

EF5044: SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Sustainable Finance

Subject Code

EF - Economics and Finance

Course Number

5044

Academic Unit

Economics and Finance (EF)

College/School

College of Business (CB)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

EF5042 Corporate Finance and EF5052 Investments

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Businesses and investors are increasingly dealing with the risks and opportunities of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. This course aims to enlighten students with established and emerging theories on how finance can be used to

address sustainability challenges. It covers diverse aspects, including ESG measurement, socially responsible investment, ESG integrated reporting, ESG and product market competition, and ESG issues along the supply chain. The course provides students with sophisticated and rigorous training at the nexus of sustainability and financial management. By the end of this course, students will gain a foundation in the understanding of how regulations and market forces steer corporates' and investors' sustainable investment behaviours.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Explain the theories and the importance of ESG financing and investment (shareholder primacy theory vs. stakeholder theory).		x	x	
2	Describe sustainability opportunities and risks (ESG rating and integrated reporting).		x	x	x
3	Apply ESG investment and financing decisions in a framework of corporate finance decision-making.		x	x	x
4	Apply cutting-edge theory on sustainable finance and investment to real-world managerial and investment decisions.			x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Seminars and in-class discussions	Students will engage in seminars and in-class discussions to think critically and logically in responding to questions and discussing issues of real-world examples.	1, 2, 3, 4	3-hour seminar per week

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Participation Students' general performance throughout the semester, for instance, in discussions in class or on Canvas.	1, 2, 3, 4	10	Not Applicable	No
2	Written assignment For example, case assignments, problem sets, etc.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	Students can use GenAI to help them prepare case writing. However, they must disclose whether and how the GenAI is employed.	Yes
3	Project One group final project and the presentations of the project	1, 2, 3, 4	20	Students can use GenAI to help them prepare a group project presentation and a written report. However, they must disclose whether and how the GenAI is employed.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Additional Information for ATs

Students are not allowed to use Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools in the final examination.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Written assignment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to demonstrate critical understanding of the course material

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding

Good

(B+, B, B-) High

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not reaching marginal level

Assessment Task

Project (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to demonstrate critical understanding of the course material.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding

Good

(B+, B, B-) High

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not reaching marginal level

Assessment Task

Final examination (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to present material in a logical manner

Ability to apply theories introduced in class

Ability to understand financial reports

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding

Good

(B+, B, B-) High

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not reaching marginal level

Assessment Task

Written assignment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to demonstrate critical understanding of the course material

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Outstanding

Good

(B+, B) High

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic

Failure

(F) Not reaching marginal level

Assessment Task

Project (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

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Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

ESG

ESG rating

Socially responsible investment and Impact Investment

ESG-integrated reporting and ESG disclosure

Green bonds

Financing and social inclusion

Sustainable supply chain

Greenwashing

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Lecture notes, newspaper clippings and academic articles.
2	Cases from Harvard Business School.
3	Cases from Singapore Management University' s center for management practice.
4	Cases from China Management case-sharing center.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Alex Edmans, Grow the Pie: How Great Companies Deliver Both Purpose and Profit, ISBN-10-1108494854.