

# Welcome to the LC-1121 Communicating Sustainable Solutions Course!

Autumn 2022



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 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?

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points/100</b>	
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 in a course like this, 3) what to avoid in your collaboration



# 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**

# 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.**

# 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**
- **Read through the PBL agreement document, decide on practical issues like when and how often to meet. Add some points to the agreement**

# Homework:

- **Lifeline exercise!**
- **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**