



## Sustainable Development (PGT) Course Descriptor

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Course Title	Sustainable Development (PGT)	Faculty	Politics & IR
Course code	NCHPIR777	Course Leader	Dr Diana Bozhilova
Credit points	15	Teaching Period	Either
FHEQ level	7	Date approved	January 2021
Compulsory/ Optional	Compulsory		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	None		

### COURSE SUMMARY

World Politics is an arena shaped by the ever-evolving emphasis, which we, as humans, place on values. At the end of WWII, the key values were those of peace and human rights and they gave rise to many of the dominant structures of global governance today. The world has changed a great deal since 1945 and whilst back then, hardly anyone spoke of sustainable development, the idea of 'sustainable development' is today the central, defining term of the international development agenda (through global, regional, national, and local frameworks and agendas). Such initiatives are for example led by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at global level and the EU 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at regional level. Specific areas of sustainability are to be tackled through the 2015 Paris Agreement and the 2050 Green Deal. Over a relatively short time-period, the language of 'sustainable development' and 'sustainability' has grown from an after-thought to ubiquity.

This course deals with important discussions about the way sustainable development is understood in order to shape governance structures and policy initiatives. 'Mainstream' notions of sustainable development are explored together with some of the key strategies that have been devised to promote sustainability. The course also tries to push beyond the impasse around the sustainable agenda, partly complicated by resistance and partly, by the variety of governance level and sectoral specific sustainability frameworks around us. The course will offer students the opportunity to address practical issues of sustainability by modelling and testing the relative power of tools, such as social return on investment, preference rank sustainable actions and in this way, acquire a set of applied skills which will directly correlate to the growing labour markets in sustainable development.

## **COURSE AIMS**

- To explain the core challenge and opportunities of sustainable development.
- To provide an overview of the emergence and evolution of the concept of sustainable development.
- To outline the main strategies and frameworks for promoting sustainable development.
- To demonstrate specific applied skills in sustainable development by engaging with case studies, mock scenarios and present plausible solutions to addressable problems.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

### **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

- K1d Define, understand and critically evaluate the concepts, principles and frameworks of sustainable development.
- K2d Critically evaluate the main strategies for promoting sustainable development.
- K3d Critically evaluate some of the most important current issues and debates in relation to sustainable development.

### **SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS**

- S1d Understand and critically evaluate the emergence and evolution of the concept of sustainable development.
- S2d Critically evaluate a range of alternative approaches and perspectives towards sustainable development.

### **TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

- T1d Develop applied skills in the area of sustainability, such as skills to forecast, evaluate and preference rank actions in sustainable development.
- T2d Become a lucid and eloquent presenter of works.
- T3d Develop skills for self-direction, collaborative and group work.
- T4d Consistently apply an excellent level of technical proficiency in written English, using an advanced application of scholarly terminology, that demonstrates the ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and with sophistication.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Teaching and learning strategies for this course will include:

- Full-cohort lectures

- Full-cohort seminars
- Office hours
- Guest talks, workshops and study visits as applicable

Course information and supplementary materials are available on the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Students are required to attend and participate in all the formal and timetabled sessions for this course. Students are also expected to manage their directed learning and independent study in support of the course.

### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Develop teamwork and leadership skills
- Present findings and opinions in a clear, structured manner, whether orally or in writing
- Engage in collaborative and constructive discussion
- Use technology to test and support findings
- Manage methodological frameworks at different game theoretical level
- Ensure that project based work delivers cohesive outcome

### ASSESSMENT

#### FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental feedback, for example individual and group presentations, projects, and experiments.

#### SUMMATIVE

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Individual presentation (written and oral component)	15	yes	20 min	750 words
2	Experiment with sustainability tools (either modelling or applied digital tools)	15	yes		750 words
3	Coursework	70	yes		3,500 words

The assessments will consist of a number of questions from which the student will have the choice of answering a specified number. All assignments will be assessed in accordance with the assessment aims set out in the Programme Specification.

## FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (e.g. on an *ad hoc* basis) and indirectly through discussion during group tutorials/seminars. Students will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their term's performance.

Feedback is provided on summative assessment and is made available to the student either via email, the VLE or another appropriate method.

The Virtual Learning Environment provides an opportunity for you to interact with both other students and tutors. A discussion forum is provided through which you can post questions regarding any study topic that you have difficulty with, or for which you require further clarification.

## INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

### BOOKS

Adams, W.M. (2009) Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in a Developing World. Third Edition. Routledge, Oxon.

Sachs, J.D. (2015) The Age of Sustainable Development. Columbia University Press, New York.  
Desmond, M. (2016). Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City. Penguin Random House LLC, New York, New York.

Franz W. Gatzweiler (et al) (2017). Advancing Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment: Implementing a Systems Approach  
Urban Health and Wellbeing. Springer.

Yousafzai, M., & McCormick, P. (2014). I am Malala: How one girl stood up for education and changed the world (Young readers edition.). New York: Little.

### JOURNALS

IMF Policy Papers Series

World Development

Development and Change

European Journal of Development Research

Latin American Perspectives

Third World Quarterly

Journal of Development Studies

The New Internationalist

International Journal of Educational Development

## Gender and Development

### **ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

IISD. (n.d.) *International Institute for Sustainable Development*. [Online].

Available from: <https://www.iisd.org/>

UN-DESA. (n.d.) *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform*. [Online]. Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).

Available from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

UNDP Library

Available from: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage.html>

World Bank eLibrary:

Available from: <https://elibrary.worldbank.org/>

IMF eLibrary:

Available from: <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/>

### **INDICATIVE TOPICS**

Students will study the following topics:

- Sustainable development: challenges and opportunities
  - Types of sustainable development
  - Mainstream sustainable development
  - Critical sustainable development
  - Measuring sustainable development
  - The circular economy
  - Smart action
  - Climate change and environmental sustainability
  - Biopolitical governance and health epistemology
  - The SDGs in action: solving the methodological puzzle
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<b>Title: NCHPIR777 Sustainable Development (PGT)</b> <b>Approved by: Academic Board</b> <b>Location: Academic Handbook/Programme specifications and Handbooks/                  Postgraduate Programme Specifications/MSc Digital Politics and Sustainable                  Development Specification/Course Descriptors</b>					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Owner	Proposed next review date	Modification (As per AQF4) & category number
2.0	February 2022	May 2022	Dr Diana Bozhilova	January 2026	Category 3: Changes to Learning Outcomes
1.0	January 2021	May 2021	Dr Diana Bozhilova	January 2026	