

MSc in Sustainability Management

SDGs in practice

Professor: Silvia Ayuso/Xavier Carbonell

Office hours: by appointment

Course Type: Elective

Credits: 3 ECTS

Term: Third

Course Description

SDGs in practice is a third-term elective course in the in the MSc in Sustainability Management. It builds on the compulsory courses of the Fundamentals of Sustainability module (Sustainability concepts and the SDGs and Sustainability Management Systems) and provides a specialized vision of the practical implementation of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by societal actors (states, businesses, non-profit sector and civil society). In this course students will learn about practical experiences of advancing the SDGs in different themes (food, water and health) and diverse territorial scopes (cities, regions, countries), and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs.

Objectives (resultados de aprendizaje) and competences

At the end of the course, students should:

- Acquire a systems perspective to analyze and evaluate progress towards the various, sometimes contradicting, objectives and challenges of the SDGs
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of different societal actors in the practical implementation of the SDGs
- Critically reflect on the usefulness of existing indicators used to measure the achievement of the different targets related to each of the SDGs

Methodology

The course comprises eight 3-hour sessions, which combine theory lecturing with general debates and applied discussions on practical cases and exercises. Participants will also engage in presentations of reports, cases, or project assignments. Activities will require both individual and group work.

The course also involves a substantial amount of autonomous work outside the classroom combining readings that will help you to gain a deeper understanding of the material covered in the class.

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Note: This document is for informational purposes only. Course contents and faculty may change.

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Evaluation criteria

Three elements concur in the final mark:

- **Final exam (40%):** the final exam is used to assess the individual level of knowledge and understanding of each student. It will include questions covering topics from all the classes. This item counts for 40% of the final mark. To pass the exam the minimum grade is 5.
- **Project and presentation (40%):** Students will apply their knowledge to a real life situation. They are expected to use the topics they learnt to use during the classes.
- **Class attendance and active participation (20%):** Attendance in every session is expected and recorded by means of an attendance sheet. It is your responsibility to comply with this measure. Class attendance is compulsory and will be considered in your final grades; punctuality is a must. Note that unexcused absences reduce your score on the "attendance and participation" element of your final grade. In fact, two or more unexcused absences will result in an automatic score of zero and, in all likelihood, a fail mark for the course as a whole.

Other evaluation criteria to take into consideration:

Retake

Students who fail the course during regular evaluation will be allowed ONE re-take of the examination/evaluation. Students that pass any Retake exam should get a 5 by default as a final grade for the course. If the course is again failed after the retake, students will have to register again for the course the following year.

No-show

In case of a justified no-show to an exam, the student must inform the corresponding faculty member and the director(s) of the program so that they study the possibility of rescheduling the exam (one possibility being during the "Retake" period). In the meantime, the student will get an "incomplete", which will be replaced by the actual grade after the final exam is taken. The "incomplete" will not be reflected on the student's Academic Transcript.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is to use another's work and to present it as one's own without acknowledging the sources in the correct way. All essays, reports or projects handed in by a student must be original work completed by the student. By enrolling at any UPF

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BSM Master of Science and signing the “Honor Code,” students acknowledge that they understand the schools’ policy on plagiarism and certify that all course assignments will be their own work, except where indicated by correct referencing. Failing to do so may result in automatic expulsion from the program.

Bio of Professor

Silvia Ayuso is a lecturer and researcher in the field of sustainability management and the academic director of the MANGO Chair in Corporate Social Responsibility of ESCI-UPF. Prior to joining academia, she has worked as an environmental consultant and environmental management systems auditor (ISO 14001).

Silvia graduated in Environmental Engineering from Technical University of Berlin and holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences from Autonomous University of Barcelona. Her main research areas are sustainability assessment, social accounting and corporate social responsibility.

Xavier Carbonell is academic coordinator, lecturer and director of the MANGO Chair in Corporate Social Responsibility of ESCI-UPF. He is also co-director of the ESCI-UPF’s Postgraduate Course in Corporate Social Responsibility and professor of Ethics and Sustainability, a cross-curricular subject in UPF-BSM master’s degrees.

Xavier graduated in Economics from Autonomous University of Barcelona. He worked as an auditor and financial consultant between 1988 and 1998. In 1998 he joined the company MANGO, where he worked as CSR director until 2014, and in 2014 he joined ESCI-UPF as a specialist lecturer and researcher in corporate social responsibility and auditing.

Reading Materials/ Bibliography/Resources

No textbook is required for this course. All the required material will be provided. Any readings, notes, handouts, dataset, or additional course material will be available through the course website.