

SPM104 SPORTS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Home exam for fall semester 2022

Examination Guide

A brief overview of the course:

The primary objective of the online course is for students to gain knowledge about sustainability, with a focus on sports. The student should be able to apply this knowledge regardless of their role in sports organization, administration, business or education. The course will focus on social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainability. A central focus will be on the sustainability goals of the UN.

Learning objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe different views on sustainability and sustainable development from historical, ethical and organizational perspectives.
2. Explain the UN's sustainability goals and connect them to national and international sports.
3. Give an account of Norwegian and international environmental and climate goals and be able to reflect on the impact of sport on the environment.
4. Reflect on how Norwegian sport can be presented as sustainable in terms of social, economic, and environmental conditions
5. Discuss the benefits and challenges of concrete measures to make sports more sustainable.

The exam

- The duration of the exam is three weeks
- All aids are allowed.
- Word count: 4500.
 - The exam includes three assignments (PART 1, 2 and 3)
 - Each of the three assignments must be 1500 words long. Plus or minus 10% of the total word count is acceptable.
 - In addition, there is a reference list. All three assignments must have a common reference list at the end.
- The grades range from A-F.
- APA 7 style and reference guidelines are to be applied.
- All three assignments carry equal marks.
- The answers will be run through Urkund's plagiarism detection programme.
- We remind you that all pages in the six modules in Canvas should be regarded as recommended relevant learning resources in addition to the syllabus.

PART 1 – CLIMATE GOALS

Based on relevant sources and literature, discuss how national and international sports can contribute to that Norway and society around the world will achieve the intended climate goals. By drawing on the concept of planetary boundaries, put forward examples of how sports can have a negative impact on the environment.

Maximum 1500 words.

Relevant learning objectives:

- Give an account of Norwegian and international environmental and climate goals and be able to reflect on the impact of sport on the environment.

Examination Guide:

- A good answer will include a well informed explanation of planetary boundaries and the goals set for global warming.
- In extension to «planetary boundaries» students could also use Wedding Cake Model where the terms are used.
- A good answer brings forward several elements from module 3 / part A.
- In the last part of the assignment, it will be possible to mention travelling by airplanes or artificial turf. Other examples are possible.

PART 2 – SUSTAINABILITY PROCESS

In this assignment, take the perspective from a (sport) organization or an organizational unit of your choice. This assignment is twofold and you can decide how many words you want to write in each answer. But you must stay within the words limit of 1500.

- a) What are the opportunities and challenges when implementing measures that foster sustainable development in the organization?
- b) How can the organization profit from involving (existing and potential) stakeholders in the sustainability process.

Maximum 1500 words.

Relevant learning objectives:

- Discuss the benefits and challenges of concrete measures to play sports more sustainable.

Examination Guide:

- This is a complex question where the candidate first should explain the key terms of sustainable development and stakeholders.
- In a) it is open what the candidate wants to focus on. Possible directions are symbolic implementation through political legitimization processes (Module 4), or green / sports washing (Module 5)
- The student can draw on different topics and issues across the different dimensions and thereby several Modules and articles from the syllabus. Important is the reflection.
- In b) Students can draw on aspects from the course that point towards that issues of sustainability cannot be solved by individual actors alone. Cooperation among stakeholders can be included here. Throughout the course, many examples are provided on how sports organization work together with other actors in order to start with the sustainability process and/or implement measures that can foster sustainable development.
- In a very good answer, the student manages to see the importance of single stakeholders that are important to consider in order to work towards the achievement of the SDGs.

PART 3 – DIMENSIONS AND SPORTING EVENTS

There is quite some potential for sporting events to become more sustainable. Based on the three dimensions of sustainability (social, economical and environmental), discuss *why* and *how* sport event organizers could work with sustainability. Use at least one theoretical concept or model to answer this question.

Maximum 1500 words

Relevant learning objective:

- Reflect on how Norwegian sport can be presented as sustainable in terms of social, economic, and environmental conditions

Examination Guide:

- Sporting events are included in the course syllabus and in several Modules, especially in 5 and 6.
- Theoretical concepts or models could be circular economy or stakeholder theory, but also others.
- A good answer will differ from a less good answer by finding a suitable theoretical concept/model and building the argumentation on this concept/model.