



SYLLABUS

GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

September – November 2023

Course Description

The seminar course introduces graduate students to global sustainability concepts and applications from leading experts in the academia and the industry. Students will learn the key points of the United Nations Sustainability and Development Goals (UN SDGs) focusing on the environment and economy, specifically those that pertain to waste and urbanization. They will also learn how leaders work with key stakeholders in implementing sustainability in their organizations. By exposing students to real-world Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) reports produced by corporations in various industries, they will practice critical thinking and analytical skills. The course will provide students with the opportunities to interact with leaders from around the world in real-time video conferencing. By conducting the case studies in teams with peers from across institutions and regions, students will develop professional competencies in cross-cultural communication, interpersonal skills, teamwork, while fostering equitable and inclusive partnerships. The course will prepare the students for future exchanges with members from various background and cultural contexts.

Course coordinator:

Sierin Lim, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Email: apru-gs@e.ntu.edu.sg

Learning Methods

The course will include a combination of:

- Lectures delivered by primary instructors, plus guest lecturers
- Group reading and discussions
- Analysis of case studies on sustainability
- Audio-visual materials (i.e., videos, etc.) to highlight topics and themes
- Peer-to-peer learning
- In-class and online group exercises

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify key trends and adoption of sustainable management by global organizations.
2. Analyze the components of sustainability and their impacts policies, programs, and services in the corporate world.
3. Describe the current and historical role of the UN Sustainable Development Goals governance and the various strategies that have been suggested for how to improve it.
4. Discuss the topics in the 'Environment' pillar of Environment, Society, and Corporate Governance (ESG).
5. Analyze ESG reports of leading corporations in different countries.
6. Identify key trends, issues, and limitation of the current ESG scoring systems.
7. Analyze critical components of key successful global sustainability efforts.
8. Assess critical traits that contribute to successful leadership and past and current leaders that exhibit these qualities.

References and Resources

All course assignments and materials are accessible online through [NTU Teams Site](#). Students will be required to complete weekly readings. These are shown in the course schedule.

Working in Groups

Each group will be comprised of students from all participating universities. There will be a group mentors. We encourage teams to meet regularly but we will leave it up to each team to decide which platform to use and when to meet. Group sign-ups are available on the Teams Site. Please ensure that you are responsive to your group and complete your tasks on time. Each student will be asked to submit a peer review of all of the group members to ensure the process is fair.

Communications

ZOOM: The APRU live sessions will be conducted through ZOOM.

Zoom link: *please refer to the course schedule.*

Students are required to have their cameras and mics on during class. Please also add the initials of your university in your name to help with Q&A.

EMAILS: Please direct any emails or questions to your university course [instructors or point-of-contacts](#).

DO NOT send emails to apru-gs-course@e.ntu.edu.sg as ALL students will receive your email.

TEAMS SITE: A shared course website will be developed via Teams Site. Private or sensitive subjects can be directed to the Instructors or the TA via email. Students will be added and once you join, your name and email will be seen by other students in the course. If you do not want to join the shared course website, please email apru-gs@e.ntu.edu.sg.

NOTE: Throughout the course, announcements will be posted on Teams Site with important information about due dates, course requirements, expectations, etc. Therefore, students should check frequently.

Communication Guidelines

Our primary commitment is to learn from each other. We acknowledge differences among us in disciplines, countries, experiences, interests, and values. We realize that it is these very differences that will increase our awareness and understanding through this process.

- Respect the confidentiality of what is shared in order to facilitate communication and learning in this environment, as well as to respect privacy. We want to create an atmosphere for open, honest exchange.
- Keep in mind that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Do not write or say anything that would be compromising if it were made public.
- If we wish to challenge something that has been said, we will challenge the idea or the practice referred to, not the individual sharing this idea or practice.
- Build on one another's comments; work toward shared understanding.
- Be cautious about the tone of your statements, whether intentional or unintentional.
- Be respectful and professional to all others, even if you may not agree with their viewpoints.

Course Assignments

Discussion Boards: Students will be required to make 15 well-referenced and professional posts on the course discussion boards. These posts should be at least 5-20 sentences long and include references when appropriate. Then, students should also post comments on at least two other students' posts.

Case Study Presentations: Students will sign up to work in small groups with students from other universities to present one of the case studies from the textbook to the class. Sign-up information will be announced. A max of 2 students from the same university are allowed in the groups. Groups should prepare a 10-minute presentation for the group and at least 3 thoughtful discussion questions. A maximum of 8 slides are allowed for the presentations (not including title, references in APA format, and discussion questions). Then, the teams will lead small group discussions for about 15 minutes. All team members must actively participate in the presentation and be prepared to lead the discussion in one of the breakout rooms. Groups will be assigned a faculty mentor. Please check in with your mentor at least two weeks prior to your presentation date.

Slides should be sent to apru-gs@e.ntu.edu.sg and posted on the course Teams General Channel at least 48 hours prior to the assigned class session. Each group member will complete a critique of their group members to ensure active participation by all members. These critiques will be considered in the final grade and students who receive less than 24/25 from two or more group members will receive a deduction on their grade for this assignment. Please send this directly to apru-gs@e.ntu.edu.sg within two weeks of your presentation.

Students are expected to read all case studies ahead of class, even if it isn't their week to present. This will enable the students to provide insightful discussion points.

Attendance and Participation: Active participation is required in this course. Students must attend at least **80% of APRU synchronous sessions from Sep to Nov** and do the required readings to earn the APRU Certificate of Participation.

University Instructors and Point-of-Contact

University	Name	Email
APRU	Dr. Christina SCHÖNLEBER Mr. Benjamin ZHOU	christina.schoenleber@apru.org benjamin.zhou@apru.org
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