



**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: ECON 335/ SUST 335 - Sustainability  
(45 contact hours, 3 credits)**

This syllabus is informational in nature and is not an express or implied contract. It is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, as a result of any circumstance outside the University's control, or as other needs arise. If, in the University's sole discretion, public health conditions or any other matter affecting the health, safety, upkeep, or well-being of our campus community or operations requires the University to move to remote teaching, alternative assignments may be provided so that the learning objectives for the course, as determined by the faculty and the University, can still be met. The University does not guarantee specific in-person, on-campus classes, activities, opportunities, or services or any other particular format, timing, or location of education, classes, activities, or services.

**Mask Policy**

Please be advised that the mask policy in this class will follow Sant'Anna Institute requirements. When/if the University enacts a mask policy, all students are expected to adhere to the policy.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course aims to understand the concept of sustainability on its theoretical evolution and its nowadays practical implementation in EU, Italy as well as other parts of the world. Therefore, the course will analyze the relationship between economy, environment and society in the era of globalization. It will also focus on the European Union and other case studies around the world. The course will focus on different concepts such as renewable resources, circular economy, corporate social responsibility and it will focus on some particular subjects such as the food industry, waste management, energy, etc. In particular, students will study theories and practices of sustainability and will be able to answer the following questions:

- How sustainability is implemented in different parts of the world? Is it successful?
- Is it possible to consider sustainability the future mainstream economic model?
- How can we introduce sustainability in our communities of reference?

- What role should law-makers, governments, enterprises and consumers play for this change?

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- Know the theory and practices of Sustainability
- Understand the social and environmental challenges humanity are facing today and their relationship to different economic models
- Understand the diversity in the Italy and its value added
- Recognize the typical products of the Italian food sector (as an example of territorial and cultural diversity)
- Know about the differences between linear economy and circular economy
- Know the European and Italian policies related to sustainability
- Know the strategies of the so-called "fair economy" in Italy and Europe
- Understand the value of Corporate Social Responsibility and Consumers' awareness to make change happen

## **FORMAT**

- The course will include lectures, student-led discussions, and presentations.
- Students will engage in small group work and peer reviews.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

*The Climate Crisis and the Global Green New Deal: The Political Economy of Saving the Planet*, by Noam Chomsky, Robert Pollin, Verso Books, latest edition.

The faculty will also use original material in class, as well as articles from the main international journals and sources (such as: World Bank, EU Commission, United Nations, Oxford University – Our World in Data, etc.), plus all relevant material published by the and European Union on sustainable development.

## **EXAMS and ASSIGNMENTS**

20%: Attendance and Participation

25%: Mid Term Exam

25%: Research project

30%: Final Exam

A research project (10 pages min.), presented both as an essay and as an oral presentation in class, will allow students to investigate in depth one aspect of the course which particularly interests them. It will assess their ability to choose appropriate subject matter conducive to academic exploration and collect appropriate primary and secondary materials and analyze and present them in an original way, contextualized within the information discussed throughout the course. Mid-term and Final Exam will test students' ability to analyze material and theories presented during the course through short answers and essay questions.

## **GRADING SCALE**

A	95%-100%
A-	90%-94%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	77%-79%
C	73%-76%
C-	70%-72%
D+	67%-69%
D	63%-66%
D-	60%-62%
F	< 60%

## **SCHEDULE OF TOPICS**

Unit 1:

- Introduction
- What is sustainability

#### Unit 2:

- The history of Sustainability: economy, ecology, ethics
- From 1800 theories to Fridays for Futures movement

#### Unit3:

- Private sector and sustainability
- The Hemp stories
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Environmental justice: definition and case studies in Europe, USA and around the world

#### Unit 4:

- Climate Change
- International protocols and the European ETS

#### Unit 5:

- Sustainability in agricultural and food sector
- The world food market

#### Unit 6:

- EU and Italian policies on food.
- The EU Food and Wine Quality Brand: DOC, DOCG, DOP.
- The Italian food: a strategic economic asset.
- Organic food in Italy: a strategic economic asset.
- Other “alternative” agri-food systems in Italy and in the world

#### Unit 7:

- Plastic and microplastic: the problem of ocean pollution

#### Unit 8:

- Water and drought

- Water is a public good
- Introduction to the field study

Unit9:

- Comments on the field study
- Akira Miyawaki and naturalistic forestation
- Food forest and permaculture

Field-trip 1

Mid-term exam. The research project is assigned.

Unit 10:

- Sustainable and responsible tourism
- Indication to visit Naples in a sustainable way for the fall break

Unit 11:

- Comments and suggestions about Naples (examples of sustainability or non-sustainability)
- Sustainable tourism: ecotourism

Unit 12:

- Sustainable mobility
- Public mobility and electric vehicles
- Innovation in Logistic sector

Unit 13:

- Definition of resource
- Energy resources (non-renewable and renewable resources)

Unit 14:

- Sustainability and energy
- Renewable resources and energy around the world
- Case in Italy: nuclear power and the emerging energy communities

Unit 15:

- Sustainability and waste management
- Consumption and consumerism
- The Fair trade and other forms of alternative trade

Unit 16:

- New economy and new lifestyles
- Life Cycle Assessment
- From linear economy to circular economy. Field study: Naples and its virtuous examples of sustainability. Field-trip 2

Unit 17:

- Sustainable Architecture: Materials, techniques, passive houses and smart cities

Unit 18:

- Sustainability in ICT
- How digitalization can help the ecological transition

Unit 19:

- The textile industry and the impact of fast fashion
- Sustainability in the fashion industry

Final exam and presentation of the research project.

## **CLASS POLICY**

### **Attendance**

You are allowed **ONE** unexcused absence. Documentation for any other absence **MUST** be produced and **APPROVED** by your faculty. For absences due to illness, please provide the faculty with a doctor's note upon returning to class as well as inform them and/or the Office the first day of illness.

Participation grants the student one point for each lesson they attend. Unjustified absences result in 0 points. Participation in **field-trips** awards 2 points, while non-participation results in a loss of 2 points.

### **Late submissions:**

Assignments not submitted by the due date will receive a penalty of 10% for the first 24 hours, 20% for a 48-hour delay. No submissions will be accepted more than 3 days after the deadline, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor (for extensions under exceptional circumstances, apply to the course instructor).

### **Personal Technology:**

Please turn cell phones off during class. You can use laptops to take notes, however social networking, e-mailing, surfing the Internet, playing games, etc. are forbidden during class. Any student caught using their laptop/cell phones inappropriately during class will be asked to turn them off. Repeated violations of this rule after the first warning will result in the student being marked absent for the day and permanently losing their laptop privileges. Please be respectful and limit your use of personal electronic devices during class to academic purposes.

### **Contesting a grade:**

If students wish to contest a grade, they must make an appointment to do so in person. The student should contact the instructor with any concerns within **ONE** week of receiving the grade. The student must also demonstrate that they have read the comments accompanying the grade by presenting a brief written statement specifying why the grade does not reflect the quality of the work. It is at the discretion of the instructor to decide whether the work and the student's request warrant any increase or decrease in the grade. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments and feedback (in case of loss) and should also retain all of their marked assignments.

### **Recommended behavior:**

- Class begins promptly at the beginning of the class period. It is advisable that you be in your seat and ready to start participating in class at that time.
- Always bring the required supplies and be ready to be actively engaged in the learning process. This communicates preparedness and interest.
- Turn your cell phone off or to vibrate mode before the start of class;

- It is fine to bring a drink or a snack to class, as long as it is not distracting. In conjunction with this, please pick up your trash when you leave the room.
- Your professor expects your full attention for the entire class period. If you know that you'll need to leave before the class is over, try to sit as close to the door as possible so as not to disrupt others. Similarly, if you arrive in class late, just slip in as quietly as possible and take the first available seat you come to.
- Do not sleep in class! Laying your head on the desk or sleeping in class is rude, and it is distracting to others. Turn in assignments on time.
- When you have a question or comment, please raise your hand first as a courtesy to your classmates and the professor. Remember, your questions are NOT an imposition – they are welcome. So, ask questions! You'll learn more, it makes the class more interesting, and you are helping others learn as well.
- If an emergency arises that requires an absence from a session, it is your responsibility to get the notes and all other information that was covered in class from a colleague you trust.

### **Secular and religious holidays:**

Sant'Anna Institute recognizes that there are several secular and religious holidays - not included in the Italian calendar - that affect large numbers of its community members. In consideration of their significance for many students, no examinations may be given and no assigned work may be required on these days. Students who observe these holidays will be given an opportunity to make up missed work in both laboratories and lecture courses. If an examination is given on the first class day after one of these holidays, it must not cover material introduced in class on that holiday. Students who wish to observe such holidays must inform their instructors within the first two weeks of each semester of their intent to observe the holiday even when the exact date of the holiday will not be known until later so that alternative arrangements convenient to both students and faculty can be made at the earliest opportunity.

Students who make such arrangements will not be required to attend classes or take examinations on the designated days, and faculty must provide reasonable opportunities for such students to make up missed work and examinations. For this reason it is desirable that faculty inform students of all examination dates at the start of each semester.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

“Members of the Jacksonville University community are expected to foster and uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity, which are foundations for the intellectual endeavors we engage in.

To underscore the importance of truth, honesty, and accountability, students and instructors should adhere to the following standard:



“On my honor as a student of Jacksonville University, I promise to uphold the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in all my dealings with faculty, staff, and students.”

Academic misconduct occurs when a student engages in an action that is deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest regarding any type of academic assignment that is intended to or results in an unfair academic advantage. In this context, the term “assignment” refers to any type of graded or ungraded work that is submitted for evaluation for any course. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, collusion, falsification, misrepresentation, unauthorized collaboration on assignments, copying another student’s work, using or providing unauthorized notes or materials, turning in work not produced by the individual, attempting to get credit for a single instance of work submitted for more than one course, and plagiarism. Furthermore, providing deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest information during discussions of an academic matter with faculty are also examples of academic misconduct.” (Jacksonville University Academic Integrity [Policy](#)).

Throughout this course we will be reading and reporting about the work of others. All information that is not original to the student must be appropriately attributed in both presentations and written work. All students are expected to do their own work and give appropriate credit for all sources used in the process of preparing papers, presentations, and homework assignments. Group assignments will be graded based on the product of the work, although some adjustment may be made for participation. [If you have a question about whether or not collaboration is allowed, or how to cite a reference, please ask. It is always better to check than to be accused of an unintended violation of the academic honesty policy]. Violations of the academic honesty policy will be dealt with in accordance with university policies [Refer to current Academic Catalog “Academic Integrity and Misconduct”].

Course Level Penalties: A first offense may result in a failing grade for the assignment. Second offenses may result in failure in the course. Significantly egregious violations may result in expulsion from the university. When in doubt give credit for all information that did not come directly out of your head!

## **DISABILITY STATEMENT**

Students with a documented disability requesting classroom accommodations or modifications, either permanent or temporary, resulting from the disability are encouraged to inform the faculty in the first week of the program.