

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Universität Kassel/Witzenhausen Module M.SIA.I16: Land use, ecosystem services, and human well-being	6 C 4 WLH
Learning outcome, core skills: This course will introduce students into the concepts of ecosystem services and human well-being, with a particular focus on their relevance for agriculture and other land uses. By writing and presenting a term paper, students will learn to perform a case study, to carry out a review of the literature, and to improve their scientific writing and presentation skills. The course aims to foster the ability of students to assume an interdisciplinary research perspective (including ecological, socio-cultural, and economic approaches) and to critically discuss and analyse the concept of ecosystem services in its multiple scientific, political and practical meanings.	Workload: Attendance time: 56 h Self-study time: 124 h
Course: Land use, ecosystem services, and human well-being (Lecture, Exercise, Seminar) <i>Contents:</i> Global environmental assessments (e.g., those of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) have highlighted that human well-being is critically dependent on ecosystem services – the benefits that nature provides to people. Depending on the particular land-use system and its social-ecological context, agriculture can either degrade or enhance such ecosystem services. This course gives an overview on the rising field of ecosystem services science. Focus will be on : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • techniques for decision support, • practical applications of the approach in agriculture and other land-use sectors, and • linkages to other sustainability issues (e.g., biodiversity, climate change, water security, poverty). These topics will be outlined in lectures and deepened in seminars, where key issues will be critically discussed.	4 WLH
Examination: Presentation (30 minutes, 50%) and Term paper (max. 20 pages, 50%) M.SIA.I16: Land use, ecosystem services, and human well-being Examination requirements: Presentation and critical analysis of a case study that takes a particular ecosystem services problem in a land-use setting and geographic location of the participants' choice into focus.	6 C
Admission requirements: none	Recommended previous knowledge: none
Language: English	Person responsible for module: Prof. Dr. Tobias Plieninger
Course frequency:	Duration:

each summer semester; Witzhausen	1 semester[s]
Number of repeat examinations permitted: twice	Recommended semester:
Maximum number of students: 25	
Additional notes and regulations: Literature: Potschin, M., Haines-Young, R., Fish, R. and Turner, R.K. (2016) Roundledge Handbook of Ecosystem Services. Routledge-Earthscan; London, New York.	