



Syllabus

Term: 2025/26/1 **Subject name:** Sustainability in the 21st century **Subject code:** B19GMC19E

Unit (Unit code) Department of Economics and Econometrics (KÖI)

Lecturer responsible for the course: Dr. ERDŐS Katalin

Requirement: Term mark

Classes per week :

Classes per term:

Purpose of education:

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.

Contents:

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

System of examining and valuation:

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:



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System of examining and valuation:

Individual Assessment	50%	Group Assessment	50%
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Name of the element	Weight	Type	Details	Retake opportunity	Req.*	Related CILOs
Groupwork in class	50%	Coursework Group	Groups are requested to contribute to the in-class discussion of news and UN SDGs.	no	no	1,2,3,4
Individual project	50%	Coursework Individual	In the project, the student has to critically discuss a topic related to a UN SDG and a potential solution to that.	one retake opportunity	no	5,6

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

Artificial intelligence can be used for the preparation of the individual project and also for in-class groupwork provided that proper reference is given.

Bibliography:



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Bibliography:

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

Bibliography:

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