (2017).
- James Lawrence Powell. The 2084 Report: An Oral History of the Great Warming (2020).
- Rutger Bregman. Utopia for Realists (2017).





Literature

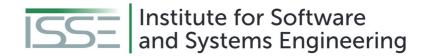
- (German) Stefan Rahmstorf, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber. *Der Klimawandel* (2019).
- David Archer, Stefan Rahmstorf. The Climate Crisis (2010).
- Gabrielle Walker, David King. The Hot Topic: How to Tackle Global Warming and Still Keep the Lights on (2008).



Further Resources

- Climate University Teaching and learning for a sustainable future <u>Link</u>
- Circular Societies (German) Link
- Server Infrastructure for a Global Rebellion Link
- Podcasts:
 - Drilled (Link)
 - How to Save a Planet (Link)
 - 1,5 Grad der Klima-Podcast mit Luisa Neubauer (German) (Link)





Questions?