

<p><b>Universität Kassel/Witzenhausen</b></p> <p><b>Pre-announcement: Modul Political Agroecology – start Summer Term 2025</b></p> <p>For M.Sc. AGES, SIA, IFBC, ÖL</p>	<p>6 C 4 SWS</p>
<p><b>Learning outcome, core skills:</b></p> <p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will be introduced to the foundations of agroecology and the history of the concept and thinking on it</li> <li>• will be introduced to and discuss connections between agroecology and Ecological Economics, e.g. externalities, systems' perspective, circular economy, valuation, ecosystem services and nature's contribution to people, limits to growth, governance</li> <li>• will be introduced to alternative paradigms for orienting agricultural production and its organization, incl. empirical examples from different regions and countries (EU, MENA, Latin America, etc.) to illustrate the diversity of approaches and national contexts)</li> <li>• will be introduced to the political nature and social movement characteristics of agroecology</li> <li>• will be introduced to the normative positions of political agroecology in regard to governance, institutions and the role of farmers and other stakeholder groups in the food system and scrutinize underlying scientific evidence</li> <li>• will discuss the transformative potentials and needs of agroecology will consider relevance of agroecology and its political dimensions for particular social-ecological contexts</li> <li>• will consider relevant theories of transformation and transformative practices</li> <li>• will evaluate the current stage of policy making on agroecology in different social-ecological contexts and countries</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weekly lecture hours in total:</b></p> <p>Attendance time:</p> <p>60 h</p> <p>Self-study time: 120 h</p>
<p><b>Course:</b></p> <p><i>Contents:</i></p> <p>Agroecology is an alternative paradigm to currently dominating industrialized agriculture. It stands side by side with other more or less related paradigms such as regenerative agriculture, organic farming, climate smart agriculture, etc. However, it distinguishes itself particular for its openness on the political implications of transforming agricultural production and the food system. The course introduces the foundations of agroecology and connects it to ecological economics. Further, it spells out the normative aspirations of agroecology and their emphasis on questions of governance and institutions. It reviews corresponding scientific evidence and discusses its transferability and issues in upscaling agroecology. It discusses the role of policies for agroecology and the role of particular social-ecological and national contexts for agroecological policies and transformations. It assesses potentials and problems of an agroecological transition and transformation as well as it reflects on the relevance of the theme for agricultural transition.</p> <p>Methods: Lecture, seminar, group works, virtual and in presence stakeholder meetings and potentially short excursions, presentations, readings, presentations</p>	

<b>Examination:</b> Five literature discussions (700 words each) <i>or</i> term paper (3000 words) 50%; Oral presentation (student-led seminar) (20 minutes) 50%	
<b>Examination requirements:</b> submit 3 written literature discussions ex ante in-class discussions (700 words); submit a term paper on a predefined topic (3000 words) (50%), presentation (20 minutes - student-led seminar) 50%	

<b>Admission requirements:</b> n/a	<b>Recommended previous knowledge:</b> Food System Governance and Agriculture
<b>Language:</b> English	<b>Person responsible for module:</b> Prof. Dr. Andreas Thiel, N.N.
<b>Course frequency:</b> Annually, Summer term; Witzenhausen	<b>Duration:</b> 1 Semester
<b>Number of repeat examinations permitted:</b> twice	<b>Recommended semester:</b>
<b>Maximum number of students:</b> 20	

<b>Additional notes and regulations:</b>  <b>Literature:</b> Literature and seminar papers will be circulated to students at the beginning of term, González de Molina Navarro u. a., 2020. Political agroecology: Advancing the transition to sustainable food systems. Boca Raton: CRC Press <a href="https://www.routledge.com/Political-Agroecology-Advancing-the-Transition-to-Sustainable-Food-Systems/de-Molina-Petersen-Pena-Caporal/p/book/9781138369221">https://www.routledge.com/Political-Agroecology-Advancing-the-Transition-to-Sustainable-Food-Systems/de-Molina-Petersen-Pena-Caporal/p/book/9781138369221</a>
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