

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

EMPOWER - ENGAGE - EXCEED

Minimum/maximum number of students: 13/23

Academic year: 2023

Semester: 1 or 2 (tbc)

Period: February-April

Day(s): Twice a week (Mon, Wed)

Time: 18.00-20.30

14 meetings: (dates of the lectures)

Room: TBA - VU

Credits: 6

Hosting VU Faculty: Science

COURSE COORDINATOR

Ivar Maas: Lead Sustainable VU

Email: ivar.maas@vu.nl

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Empower. Engage. Exceed. The dual focus of this course will push for these three key elements and more in the next generation of climate leaders - backed with both the scientific knowledge on how to repair the climate with future-proof and sustainable methods, as well as a range of different perspectives on leadership styles and how to lead in the global fight against the deterioration of the climate.

This course will cover a wide range of information and ideas, and we hope students will remain motivated and insightful throughout, questioning both their own beliefs and the ideas of others.

COURSE COHESION

This course consists of 14 meetings in total, twice a week. The meetings will be held from 18:00 - 20.30, all at the VU, except for the excursion (if possible). Each week consists of one lecture which will provide theoretical knowledge, followed by the seminar during which the theory will be applied. Required preparations will be available under *modules* on Canvas.

PLANNING

WEEK	MODULE	CONTENT	LECTURER
1	Introduction: Lecture 1	What is Climate Leadership?	Ivar Maas

	Seminar 1	Self-Reflection and Discussion	
2	Lecture 2	Amsterdam Based Lecturer on climate repair	tbc
	Seminar 2	Climate Leadership on a Local Level	
3	Lecture 3	Ecological Factors	tbc
	Seminar 3	Climate Leadership on a wider level	
4	Lecture 4	Non-western views on climate	tbc
	Seminar 4	Class discussion/debate	
5	Assessment Week	No Class	Ivar Maas (Possibility for individual coaching)

6	Lecture 5	Future climate leadership & technology	tbc
	Seminar 5	Idea pitch on Climate Technology	
7	Excursion Week!	No Class	Ivar Maas
8	Assessment Week	Q&A Presentations	Ivar Maas

RELEVANCE

Students - both at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and elsewhere - have been calling for more courses centred on sustainability and climate change. With this course, we aim to teach not just a scientific course regarding means of repairing our climate, but a more holistic and interdisciplinary approach on leadership. Not just what it means to be a leader, but the scientific knowledge and understanding behind the current global crises, as well as the means of practically implementing climate leadership. This course is thus extremely relevant for the world we live in - pushing a new way of thinking and understanding the world around us and the power structures within will create a new type of student, one that is motivated about changing and repairing our world, with an additional intimate knowledge about leadership.

In addition to this, this course is incredibly relevant in a world where the norms of education are being challenged. This course will push new and unstandardized testing and assessment methods to encourage learning and motivation suited to a variety of learners and learning types

GUEST LECTURERS

Included are possible guest lecturers who could be approached to give a lecture on the topic of each week. Some have been contacted already, but to remain flexible and dynamic, there is room for more to be included.

Week 1: *Introduction in Climate Leadership - What is Climate Leadership?*

- Ivar Maas, Lead Sustainable VU. i.maas@vu.nl
- Edina Doci, Director VU Sustainability Leadership Hub, associate professor Management and Organisation. e.doci@vu.nl

Week 2: *Local Climate Leadership - What happens in Amsterdam?*

- Sapiens. <https://www.sapiensamsterdam.com/>
- Plastic Whale. <https://plasticwhale.com/>

Week 3: *Ecological factors - Climate impact regarding species, plants and earth*

- Matty Berg, Associate professor, Faculty of Science, Animal Ecology. m.p.berg@vu.nl

Week 4: *Non-Western Views on Climate - How do they do it in the global south?*

- Jorien Vonk, Associate professor, Faculty of Science, Earth and Climate. j.e.vonk@vu.nl

Week 6: *Future Climate Leadership & Technology - How to implement the future*

- Prof. dr. Mark van Vught, professor of Evolutionary Psychology, Work and Organisational Psychology. m.van.vught@vu.nl

Criteria:

Extraordinary researchers from different perspectives, who have either a background in leadership or climate repair tactics, who can provide a nuanced view on their area of expertise.

STUDY MATERIALS

Included is possible literature per week that could be used by the course coordinator.

Introduction in Climate Leadership - What is Climate Leadership?

https://books.google.com/books?hl=nl&lr=&id=AGKf6LWZl_EC&oi=fnd&pg=PT11&dq=sustainable+leadership&ots=-BQX46gutP&sig=Bb_f-ezA-bAQgv3NSC3LiG0MEts

Local Climate Leadership - What happens in Amsterdam?

<https://www.sapiensamsterdam.com/>
<https://plasticwhale.com/>

Ecological Factors - *Climate impact regarding species and plants*

[literature]

Non-Western Views on Climate - *How do they do it in the global south?*

[literature]

Future Climate Leadership & Technology -

[literature]

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The main goal of this course is to develop the students on climate leadership qualities and competencies, next to providing them with adequate and scientific-based knowledge.

Furthermore the course will focus on:

- Developing self-awareness through self-reflection
- Broadening scientific knowledge regarding climate crisis
- Developing climate leader competencies
- Being able to collaborate with others while creating a project
- Exploring creativeness combined with climate leadership

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Students will be evaluated through self-reflection (20%), a creative group project (70%) and participation in class (10%).

Self-reflection: Students will reflect on their values and beliefs regarding climate and leadership at the beginning of the course. At the end of the course they will reflect on the first self-reflection through a personal statement, which could be a paper (1500-2000 words), a video/podcast (minimum 15 min.) or something else, in consultation with the course coordinator.

Reflection learning has been described as being at the core of leadership development. By practising reflective methods, future leaders are given the competencies to be able to better handle crisis situations and solve complex problems (Densten & Gray, 2001).

Group project: Students will create a creative final project in groups of 3-4 people, where they will tackle a self chosen climate leadership problem in a creative manner.

Through problem-based learning students will learn competencies regarding problem solving. This approach will also help with the collaborative nature of the assignment (Hmelo-Silver, 2004)..

Student engagement: Students will also receive a grade for their in-class participation during seminars and lectures, which is evaluated through an active learning attitude, where questions are asked and discussions are enervating.

We have created a final project in which the student's autonomy is preserved, by working in their own, preferred ways on their own interests, which will increase student engagement (Furrer, 2014).

Criteria: self-reflection and awareness, creativity and collaborativeness.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

For the honours course Climate Leadership is no prior knowledge required. Therefore all first and second year honours students of the VU that study within the Faculty of Science are able to enrol.

Attendance at the lectures and seminars are mandatory. A maximum of 3 meetings can be missed when prior discussed with the course coordinator, as class participation will be graded as well.

STUDY LOAD

Honours course of 6 ECTS (6 x 28 hours = 168 hours):

		Hours	Total Hours
Engaging seminars		14 x 2.5	35
Preparation seminars			79
	Book Chapters	35	
	Scientific Papers	35	
	Video Material	3	
	Online Courses	6	
Assessment			54
	Self-reflection Paper	14	
	Final Project	40	
Total			168