



Sustainable Finance

Course Syllabus

Sustainable Finance

Sustainable finance is one of the strongest trends in capital markets – it encompasses approximately half of total Assets under Management (AuM). The course provides an overview of the global sustainable finance market and its different variations, and explores how financial players (institutional investors, investment firms, investment banks, retail banks) can manage capital and generate value through Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) lenses.

Visualization (Infographic)

TBD

Overview

<i>Course Code</i>	
<i>Course Title</i>	Sustainable Finance
<i>Degree</i>	MA / Graduate
<i>Course Length</i>	13 hours (classes)
<i>Number of ECTS Credits</i>	2 ECTS
<i>Total workload</i>	50h (classes + assignments + private study)
<i>Prerequisites</i>	None
<i>Teaching and Learning Methods</i>	. The method learning-by-examples (demonstration) . Learning-by-doing (practice by doing)
<i>Assessments</i>	
<i>Course creators from Conscious Business Education</i>	Creator: [Name, Institution, Email] Academic peer: [Name, Institution, Email] External peer: [Name, Institution]
<i>Course Material Language</i>	English

Introduction to the Course

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Learning Outcomes / Objectives

A. Knowledge and Understanding



- Development of a holistic understanding of what sustainable finance is, its building blocks, and where capital markets are heading towards;

B. Subject-Specific Skills

- Understanding of the unique elements of ESG finance and how it relates to traditional finance;
- Develop a basic understanding of how to integrate ESG data into asset and wealth management, investment banking and commercial banking.

C. General Skills

- Critical and analytical thinking;
- Strategic skills;

Taking into consideration the fundamental purpose of this course, the learning methods most suitable to this course are:

- . The method learning-by-examples (demonstration)
- . Learning-by-doing (practice by doing)

The teaching methodologies adopted are intended to stimulate the students' ability to go from theory to practice, through the apprehension of concepts, tools and methodologies which are explained in the course. Thus, they contribute to the process of individual and group learning and develop critical analysis.

Course Content (incl. Module Description)

1. Introduction to sustainable finance (3h)

- . Definitions: corporate sustainability, ESG, sustainable development, SDGs, sustainable finance
- . The global sustainable finance market
- . Evolution of sustainable finance practices
- . Why financial markets consider sustainability?
- . Climate change and climate risks
- . Key sustainability regulatory frameworks (for financial institutions)
- . ESG challenges

2. Asset management and banking through ESG lenses (3h)

- . ESG investment strategies
- . ESG banking strategies (use of proceeds + KPI-linked products)
- . Asset management and banking trends
- . Practical exercise: assessing fund memos

3. ESG data (3h)

- . Definition of ESG indicators
- . Materiality
- . ESG data providers (risk data, corporate sustainability data, impact data)
- . ESG data challenges and shortcomings
- . ESG data trends
- . Practical exercises: determining materiality using SASB and the MSCI Materiality Map and comparing ESG scores of companies.

4. Sustainability Reporting (3h)

- . Reporting frameworks for companies
- . Reporting challenges
- . Streamlining sustainability reporting
- . Practical exercise: assessing sustainability reports of companies

5. Sustainability Finance in Practice (1h)

. Structuring a sustainability-linked loan

Expectation toward the students

Teaching and Learning Methods used

This course links theory and practice, enabling students to immediately apply the ESG concepts and frameworks discussed into finance. Classes will have a strong practical nature.

Prerequisites

None

Special Features of this Course

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Course Length

50h workload

Number of ECTS Credits

2 ECTS

Total Workload

This is a 2 ECTS course. This means a $2 * 25 = 50$ hrs. workload for students.

Attending sessions	5 sessions	13 hrs.
Private study (bibliography etc.)		17 hrs.
Assignment	1 assignment	20 hrs.
TOTAL		50 hrs.

Assessments

In all assessment methods students will be expected to show strong critical thinking, independent thinking, and problem-solving skills. Students are required to collect information from multiple sources and analyze it in-depth, providing logical and compelling interpretations, offering alternative solutions, and showing originality and capacity to be experimental, inventive and ingenious.

1. Final exam – 50%
2. Assignment – 50%

Suggested Literature

Schoenmaker, Dirk and Willem Schramade (2021), *Principles of Sustainable Finance*.
Oxford University Press



Smiles, Simon and James Purcell (2023), *Sustainable Investing in Practice: ESG Challenges and Opportunities*. Kogan Page.

Tavares, Rodrigo; Ashwin Kumar N C; Camille Smith; Leïla Badis; Nan Wang; and Paz Ambrosy (2016), "ESG Factors and Risk-Adjusted Performance: A New Quantitative Model" in *Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment*, Vol. 6 (4).

Tavares, Rodrigo (2022), "High-profile critics are unwittingly driving the emergence of ESG 2.0", *Fortune*. Online at: <https://fortune.com/2022/09/28/high-profile-critics-unwittingly-driving-the-emergence-esg-2-rodrigo-tavares/>

Eccles, Robert G. and Svetlana Klimenko (2019) "The Investor Revolution" in *Harvard Business Review*, May-June, p. 106-116.

Communication

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Classroom rules

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Course creators from *Conscious Business Education*

Creator: [Name, Institution, Email]

Academic peer: [Name, Institution, Email]

External peer: [Name, Institution]

Sources that were used to create this course

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