

## Sustainable Development (F710289)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 3.0** **Study time 90 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026**

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	lecture seminar
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**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Defloor, Bart	EB21	lecturer-in-charge
Ovaere, Marten	EB21	co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
<a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Business Administration</a>	3	A
<a href="#">Exchange programme in Economics and Business Administration</a>	3	A
<a href="#">Linking Course Master of Science in Health Care Management and Policy</a>	3	A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Sustainable development, Agenda 21, intra and intergenerational equity, indicators of well-being and sustainability

**Position of the course**

Several planetary boundaries have been transgressed, biodiversity loss and climate change threaten current and future generations' prosperity. If we want to maintain prosperity levels in the long run, we must think well about the choices we make today. An accurate understanding of our man made, natural, human, and social capital management is key to developing sustainable policies in order to evaluate how much capital we give to future generations and in which form.

Sustainable development means designing the right mix of economic, social and environmental policies for today and for tomorrow. Two major challenges emerge: the need for intragenerational equity and the need for intergenerational equity (sustainability), preserving opportunities for future generations. This course of sustainable development focuses mostly on sustainability, from a welfare economic. No country or individual on its own can tackle global issues like climate change and managing our planet's resources. The course also focuses on the determinants of behaviour and behavioural change. The necessary changes in consumption and production decisions we take today will affect not only our world, but also the world we pass on to future generations.

Indicators are needed in order to guide policies on different levels and to monitor our progress towards sustainable development. Finally, we should be aware of the fact that change for the better will not just "happen". It needs the support and involvement of many different groups and institutions.

The main objective of this course is to introduce the basic principles of sustainable development. Students will gain familiarity with the historical developments in the research field, the underlying concepts of uncertainty, intragenerational and intergenerational equity, the capital approach to sustainable development, the need for a broad vision to guide policies at different levels and the current efforts to measure sustainable development. The course adopts an economic approach to the issues of development and sustainability.

## Contents

The following topics will be discussed: social and environmental challenges, the definition of sustainable development and its main principles, indicators of well-being and sustainability, intergenerational equity and the global commons, intragenerational equity, and behavioural models.

### Initial competences

An understanding of the basic concepts of economics (welfare, capital, consumption, savings, investment) and an openness for a slightly formal analysis.

### Final competences

- 1 Gain insights in the basic principles of sustainable development.
- 2 Gain insights in the consequences of sustainability principles on the economy.
- 3 Develop a critical attitude towards the different visions on sustainable development.
- 4 Critically assess the development and use of sustainable development indicators.
- 5 Gain insights in the role of the government, consumers and producers in the transition towards sustainable development.
- 6 Develop a critical attitude towards our way of life and its consequences for future generations.

### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

### Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

### Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures and group discussions.

### Study material

Type: Slides

Name: lecture slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Slides : 400

Oldest Usable Edition : 2024

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Handouts

Name: articles and book chapters

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Pages : 200

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : one-time

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

### References

Fleurbaey and Blanchet (2013): Beyond GDP.

Atkinson et al. (2014): Handbook of Sustainable Development.

Background papers provided via Ufora.

**Course content-related study coaching**

Questions and discussions during and after the lectures.

**Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is not possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Written exam (80% of the grade)

Participation in moderated group discussions (20% of the grade): in the last lecture students participate in group discussions and write a short resume.

Second exam: 100% written exam

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Written exam (80%)

Participation in moderated group discussions (20%)

Second exam: 100% written exam