Courses in English
Course Description

Department	11 Applied Social Sciences
Course title	Philosophical Perspectives on Sustainability, Health, and Education
Course number	8106
Hours per week (SWS)	3 (2 in English - 1 in German)
Number of ECTS credits	5
Course objective	As a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) course, this seminar explores philosophical perspectives on sustainability, health, and education in the context of global societal transformation. Bringing together master's students from Germany and India, the course creates an intercultural learning environment in which participants critically examine normative foundations, ethical challenges, and competing conceptions of human flourishing, social justice, and sustainable development. The seminar addresses key philosophical traditions and contemporary debates from both European and Indian contexts. Students engage with questions such as: What constitutes a good and sustainable life? How should health be understood beyond biomedical models? What role does education play in enabling individual agency and societal transformation? How can research and ethical reflection contribute to addressing global challenges such as climate change, social inequality, public health crises, and educational disparities? Through collaborative online learning, students work in international teams to compare cultural, philosophical, and policy perspectives on sustainability, health, and education. The course emphasizes dialogue, critical reflection, and the co-creation of knowledge across diverse social and cultural contexts. By integrating theoretical inquiry with contemporary case studies from Germany and India, participants develop a nuanced understanding of how philosophical concepts shape responses to complex societal challenges. **Learning Objectives:** Upon successful completion of the seminar, students will be able to: critically analyze philosophical theories and concepts related to sustainability, health, and education; compare European and Indian philosophical perspectives on societal transformation and human well-being; evaluate ethical dimensions of contemporary global challenges and public policies; reflect on the cultural and normative assumptions underlying different approaches to sustainability and social change; collaborate effectively in international and interdisciplinary teams using digital communication tools; develop and present joint research-based projects addressing sustainability, health, or education from a comparative perspective.
Prerequisites	Willingness to actively take part in collaborative (online) projects in international teams - everybody welcome!
Recommended reading	t.b.a. in the first session of the course
Teaching methods	Interactive online lectures and seminars, International small-group discussions, Collaborative online projects, Comparative case-study analyses, Peer feedback and intercultural reflection activities, Student-led presentations
Assessment methods	Active continuous participation in intercultural learning activities, Group project developed in German–Indian teams, Short oral presentation of project results, Final written paper (Graded Assessment)
Language of instruction	English (2 hours per week); German (1 hour per week)
Name of lecturer	Prof. Dr. Katja Stoppenbrink (HM) & Prof. Sonny Jose Ph.D. (Loyola College of Social Sciences, Kerala, Indien)
Email	katja.stoppenbrink@hm.edu; sonny.jose@gmail.com
Link	https://nine.hm.edu/Course/Details/6a09bc28-5a70-f111-922b-0050568f928d (to be completed)

Hochschule München University of Applied Sciences

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Course content	The seminar combines synchronous online sessions involving students and faculty from both partner institutions with asynchronous collaborative activities and introductory sessions in each language involving students at their respective home institution. Thematic units include: Philosophical Foundations of Sustainability, Concepts of Human Flourishing and Well-Being, Ethics of Medicine & Public Health, Mental Health, Education, Agency, and Social Transformation, Social (In)Equality, Global Justice, Inclusive Societies, Circular Economy, Climate Change, German and Indian Perspectives on Sustainable Futures, Intercultural Dialogue and Comparative Case Studies.
Remarks	The course is open to incoming international students enrolled at Hochschule München (HM).