



Module Title	Society and Environment
Code	MCCf323
Degree Programme	Master of Science – Circular Innovation and Sustainability
ECTS Credits	3
Workload	90 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 hours contact teaching • 15 hours group work • 45 hours self-study
Module Coordinator	Name: Dr. Dominic Blättler Phone: +41 (0) 31 910 22 50 Email: dominic.blaettler@bfh.ch Address: BFH – HAFL, Länggasse 85, 3052 Zollikofen
Lecturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Wilhelm; <i>anders kompetent GmbH</i> • Invited guest speakers
Entry Requirements	Prerequisite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A basic understanding of social and environmental concepts including human behaviour, stakeholders, institutions, and conflict linked to environmental topics. • A strong interest in current issues at the human/environment interface.
Competencies upon Completion	After completing the module, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with the core principles and approaches at the interface of the environment and society, and understand the importance of the interrelation between humans and their environment; • employ a range of related analyses tools e.g., stakeholder analysis, conflict analysis, techniques of behaviour change etc; • relate issues to policy interventions/governance measures (e.g., public and/vs private, democratic and/vs authoritarian etc); • express their own opinion, debate with others, moderate discussions and produce focused session proceedings.
Content	The overarching topic of the module is ‘society and the environment’, understood as a complex and dynamic process of human-environment interaction based on the inseparability of social and natural systems. The module thus focuses on aspects of global change, development and globalisation, social/environmental justice, individual responsibility and framework conditions, environmental governance and policy, as well as societal transformation towards sustainability and sustainable development. The Global Sustainable Development Report (2023) and the IPCC’s Assessments Reports (e.g., 2023) serve as a starting point for the module.

	<p>During this module, we will explore the following questions: Where do we stand regarding the environment, natural resources and their management? What are the challenges and where do we go from here? How are natural resources utilized, shared, by whom and how? What norms and values regulate resource access, use and distribution? What is needed to find meaningful ways forward and starting points for transformation?</p> <p>Guest speakers will link theory to practice by sharing professional experience from their fields of expertise.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations/Inputs (lecturers, guest speakers) • Plenary work • Group work • Case studies
Competency Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written assignment - individual task (80%) • Discussion summary/proceedings - group task (20%) <p>Students who receive an insufficient overall grade of 3.5, are given the opportunity to carry out a <i>subsequent improvement</i> of written assignments defined by the <i>Module Coordinator</i>. The maximum overall grade that can then be obtained is 4. This still counts as the same attempt.</p>
Mode of Repetition	<p>Should a student fail the module, they have one more attempt. They may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a new assignment (100%), defined by the <i>Module Coordinator</i>, for the next resit examination session. • Repeat the entire module next time it is offered.
Format	An entire block week of lessons
Attendance	80% of the sessions must be attended to validate the course.
Module Type	Compulsory
Timing of the Module	Autumn Semester - Winter-School, Calendar Week 07
Venue	Onsite Brückenstrasse 73, 3005 Bern
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations, 2023. Global Sustainable Development Report 2023: Times of Crisis, times of change. New York. Executive Summary. • Gardner GT, Stern PC, 2000. Environmental problems and human behavior. 2nd ed. Boston, MA: Pearson Custom Publ. • GTZ, n.d. Conflict Analysis. GTZ: FRCS. • Steg, L and Vlek C, 2009. Encouraging pro-environmental behaviour: An integrative review and research agenda. <i>Journal of environmental Psychology</i> 29.
Language	English
Links to Other Modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCCf243 Digitalization and Sustainability • MCCf313 Society and Technology
Last Update	February 2026