

Module title		Abbreviation
Thermodynamics and Economics		11-TDO-161-mo1
Module coordinator		Module offered by
Managing Director of the Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astrophysics		Faculty of Physics and Astronomy
ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
6	(not) successfully completed	--
Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
1 semester	graduate	--
Contents		
<p>Energy and economic growth, entropy production, emission reduction.</p> <p>Part I describes the role of energy conversion in the development of the universe, the evolution of life and the unfolding of civilisation. The density of entropy production of non-equilibrium thermodynamics shows the significance of the second law of thermodynamics for ecological damage and resource consumption. Energy conversion, entropy production and natural resources define the technological and ecological boundaries of industrial economic growth.</p> <p>Part 2 analyses how the factors capital, work, energy and creativity produce the goods and services of a national economy and determine economic growth. The productive power of cheap energy by far exceeds that of expensive labour. Within the current system of taxes and social security contributions, this discrepancy between power and costs of production factors leads to job cuts, waste of resources, impoverishment of nations and growing social tensions. The course discusses how factor income taxation can counteract this development.</p> <p>Part 3 includes seminar presentations, comprises the techniques of rational energy use and non-fossil energy use, and introduces the optimisation programme deeco (Dynamic Energy, Emission and Cost Optimization).</p>		
Intended learning outcomes		
<p>The students understand that energy conversion and entropy production are going to play an important role in the world's economic and social development. As an extension of economic theory, the students know the connections between thermodynamics and economy as well as the productive physical basis of modern economies. They are able to apply the acquired knowledge to particular problems.</p> <p>NOTE: this is the module that was run by Prof. Dr. R. Kümmel, who has now retired. As the module was tailored to his own theory of economy, it has yet to be decided whether we will continue to offer this module.</p>		
Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language — if other than German)		
<p>V (3) + R (1)</p> <p>Module taught in: German or English</p>		
Method of assessment (type, scope, language — if other than German, examination offered — if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)		
<p>a) written examination (approx. 90 to 120 minutes) or b) oral examination of one candidate each (approx. 30 minutes) or c) oral examination in groups (groups of 2, approx. 30 minutes per candidate) or d) project report (approx. 8 to 10 pages) or e) presentation/talk (approx. 30 minutes).</p> <p>If a written examination was chosen as method of assessment, this may be changed and assessment may instead take the form of an oral examination of one candidate each or an oral examination in groups. If the method of assessment is changed, the lecturer must inform students about this by four weeks prior to the original examination date at the latest.</p> <p>Assessment offered: In the semester in which the course is offered and in the subsequent semester</p> <p>Language of assessment: German and/or English</p>		
Allocation of places		
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Additional information		
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Workload
180 h
Teaching cycle
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Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)
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Module appears in
Master's degree (1 major) Physics (2016) Master's degree (1 major) Nanostructure Technology (2016) Master's teaching degree Gymnasium MINT Teacher Education PLUS, Elite Network Bavaria (ENB) (2016) Supplementary course MINT Teacher Education PLUS, Elite Network Bavaria (ENB) (2016)
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