Course Description – Summer 2025

Title	Fossil and bio fuels, lubricants and plastics
Faculty	Mechanical Engineering
Professor	Ms Claudia Beugel
ECTS	5
Level	Bachelor
Requirements	-
Add. Information	https://www.hs-schmalkalden.de/hochschule/fakultaeten/fakultaet-maschinenbau/internationales/englische-kurse.html
Content	Students review basics of organic chemistry to understand differences between conventional and bio-based fuels, lubricants and plastics. They should know characteristics of fuels and lubricants. Students should be able to analyze pros and cons of the usage of fossil and bio-based products and to evaluate conventional and alternative production methods. lab experiments: making and testing of biodiesel 1. overview: structure and names of hydrocarbons (alkanes, alkenes, cyclic hydrocarbons, aromatic compounds, main functional groups) 2. formation and composition of fossil materials (coal, crude oil, natural gas) 3. processing of fossil raw materials into fuels, lubricants and plastics 4. classification and properties of fuels and lubricants 5. composition of biomass (plants oils, starch- and sugar-containing resources, wood, algaes, vegetal and animal residues) 6. structures, names and properties of natural products (saccharides, starch, cellulose, fats, oils, waxes, proteins) 7. production and properties of alternative fuels and lubricants (biogas, bioethanol, plant oils, biodiesel, btl-biomass to liquid, syngas, bioplastics) 8. bioreactors (types, functional principles and operating parameters)