

PIA6505: FINANCING SUSTAINABILITY: POLICY AND MECHANISMS

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Financing Sustainability: Policy and Mechanisms

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

6505

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The course is to provide an overview of the key financing mechanisms of sustainability initiatives and related regulatory and policy issues. The course is built upon the public finance foundation, with great emphases on externalities, governance, public finance instruments, and public accountability and reporting. It will also introduce market-oriented financing mechanisms and corporate involvement in financing sustainability. The course is interdisciplinary and introductory, targeting a broad audience that is not necessarily intended to be technical analysts in the financial industry.

The course covers the following topics: a) market failures, and the importance of cross-sectoral partnership in financing sustainability; b) policy and governance design for sustainable finance; c) rethinking the roles of accounting, public reporting, and measurement; and d) financing tools for sustainability.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Become familiar with concepts of sustainable development, market failures, and collaborative governance		x	x	x
2	Be exposed to key financing mechanisms by the public and private sectors for sustainability		x	x	x
3	Become familiar with different regulatory frameworks for sustainable development		x	x	x
4	Apply the above-mentioned understanding to analyse critically the financing policies and regulatory practices of different countries and regions through case studies		x	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	Class Presentation	A group of students will present some of the required reading and lead the discussion in classes.	1

2	Class participation & Discussion	Attendance: Class attendance is compulsory. Students are expected to go through their readings PRIOR TO CLASS and participate in discussion, share ideas and opinions in a respectful manner, and analyse case studies critically and constructively.	2, 3	
3	Quizzes	In-class or online quizzes are used to incentivize students to keep up with the readings and prepare before class.	4	
4	Final paper	Students are asked to analyse some specific sustainability financing mechanisms of a country or a city and present the findings to the class at the end of the class.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No
2	In-Class participation & Discussion	1, 2, 3, 4	15	-	Yes
3	Quizzes	1, 2, 3, 4	15	-	No
4	Final paper	1, 2, 3, 4	50	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

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

Criterion

Students' performance

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Basic and adequate understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Marginal

(D) Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Assessment Task

In-Class participation & Discussion (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Students' performance

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

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(C+, C, C-) Basic and adequate understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Marginal

(D) Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Students' performance

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

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(D) Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Quality of the report

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Basic and adequate understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Marginal

(D) Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Students' performance

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Good

(B+, B) Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Assessment Task

In-Class participation & Discussion (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Students' performance

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

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Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Students' performance

Excellent

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Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Quality of the report

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

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(B-, C+, C) Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Failure

(F) Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Financing mechanisms governance, public finance instruments, public accountability market failures, cross-sectoral partnership in financing sustainability; policy and governance design sustainable finance

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Schoenmaker, Dirk and William Schramade. 2021. Principles of Sustainable Finance. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. [S&W]
2	Gleeson-White, Jane. 2020. Six Capitals: Capitalism, Climate Change and the Accounting Revolution that Can Save the Planet, 2nd edition. Sydney, Australia: Allen & Unwin. [GW]

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil