Course description: Sustainability in Teaching (3 ECTS)

Organizer: Aalto university pedagogical training
Schedule: 22.9.2023-8.12.2023
Teachers: Meeri Karvinen, Erika Myllyniemi, Riikka Evans
Teaching language: English
Grade: Pass – Fail

The aim of this course is to support teachers and/or programme managers in finding meaningful approaches to sustainability and in developing their courses / programmes in regard to sustainability integration. The course is designed to provide teachers concrete tools for course/programme development.

The course content includes the following topics:
- Basics of sustainable development, SDGs and their role in higher education
- Key competencies for sustainability in education
- Linkages and relevance of sustainability for participants' specific field; identifying key areas of sustainability relevance
- Defining sustainability learning objectives for own course
- Teaching methods (concrete examples) for integrating sustainability into teaching
- Addressing value-laden topics in higher education
- Assessment of sustainability learning
- How to cope with student anxiety in regard to sustainability crisis

Intended learning outcomes for the course:
After completing this course, the participant will be able to
- understand the basics of the sustainability crisis, the concepts of sustainability/sustainable development and the sustainable development goals
(SDG), and relate them to one's own specific subject field
- identify and apply different approaches to integrate sustainability into teaching on course or programme level
- reflect on how key competencies for sustainability can be utilised in developing teaching in one's own subject field
- design and apply learning outcomes, learning activities and assessment methods for integration of sustainability relevant themes in teaching
- reflect on the role of values and emotions in teaching in relation to the sustainability crisis

Teaching and study methods used on this course: Dialogical teaching, written learning assignments, peer discussions, reflections tasks, activating small group exercises and working in the virtual learning environment (MyCourses).

Workload calculation:
1. Teaching sessions (on-site and online) 19 h
2. Independent work (in total) 62 h
> a) Pre-assignment 2 h
> b) Reading assignments & reflection 24 h
> c) Written assignments to be completed between sessions 30 h
> d) Discussion tasks & reflection between sessions 6 h

TOTAL 81 h (one credit is equivalent to 26,7 h workload) (~3 ECTS credits)

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