



Course: Sustainable Finance

Philosophy of the program

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.

This course is unique, because:

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

Suggested tools from the toolbox

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.

Sources that were used to create this course

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Suggestion for assessment

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 assessment criteria (e.g. rubric)

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Information about the creator(s) of this course

Rodrigo Tavares (Lisbon, 1978) is an Adjunct Full Professor (Professor Catedrático Convocado) at NOVA School of Business and Economics (Nova SBE) where he teaches postgraduate and executive courses and conducts research on finance and sustainability issues.

He is also the Founder and CEO of the London-based Granito Group, a company that advances the sustainable economy through strategy consulting, financial advisory, and policy & research. The Group has collaborated with multiple financial organizations (institutional investors, asset managers, family offices, regulators) in Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and North America to enable their transition to a sustainable economy. In 2022 the Group won the “Best ESG Financial Advisory Firm” (Ethical Finance Awards) and the “Most Pioneering Thought-Leader in PE Investment & ESG Strategies 2021” (M&A Awards).

He holds over 15 years of experience in government and international organizations working with foreign affairs and economic cooperation. In 2008-2010 he was invited by the UN Secretariat to write Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's annual reports on Africa's development. From 2011 to 2014 he served as Head of the São Paulo State Government's Office of Foreign Affairs.

His academic path includes the universities of Harvard (Senior Research Fellow), Columbia (Research Fellow on a postdoc grant), Gothenburg (Ph.D.) and California, Berkeley (Visiting Research Fellow). He was also an Adjunct Professor at Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV) in Brazil (2013-2018) where he was awarded a teaching prize in 2017 for ranking the highest in students' evaluations. Rodrigo is the author of 4 books on international relations and economic development (published by Oxford University Press, Routledge and Lynne Rienner), and multiple book chapters and peer-reviewed articles. The latest articles are focused on ESG issues and were published in the *Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment* and the *Journal of Environmental Investing*. He has taken executive courses at Harvard University on negotiation (2006) and on global leadership (2021); and at Princeton University on energy transition (2022).

He was nominated Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum (2017) for his work on sustainable finance; selected as StartUp Portugal Ambassador (2018); and nominated Young Leader by the Government of Quebec in Canada (2011).



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He is an op-ed columnist for Folha de S.Paulo (Brazil) and Expresso (Portugal) on the topics of finance, economics and sustainability. He also writes regularly for the World Economic Forum's website and for Quartz on these issues.

He is a Certified ESG Analyst® (CESGA) from the European Federation of Financial Analysts Societies (EFFAS) and holds a Certificate in ESG Investing from the CFA Institute.