

# COURSE OUTLINE - Economy, sustainability, and the Sustainable Development Goals

## (1) GENERAL

SCHOOL	Economics and Public Administration		
ACADEMIC UNIT	Economic and Regional Development		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	Undergraduate		
COURSE CODE	800146	SEMESTER	6
COURSE TITLE	Economy, sustainability, and the Sustainable Development Goals		
<b>INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES</b> If credits are awarded for separate components of the course, e.g. lectures, laboratory exercises, etc. If the credits are awarded for the whole course, give the weekly teaching hours and the total credits.	WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS		CREDITS
	4		6
Add rows if necessary. The teaching organisation and methods used <i>are described in detail at (d).</i>			
COURSE TYPE general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development	General background, Skills development.		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:	No		
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS :	Greek		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	Yes, as a reading course (starting in 2025-6).		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)	<a href="https://openeclass.panteion.gr/courses/TMI289/">https://openeclass.panteion.gr/courses/TMI289/</a>		

## (2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes
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The course learning outcomes, specific knowledge, skills and competencies of an appropriate level, which the students will acquire with the successful completion of the course, are described.

Consult Appendix A

- Description of the level of learning outcomes for each qualifications cycle, according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area
- Descriptors for Levels 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and Appendix B
- Guidelines for Writing Learning Outcomes

The course will provide a simple and broad framework for understanding the complex interconnection between economic activity, sustainability, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This course will also serve as a good foundation for postgraduate studies in thematic areas such as economic policy, sustainable development, environmental economics, and resource management.

After successfully completing the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the connection between economic activity and sustainability.
- Understand the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their importance to the global economy.
- Analyze economic concepts relevant to sustainability and the environmental impacts of sectors and consumption behaviors.
- Evaluate the sustainability of economic activities based on various measures.
- Recognize the importance of environmental, social, and economic justice in sustainable development.
- Apply the research and analytical tools learned in the course to evaluate sustainability in various texts and laws.
- Propose policies and economic measures to promote sustainable development.
- Develop critical thinking regarding the challenges and opportunities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Integrate sustainability into their professional and personal lives.

### General Competences

Taking into consideration the general competences that the degree-holder must acquire (as these appear in the Diploma Supplement and appear below), at which of the following does the course aim?

*Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information with the use of the necessary technology.*

*Adapting to new situations*

*Decision-making*

*Working independently*

*Teamwork*

*Working in an international environment*

*Working in an interdisciplinary environment*

*Production of new research ideas*

*Project planning and management*

*Respect for difference and multiculturalism*

*Respect for the natural environment*

*Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues*

*Criticism and self-criticism*

*Production of free, creative and inductive thinking*

*Others*

*.....*

- Investigative learning
- Autonomous work
- Collaborative work
- Searching for, analyzing, and synthesizing data and information, using necessary technologies

- Exercising criticism and self-criticism
- Promotion of free, creative, and inductive thinking
- Respect for the natural environment and non-human animals

### (3) SYLLABUS

The course examines the interconnection between economic activity and sustainability, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through the analysis of fundamental economic principles, environmental impacts, and global challenges, students will understand how the economy can promote a sustainable level of prosperity and a better quality of life for all.

Key Topics:

1. **The Goal of Economic Activity:** Examines the production of goods and its relationship with prosperity (happiness, "good life") and the potential for creating fair and peaceful societies with emphasis on income, intergenerational, and environmental justice.
2. **Economic Concepts:** Presents concepts of scarcity, productive capabilities, efficiency, waste, overconsumption, negative externalities, and subsidies to understand sustainability issues. Case studies: Inequalities. Corruption. Non-communicable diseases.
3. **Sustainability and Economy:** Investigates whether GDP can measure the sustainability of the economic system, the necessity of sustainable economic activity, and the trade-off between per capita consumption and population.
4. **State of the Planet:** Presents the current state of the planet (climate change, land use, land degradation, water pollution, etc.) and future predictions, highlighting economic activities that burden the environment the most.
5. **Planetary Health:** Introduces the term "planetary health" and its significance for the economy and sustainability, examining the interconnections between human health, ecosystems, and economic activity.
6. **A More Inclusive Justice:** Examines human rights versus the rights of nature and non-human animals with case studies on the harmonious coexistence of humans with free-living animals. Case study: Humanity's coexistence with non-human animals.
7. **Measurement of Environmental Impacts:** Presents ecological footprint, planetary boundaries, and other indicators, analyzing the myth of decoupling economic activities from environmental impacts. Case studies: Recycling. Technology. Decarbonization. Circular economy. Local vs Plant-based foods
8. **Production Sectors and Sustainability:** Analyzes the relative impact of production sectors (e.g., energy, livestock, tourism, chemical industry) on sustainability.
9. **Consumer Behavior and Sustainability:** Examines overconsumption, waste, consumption patterns, and elitism in consumer choices, and the importance of education for sustainability. Case studies: Skincare for youth. Clothing and footwear, BPA and Teflon.
10. **Sustainable Economy:** Analyzes the possibility of a sustainable economy, reducing per capita consumption without reducing the standard of living, and the

importance of a steady-state economy along with the critical role of the state and institutions.

**11. Sustainable Development Goals 2030 – Conclusions:** Examines the sustainability and feasibility of the SDGs, the necessary changes to achieve them, the economic resources required, and the integration of sustainability into corporate strategies and state policies.

#### (4) TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DELIVERY</b> <i>Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.</i></p>	<p>Face-to-face</p> <p>Web lecture (e.g. zoom) for open lectures (with guest lecturers from foreign universities and organisations), online collaborative lectures, and for demonstrating the use of online tools (e.g. bibliographical sources. databases, reference management applications)</p> <p>Web lecture (e.g. zoom) in special circumstances</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY</b> <i>Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, and communication with students</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of presentation software, spreadsheets, and word processors for preparing and presenting assignments.</li> <li>• Retrieval of quantitative data from databases (SDG Dashboard, World Bank, FAO, etc.) and extraction of relationships and conclusions through data analysis.</li> <li>• Development of skills in data analysis and creation of graphical representations to support arguments in presentations and reports.</li> <li>• Search and evaluation of reports from official organizations and credible sources (UN, FAO, WHO, Our World in Data, SDG Dashboard, IHME, NOAA, etc.) to support academic work.</li> <li>• Use of language models based on artificial intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT, Bing, Consensus AI) for information retrieval, summarizing large reports, and creating initial work outlines.</li> <li>• Evaluation of responses from language models based on scientific literature and critical thinking.</li> <li>• Search for scientific literature in various databases (Scopus, PubMed, Cochrane Reviews, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, etc.) to strengthen scientific documentation.</li> <li>• Use of learning management platforms (e.g., Google Classroom) for communication, posting materials, and assigning tasks.</li> <li>• Communication via email and electronic platforms with students and teachers for clarifications, discussions, and collaborations related to the course.</li> <li>• Use of online tools for collaboration in group projects (e.g., Google Drive, Zoom).</li> </ul>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TEACHING METHODS</b> <i>The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail.</i></p>	<p>Activity</p>	<p>Semester Workload</p>
	<p>Lectures</p>	<p>48</p>

<p><i>Lectures, seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, placements, clinical practice, art workshop, interactive teaching, educational visits, projects, essay writing, artistic creativity, etc.</i></p> <p><i>The student's study hours for each learning activity are given, as well as the hours of non-directed study according to the principles of the ECTS.</i></p>	Preparation of assignments and presentations	36
	Study and analysis of literature	96
	<b>Course Total (30 hrs per ECTS credit)</b>	<b>180</b>
<p><b>STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION</b></p> <p>Description of the evaluation procedure</p> <p>Language of evaluation, methods of evaluation, summative or conclusive, multiple choice questionnaires, short-answer questions, open-ended questions, problem-solving, written work, essay/report, oral examination, public presentation, laboratory work, clinical examination of patient, art interpretation, other</p> <p>Specifically-defined evaluation criteria are given, and if and where they are accessible to students.</p>	<p>50% Small tasks of searching, synthesizing, and interpreting data from reliable sources (SDG Dashboard, World Bank, FAO, Global Footprint Network, IHME, Our World in Data, etc.)</p> <p>50% End-of-semester exams with open books and notes</p> <p>(bonus) 20% Participation and Presentations during the semester</p>	

## (5) ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Βιβλίο [112695400]: **Σώζοντας τον πλανήτη**, Λιανός Θεόδωρος, Ψειρίδου Αναστασία
2. Βιβλίο [68389430]: **Μεγέθυνση και ανάπτυξη**, Thirwall A.
3. Βιβλίο [94645243]: **Οικονομική της Ανάπτυξης**, Sadoulet Elisabeth, De Janvry Alain, επιμ. Ψαλτόπουλος Δ., Στοφόρος Χ
4. Βιβλίο [2855]: **Οικονομική Περιβάλλοντος και Φυσικών Πόρων**, Κωνσταντίνος Μπίθας
5. Βιβλία [22702] **Διαχείριση του περιβάλλοντος, Επιχειρήσεις και βιώσιμη ανάπτυξη**. Έκδοση: 2η έκδ./2003 Συγγραφείς: Καρβούνης Σωτήρης Κ., Γεωργακέλλος Δημήτριος Α. Διαθέτης (Εκδότης): ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΑΜΟΥΛΗ ΑΕ
6. Βιβλία [114025179] **Περιβάλλον και Βιώσιμη Ανάπτυξη**. Έκδοση: 1/2023. Συγγραφείς: Τσιάρας Στέφανος, Τσιρούκης Αχιλλεύς. Διαθέτης (Εκδότης): ΚΑΛΛΙΠΟΣ Ανοικτές Ακαδημαϊκές Εκδόσεις
7. Sachs, Jeffrey. "**The Age of Sustainable Development**." Columbia University Press, 2015.
8. Raworth, Kate. "**Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist**." Chelsea Green Publishing, 2017.

9. Jackson, Tim. "**Prosperity Without Growth: Foundations for the Economy of Tomorrow.**" Routledge, 2016.
10. Walker, Julia, Alma Pekmezovic, and Gordon Walker. "**Sustainable Development Goals: Harnessing Business to Achieve the SDGs through Finance, Technology and Law Reform.**" Wiley, 2019.