



SUSTAINABILITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

General data

Course code:	
ECTS credits:	3
Type of the course:	general elective
Semester:	Fall, semester 1 st or 3 rd
Course restrictions:	-
Course leader (with availabilities):	Katalin Erdős erdosk@ktk.pte.hu +36 72 501 599/ 63134
Further lecturer(s) (with availabilities):	-

1. Description and aims

The 20th century brought economic growth and a higher standard of living. However, the increased global average values hide striking differences between countries considering social, environmental and economic indicators. Furthermore, the unintended consequences of the linear economic model disproportionately seem to affect those who benefited less or nothing from economic growth and are more vulnerable. This course aims to provide an introduction to sustainable development. Beyond the concept and its history, the related organizations and conferences, it discusses the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The course enables the students to understand issues related to sustainability and contribute to their solutions.

2. Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. compare linear and circular economic models (PILO 1)
2. categorize the social, economic and environmental consequences of the industrialized development path (PILO 1)
3. critically discuss events in environmental history (PILO 5)
4. examine the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (PILO 5)
5. design effective small-scale research on global challenges (PILO 6, and 7)
6. analyse solutions to complex issues related to sustainability (PILO 3,4, and 7)

(The remarks in brackets express each CILO's connection to the Program Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs).)

3. Content, schedule

The discussion of topics is divided into the following twelve chapters:

1. Introduction, team formation, fixation of the schedule
2. The 1960s – Awakening
3. The 1970s – Institutionalisation of environmentalism
4. The 1980s – Introduction of efficient environmental policies



5. Sustainable development – Interpretations and their consequences
6. Sustainability and the UN – Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals
7. SDG 1-3
8. SDG 4-6
9. SDG 7-9
10. SDG 10-12
11. SDG 13-15
12. SDG 16-17, concluding session

4. Learning and teaching strategy, methodology

Principal teaching methodologies: quizzes, in-class discussion

The course starts with an introduction to sustainability, including the history and the concept. Beyond analysing the most important milestones and achievements, students will be requested to identify or prescribed news from the media related to sustainability. The discussion of the news will provide an opportunity to help the development of their critical analytical skills related to economic development and its consequences. The sustainable development goals of the UN will be processed in detail, including the progression of those.

5. Assessment

Formative assessment elements: The discussion of news and UNSDGs provides an opportunity to students to get feedback on their knowledge and understanding on sustainability.

Summative assessment elements:

Individual Assessment		70%	Group Assessment		30%	
Name of the element	Weight	Type	Details	Retake opportunity	Req.*	Related CIOs
Groupwork in class	30%	coursework	Groups are requested to contribute to the in-class discussion of news and UN SDGs.	no	no	1,2,3,4
Individual research assignment	70%	coursework	In the assignment, the student has to critically discuss a topic related to a UN SDG and a potential solution to that.	one resubmission opportunity	yes	5,6

* Req.: Completion of the element is required to pass the course, irrespective of the performance in other elements.

6. Learning materials

- Essential

Stephen Browne (2017): Sustainable Development Goals and UN Goal-Setting. Routledge



- Recommended

Stephen Browne – Thomas G. Weiss (2020): Routledge Handbook on the UN and Development.

Samuel O. Idowu – René Schmidpeter – Liangrong Zu (eds., 2020): The Future of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Business Perspectives for Global Development in 2030. Springer

7. Further information

International aspects embedded with the course
Global issues related to sustainability will be discussed, including the role of international and intergovernmental organizations and potential cross-country conflicts.
Ethics, Responsibility & Sustainability (ERS) aspects embedded with the course
The whole course is dedicated to sustainability, including environmental history, with a strong focus on UN SDGs.
Connections to the world of practice of the course
-