Nijmegen School of Management

Department of Economics and Business Economics

Academic year 2020-2021

Course manual

Economics and Sustainable Development

Dr. Juliette Alenda-Demoutiez

This course manual describes the content and procedures of this course. We expect you to read and follow these rules.

1. **Identification**

Economics and Sustainable Development MAN-BKV17

Dr. Juliette Alenda-Demoutiez and guest lecturers

Bachelor Economics and Business Economics

No prerequisites

Elective (yes)

Assessment (groups assignment + written exam)

Compulsory attendance (no)

Weblecture policy: Weblectures are made available as soon as possible after every lecture and remain online for the duration of the entire course.

Learning objectives:

* To understand what environment sustainability means and to identify the assumptions behind policies towards it
* To examine the interaction between the economy and the environment
* Students develop a clear understanding of the principles and applications of different schools of economic
* Students are familiar with the limitation on policy-making to achieve sustainable development
* To analyze the role and interests of different stakeholders (public authorities, businesses, individuals, etc.) and possible strategies for achieving future sustainability
* Students are able to identify appropriate instruments to achieve sustainable development
* Students are able to define GDP and explain some alternative ways to value natural resources and to measure social progress

Block 1, 1-9-2020 t/m 16-10-2020 (week 36 t/m 42)

1. **Content**

“The earth is finite and the quest for unlimited growth in population, material goods etc. would eventually lead to a crash” (Meadows et al., The limits to growth, 1972). About 40 years later, global climate change and resource problems are now widely seen as urgent. Environmental problems are increasingly being subjected to economic analysis. In this course, the relationship between economic growth, sustainable development, the environment and the economic sciences is central. What are the limitations of our current system and how to deal with them? The course outlines several streams in economics: neoclassical economics and the tragedy of the commons, Ostrom and public choice, ecological economics and natural capital, etc. What are the policy implications of the various concepts and definitions that are applied? How should we regulate? What is acceptable between weak and strong sustainability? How to coordinate all stakeholders towards sustainable development? How to (and should we) value biodiversity? How to measure sustainability and well-being over GDP?

We will study practical examples on many crucial issues (economic growth, population growth, ecosystems, consumerism, technology, etc.) along the way from all over the world, as international imbalances are also fundamental in this evolution towards sustainable development. By connecting theory and practice the course will help students to learn how they can make a difference. One important idea to take from this course is that sustainable development goes beyond economics. The course is multidisciplinary. It explores how to make our economies, regions and our cities more sustainable and how to work towards a more sustainable global society. Solutions integrate economic, environmental, political and social considerations.

1. **Organisation**

Time and location (further details in schedule):

Tuesday, 10:30-12:15

Thursday 10:30-12:15

Friday 08:30-10:15

Online

Session type: Lectures, seminars, guest lectures

Registering for work groups on Brightspace

Communication: Brightspace, lectures, web lectures, slides

Contact with lecturers: Email, meeting by appointment

j.alenda@fm.ru.nl

EOS 02.562/online (Skype, Zoom)

Course material: one article per lecture and weblectures (see schedule for details)

1. **Assessment**

Description of assessment type and components (1)

How the different components count towards the final grade (2)

Requirements for passing the course (3)

Assessment criteria for each assessment component (4)

Repeater regulation

1. **Fraud and plagiarism**

For an explanation of what is considered fraud and plagiarism and how to avoid it: See <https://www.ru.nl/nsm/stip/faculty-study-information/study-information/fraud-plagiarism/>

The consequences of committing fraud or plagiarism are regulated in the Education and Examination Regulations, see [EER 2019-2020](https://www.ru.nl/nsm/stip/faculty-study-information/arrangements/education-examination-regulations-0/) see article 5.5. and Appendix 2

1. **How to study for this course**

Students are expected to read the course material before lectures to be prepared, to take an active part during lectures and seminars, and to follow Brightspace for any news. Do not hesitate to seek help if you have any problem. On the subject of environmental sustainability, I also advise to follow some interesting websites and journals.

*Blogs*:

<https://globalisation-and-the-environment.blogspot.com/>

<https://forestpolicy.typepad.com/ecoecon/>

<https://www.env-econ.net/2010/11/we-love-our-commenters.html>

<https://theconversation.com/global/topics/environmental-economics-10712>

*Journals*: Ecological Economics, Environment and Development Economics, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Environmental Economics and Policy, Economics of Energy & Environmental Policy, Environmental Politics, Environmental and Resource Economics, Global Environmental Politics.

1. **How this course prepares you for the job market**

By showing the complex interaction between economics and environmental problems, this course is designed to give you different insights as an entry into this field. The possibilities for the future are broad, as environmental sustainability is now everywhere: management, accounting, policy, finance, communication, energy, non-profit sector, development, etc. Environmental sustainability implies the need for multidisciplinarity and consists of complex problems requiring solutions and perspectives we will talk about in this course. These skills are highly valued in the job markets. [The European Green Deal](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en), for example, shows the importance of knowledge and skills about environmental sustainability in the future.

1. **Schedule**

Each week, we will have two lectures and one seminar, in which you will work in collaboration to answer questions related to the specific topic of the week.

Week 36: Introduction, past, present and future of the relations between economics and the environment

Week 37: Alternatives measures for progress

Week 38: Sustainable economic development

Week 39: From the local to the international governance of environmental resources

Week 40: Corporate social responsibility and innovation

Week 41: Public and private finance

Week 42: Sustainable individual behaviors