

Welcome to LC-1121

Communicating Sustainable

Solutions!

Autumn 2023



Aalto University
Language Centre

Session 1

- **Learning outcomes**
- **Course content**
- **Assessment methods & criteria**
- **Getting to know your teams: PBL – what and why?**
- **PBL collaborative work using the FISH model**
- **Intro to the scenarios**
- **next week: How to work as a team/team member**

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Present, challenge and defend solutions in English to real-life sustainability issues faced by companies and organisations
- Organise spoken and written arguments clearly, cohesively and concisely
- Collaborate in interdisciplinary teams

course content

- learning to collaborate in interdisciplinary teams to find solutions to real-life sustainability issues faced by companies and organisations
- functioning as an expert on your particular area within the team and being responsible for researching the solution from that particular angle
- practising to structure arguments and counterarguments both in speaking and in writing
- analysing speeches and sample texts to identify strengths and weaknesses
- receiving and giving constructive feedback and reflecting on your own performance

Main Assignments

- 1. Group presentation on your team's solution to a sustainability-related problem**
- 2. Recommendation report on that same solution, with individually and jointly written sections.**

Assignment weightings

- **Course Assignments 40%**

- 1: Oral progress report & feedback/questions from peers (4%)

- 2: FISH document contributions (4 x 2%=8%)

- 3: Reflection on the process/collaboration (2 x 2%=4%)

- 4: Rehearsal presentation outline (4%)

- 5: Recommendation draft to peers (4%)

- 6: Video rehearsal (4%)

- 7: Peer feedback on rehearsal (4%)

- 8: Being an opponent (4%)

- 9: Self-evaluation of final presentation (4%)

- **Oral Assignment 30% (videoed/graded: individual/ group grade)**

- Final presentation

- **Written Assignment 30% (graded)**

- Recommendation report (individual part & intro and conclusion together)

How are we graded?

Grade	Points/100	
5	93-100	Excellent
4	85-92	Very good
3	76-84	Satisfactory
2	69-75	Weak
1	61-68	Poor

Getting to know your teams:

PBL – what and why?

- Get together with your team now!
- Introduce yourselves
- Share what you learned about PBL in the article assigned to your team/ know otherwise
- Collect your main points on a slide
- Introduce your team to the rest of us
- Briefly share (5-7 mins):
 - 1) what PBL means, 2) why we should use it on a course like this, 3) what to avoid in your collaboration

PBL collaborative work using the FISH model

- Every team will work on a different scenario using the FISH model:
 - 1) Focus
 - 2) Investigate
 - 3) (Discuss)
 - 4) Share
 - 5) (Reflect)

PBL collaborative work using the FISH model

- Read the scenario chosen by your team.

1) Focus

- How do you perceive the scenario and the reflections/questions that arise?
 - What do you see?
 - What do you already know?
 - Previous experiences etc.
- Formulate a specific 'research question' that your team will attempt to answer.

PBL collaborative work using the FISH model

2) Investigate

- Discuss ideas about where to go for answers to your question.
- Decide on how to proceed individually and as a group.
- Research the topic and investigate possible solutions
- Summarize your findings in the FISH document

PBL collaborative work using the FISH model

3) (Discuss)

- Incorporate what you have learned into your team discussion
- Synthesize information/ solutions using critical thinking
- Evaluate group process at the end of the discussion

PBL collaborative work using the FISH model

4) Share

- Discuss what you want to share with the other teams and how to present it
- Choose an appropriate format for presenting your work
- Share your presentation with the rest of our CSS group
- Discuss how can you provide feedback to the other groups?

PBL collaborative work using the FISH model

5) (Reflect)

- How did you experience your group work?

Feelings?

- What went well?
- What would you like to do differently in your work ahead?

PBL collaborative work using the FISH model

See MyCourses for the FISH model template!

The scenarios

- You will be assigned one of four sustainability-based scenarios, from which you will identify a specific problem/research question to focus on.
- You will work on this problem throughout the course and produce a final presentation and report on the topic

The scenarios (10 min)

Read through the scenario you have been assigned and discuss your initial thoughts.

If the topic doesn't interest you, can you think of another sustainability-based scenario that would better suit your interests?

Intro to the scenarios

- **Read the scenario assigned to your team again.**
 - 1) **Focus (30 mins):**
 - **How do you perceive the scenario; what reflections/questions arise?**
 - **What do you see?**
 - **What do you already know?**
 - **Previous experiences etc.**
 - **Formulate a specific ‘research question’ that your team will attempt to answer.**

A good research question

- **Narrow enough to be researchable by your team during the course**
- **Wide enough to provide enough material for each team member**
- **Interesting to every member of the team**

Remember!

Your question can focus on anything related in some way to the problem you have been assigned:

- it can concentrate on a certain aspect of it, or it can investigate the issue in wider terms.**

Contact details and PBL agreement (15 min)

- Create a joint Google drive for your team.
- Create a contact sheet for your team members and store it in your joint folder
- Decide on practical issues like when and how often to meet.

Coming up next week: How to work as a team & team member?

- **Sharing your lifeline/ what you will bring to the team**
- **Your team values & guidelines**
- **Team agreement/ Establishing the ground rules**
- **Key terms related to your problem**
- **Your research question**

Homework:

- **(individually) Lifeline exercise!**
- **(in your team) Focus:**
 - **How do you perceive the scenario; what reflections/questions arise?**
 - What do you see?
 - What do you already know?
 - Previous experiences etc.
 - **If you haven't done this already, formulate your 'research question'**
 - **Find some source material related to your problem. Write a list of at least 10 key terms that are related to your topic**