



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

Religion and Sustainable Development

Course Code	G_BATRSAL038
Credits	6
Period	P2
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Religion and Theology
Course Coordinator	dr. J.J. Hasselaar
Examiner	dr. J.J. Hasselaar
Teaching Staff	dr. J.J. Hasselaar
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Lecture

Course Objective

After finishing this course, the student:

- has acquired basic understanding of the multifaceted intersections between religion and SDG-related societal, political and economic issues;
- is able to analyze a basic interaction between religion, theology, academic disciplines and societal actors in order to develop a deeper understanding of and better (practical) responses to SDGs;
- has acquired and has demonstrated, in working groups, writing and presenting, basic academic skills, such as asking proper academic questions, critically appraising information, and effectively presenting data and academic arguments;
- has become through dialogic education more aware of the assumptions she or he lives by when it comes to the relation religion and sustainable development.

Course Content

This course introduces the topic of religion and sustainable development. Since 2015 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become the umbrella to address key challenges of our times, for example climate change, poverty, inequality, health and migration. In many of these challenges religion plays, or can play, a significant role, e.g. health care in Africa, the worldviews people live by or concepts of hope thematized in religious traditions. This course explores this kind of interactions between religion and SDGs. The SDGs are categorized in the sub-themes planet, people, prosperity and partnership. Special attention is given to religion and planet. The course is interdisciplinary and societal partners are involved, e.g. religious grassroots communities, faith-based organisations, religious institutions, businesses and governments.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

The course exists of lectures (3 hours a week) and working groups (3 hours a week). The student is allowed to miss one class with reason, further attendance is compulsory.

Method of Assessment

The assessment will consist of:

1. Dialogical learning: Participation in (online) classroom and preparation through pre-class online submission of questions evaluated on consistency of submission and quality (35%)
2. At the beginning of the course a selected number of about 4

assignments are presented. These assignments in the field of religion and sustainability are developed in interaction with involved parties like religions, faith-based organization, companies and cities. The assignments expressed in an academic paper/report are presented and formally submitted after corrections based on the judgement by party involved and university teacher. The interaction with the parties and the executive summary of the report (community service learning) is 30% of the overall assessment. The academic aspect, the paper is 35% of the assessment.

Literature

Articles and capita selecta (to be announced on Canvas)

Additional Information Target Audience

This course is designed for all bachelors students at the Vrije

Universiteit and beyond. The course is part of the minor Religious Dimensions of Global Challenges.

The experience shows that also MA students are willing to join.

All students are welcome in this course.