ESM 608 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Theory & Policy

Spring 2013

Mondays from 8:30 - 11am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructors</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Program Head, ESM</td>
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INTRODUCTION

This course examines alternative conceptions and theoretical underpinnings of the notion of "sustainable development." It focuses on the sustainability problems of industrial countries (i.e., aging of populations, sustainable consumption, institutional adjustments, etc.); and of developing states and economies in transition (i.e., managing growth, sustainability of production patterns, pressures of population change, etc.). It also explores the sociology of knowledge around sustainability, the economic and technological dimensions and institutional imperatives along with implications for political constitution of economic performance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES (LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE COURSE)

After taking this course, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish complex aspects of sustainable development (economic, environmental, social equity);
2. Identify systemic sustainability challenges in different sectors and at different institutional levels;
3. Analyze the interplay between the management of resources, organizational structure, social, political and economic systems, in addressing sustainability challenges.
4. Think critically and assess different public policy alternatives for responding to sustainability challenges;
5. Improve writing and argumentation based on critical evaluation of the readings and of personal ideas and assessments.
## GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS

- Class attendance participation: 15%
- Three Assignments: 30%
- Research paper on topic of your choice with approval of instructor: 35%
- Final Exam: 20%

## COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PART I CONTENT &amp; CONTEXT</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction -- Debates, Definitions &amp; Dilemmas</td>
<td>21-Jan Al Hosany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Evolving Concepts: Growth vs. Sustainability</td>
<td>28-Jan Al Hosany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability as a “Knowledge Domain”</td>
<td>4-Feb Mezher</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyberspace and Sustainability</td>
<td>11-Feb Mezher</td>
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<tr>
<th>PART II ACTORS, PROCESSES &amp; INSTITUTIONS</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Drivers -- Social Mechanisms &amp; Cognitive Factors</td>
<td>18-Feb Al Hosany</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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<td>Economic Activity -- Production &amp; Consumption</td>
<td>25-Feb Al Hosany</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology, Firms &amp; Markets -- Corporate Perspectives</td>
<td>4-Mar Al Hosany</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Change &amp; Sustainable Development</td>
<td>11-Mar Al Hosany</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>From Sustainability “Problem” to “Solution” Strategies</td>
<td>18-Mar Mezher</td>
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<tr>
<th>PART III STRATEGIC ISSUES</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>New International Institutional Contexts</td>
<td>25-Mar Al Hosany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Trade and Intellectual Property Rights</td>
<td>16-Apr Al Hosany</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Accord – Next Round</td>
<td>22-Apr Al Hosany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Project presentations</td>
<td>22-Apr/6-May</td>
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SUMMARY OF COURSE DELIVERABLES

Grades will be determined by class participation, three individual assignments, and a 3-student group project.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Related to</th>
<th>Posted on the Web</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>PART I CONTENT &amp; CONTEXT</td>
<td>11-Feb</td>
<td>25-Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>PART II ACTORS, PROCESSES &amp; INSTITUTIONS</td>
<td>11-Mar</td>
<td>25-Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>PART III STRATEGIC ISSUES</td>
<td>16-Apr</td>
<td>29-Apr</td>
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**Final Project**

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<tr>
<th>Final Project</th>
<th>Proposal Due</th>
<th>4-Feb</th>
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<td>Progress Report Due</td>
<td>18-Mar</td>
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<td>Final Report Due</td>
<td>12-May</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Project Presentations by groups</td>
<td>29-Apr/6-May</td>
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*Class Attendance and Participation:*

Most of your participation grade will be based on attending class on time and adding value during the case discussions. Of course, we understand that sometimes absences are necessary (e.g., sickness, etc.). Therefore, to give you a chance to make up the missed day’s participation, we ask that you do the following: please write a 1 page memo related to the class that you have missed. These memos should be handed to your TA before class the week after your absence. Also, we please ask that you let us know (email the TA) before a class absence if possible.

**Final Project:**

Students are expected to do a group (three students each) project. The potential 5 projects are as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project 1 – Reflection and review the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (targeted for 2015) and their relevance to the UAE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives</strong></td>
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- Reach agreement on a roadmap towards having functional indicators ready for use by 2015.

**References**

- The official [United Nations site for the MDG indicators](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/
- [Post-2015 discussion site on future development framework and goals, at the Rio+20 Dialogues site](http://www.2015.viennaaliage.org/
- Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit: paper A/66/126 "Accelerating progress towards
the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015"  
- [Beyond 2015](http://www.beyond2015.org/): a global civil society campaign, pushing for a strong and legitimate successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals  
- [CAFOD’s review](http://www.cafod.org.uk/policy/corporate_sustainability.html) of what should come after the Millennium Development Goals  

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<tr>
<th>Project 2 – Development of Country level Green Growth Strategy: case of the UAE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives</strong></td>
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</table>
| - Why Green Growth?  
- Define the main pillars of green growth  
- Identify the main environmental, Social and economic challenges facing the UAE  
- What in your opinion will be the main benefits to the UAE from implementing green growth strategy  
- Map the green initiatives that are currently being implemented in the UAE.  
- Design a framework for the UAE Green Growth Strategy |

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<th>Project 3 – Corporate Sustainability: Challenge or an opportunity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives</strong></td>
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</table>
| - Define corporate sustainability  
- Map current corporate reporting frameworks |
Identify the 10 leading corporates in sustainability in three different sectors and their main sustainability strategies
- Is Zero Impact Growth attainable?

**Project 4 - The Role of the Financial Sector in the Sustainable Development of Nations**

**Objectives**
- Understand the challenges facing the financial sector in the GCC.
- Examine the practices of banks, insurance companies, investors, etc. in the region and benchmark them against best in the world.
- Explore the implications of the different strategies and practices on the sustainable development of the region.
- Prescribe changes in business strategies/business practices/governmental regulation in order to foster greater support of the financial industry in the development of the region.

**Project 5 – Sustainable Path for GCC manufacturing sector**

**Objectives**
- Examine the current practices of the manufacturing sector in GCC countries.
- Examine the most pollutant industries such as chemical, aluminum and steel, energy and desalination, etc. in detail.
- Suggest regulations/changes in practice for these industries with a view to shift to a more sustainable path without hampering industry growth.

**Class Presentation**
Each group will present a summary of his company during class on the assigned dates. All groups must prepare a 15 minutes (maximum) presentation of the findings of their companies.

**Reading Packets & the Web:**
Teaching notes will be available on the course web site, while other assigned readings are available from the Library. Any addition reading materials will be uploaded to Moodle.

**LIST OF COURSE BOOKS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics of the Environment. 5th ed.</td>
<td>Robert N. Stavins (Editor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping Sustainability: Knowledge e-Networking and the Value Chain, 2007</td>
<td>Choucri, Nazli et. al. eds.</td>
<td>Required Text</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability and the Social Sciences: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach to Integrating Environmental Considerations into Theoretical Reorientation, 2000</td>
<td>Egon Becker (Editor), Thomas Jahn (Editor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics of the Environment. 6th ed. 2012</td>
<td>Robert N. Stavins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Politics: Britain, Europe and the global Environment, 2000</td>
<td>Robert Garner</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Competitiveness and Environmental Policies, 1998</td>
<td>Terry Barker and Jonathan Kohler</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Management, New directions for the Twenty-First Century, 1997</td>
<td>Geoff A. Wilson and Raymond L. Bryant</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical Sustainability: From Grounded Theory to Emerging Strategies, 2011</td>
<td>Nasrin R. Khalili</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyberpolitics In International Relations, 2012</td>
<td>Nazli Choucri</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Collapse of Complex Societies, 1990, Cambridge University Press</td>
<td>Tainter, Joseph A.</td>
<td>Some Readings are required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REQUIRED READINGS FOR THE COURSE

(1) Introduction – Debates, Definitions, & Dilemmas

January 21, 2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


(2) Evolving Concepts -- Growth vs. Sustainability

January 28, 2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


(3) Sustainability as a “Knowledge Domain”

February 4, 2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


(4) Cyberspace & Sustainability

February 11, 2013

Essential Reading


Nazli Choucri, 2012, “Cyberspace and Sustainability” in Cyberpolitics In International Relations, chapters 2, 5, 8, and 9.

Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


Ospina, Angelina Valeria and Heeks, Richard. 2010. Unveiling the Links between ICTs & Climate Change in Developing Countries: A Scoping Study”, Center for Development Informatics, IDRC, Canada, pp. 1-16.

(5) Critical Drivers, Social Mechanisms & Cognitive Factors

February 18, 2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


(6) Economic Performance – Production & Consumption

February 25, 2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


(7) Technology Firms & Markets – Corporate Perspectives

March 4, 2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


(8) Climate Change & Sustainable Development

March 11, 2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)

(9) From Sustainability “Problems” to “Solution” Strategies

March 18, 2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


(10) New International Institutional Contexts

March 25, 2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


(11) International Trade Intellectual Property Rights

April 15, 2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


(12) Global Accord – Next Rounds

April 22,
2013

Essential Reading


Recommended Reading (Not all may be available in Library)


