Zurich University of Applied Sciences
School of Management and Law

Valid from 2024.HS

Module description: Critical Thinking

Module Code	w.MA.XX.CTH.23HS
ECTS Credits	3
Language of Instruction/Examination	English
Module Description	The transition from a linear and conventional business model to a circular one will be prone to initial failures, and it therefore inherently involves risk-taking. To embrace change, a critical mindset is needed, in which every stakeholder along the value chain is able to deal with uncertainties and accept failures while being able to make decisions in keeping with their values and convictions. This module will enable students to hone their critical self-reflection skills and to challenge social and business conventions. This process will require empathy and emotional intelligence in addition to a wide range of cognitive competencies because an integral part of critical thinking goes beyond analytical skills and rational decision-making models. This module will also address the personal level in order to help students deal with inherent biases, ingrained patterns of thinking, values, and listening capabilities. Against this background, critical thinking will be applied towards the challenges of moving stakeholders from a linear to a circular mindset, and students will apply their skills in group projects to develop practical, hands-on solutions.
Organizational Unit	CCR Ltg.
Module Coordinator	Thorsten Busch
Deputy Module Coordinator	Adrian Burri
Program and Specialization	• Circular Economy Management
Legal Framework	Academic Regulations MSc in Circular Economy Management dated 02.06.2022, Appendix to the Academic Regulations for the degree program in Circular Economy Management, first adopted on 23.09.2022
Module Category	**Module Type** Compulsory
Prerequisite Knowledge	Analysis and decision-making principles and models; ethics in organizational behavior
Contribution to Program Learning Objectives (by the concerned Module)	• Professional Competence • Methodological Competence • Social Competence • Self-Competence
Contribution to Program Learning Objectives	**Professional Competence** • Knowing and Understanding Content of Theoretical and Practical Relevance • Apply, Analyze, and Synthesize Content of Theoretical and Practical Relevance • Evaluate Content of Theoretical and Practical Relevance **Methodological Competence** • Problem-Solving & Critical Thinking • Scientific Methodology • Work Methods, Techniques, and Procedures • Information Literacy • Creativity & Innovation **Social Competence** • Written Communication • Oral Communication • Teamwork & Conflict Management • Intercultural Insight & Ability to Change Perspective **Self-Competence** • Self-Management & Self-Reflection • Ethical & Social Responsibility • Learning & Change

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Module Learning Objectives	Students... • will be able to use and assess information critically. • will be enabled to make convincing arguments and critically assess fallacies when arguing a case. • will learn to recognize emotional, social, and cognitive biases. • will be able to reflect critically on their social and professional roles. • will make better decisions that consider a wide range of critical factors. • will use design thinking principles to develop critical and innovative products/processes.
Module Content	• Critical examination of the elements of thought • Analysis and decision-making models linking the objectives and principles of the circular economy to recommendations for organizations • Dealing with uncertainties and the fear of failure • Dealing with personal biases, habits, and values • Psychological barriers and roadblocks to the implementation of a circular economy • Design thinking and open innovation principles • Development of case-study based solutions
Links to other modules	This module is linked to the following modules:
Digital Learning Resources	• Teaching Videos • Teaching Materials
Methods of Instruction	• Interactive Instruction • Case Studies • Problem-Oriented Teaching • Project Work • Lecture • Exercises Social Settings Used: • Individual Work • Group Work

Type of Instruction

	Classroom Instruction	Guided Self-Study	Autonomous Self-Study
Lecture	28 h	-	
Excercise	-	-	
Project Work	-	8 h	
Seminar	-	-	
Total	**28 h**	**8 h**	**54 h**

Performance Assessment

End-of-module exam	Form	Length (min.)	Weighting
-			
Permitted Resources			

Others	Assessment	Format	Length (min.)	Weighting
Talk/oral presentation	Grade	Gruppenarbeit	30	50.00
Written Assignment	Grade	Gruppenarbeit	0	50.00

Classroom Attendance Requirement	None
Compulsory Reading	
Recommended Reading	
Comments	