# SYLLABUS 2025-2026
## Companies and Sustainable Development Objectives: Sulitest Preparation

## MODULE SPECIFICATION

| Module Code | 2526_ECO_1_EN_017 |
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| Campus | Oxford |
| Department(s) | Territorial Economy and Sustainable Development |
| Level / Semester | Undergraduate Year 1 (U1); Equivalent to FHEQ level 4<br>Semester 02 |
| Language of Instruction | English |
| Teaching Method | ☒ In-person (face-to-face)<br>☐ Distance learning (live online)<br>☐ e-Learning (asynchronous)<br>☐ Hybrid: _____ |
| Pre-requisite(s)? | None |
| ECTS<br>*Reminder: 1 ECTS = between 20 and 30hr- student workload* | 3 |
| Equivalent FHEQ credits | 6 |
| Study Hours | 60 hours which comprise of 28 directed learning and 32 independent learning/assessment hours |

## MODULE DESCRIPTION

| Module Aims | This module provides an introduction to the role of companies in sustainable development within a globalised context. It is designed to equip students with the analytical tools necessary for a critical understanding of sustainability and its various applications. The curriculum places a specific emphasis on the role of businesses in |
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| | achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through numerous examples and case studies, students will explore the broader socio-economic and ecological environments in which companies operate, helping them to grasp the key challenges related to sustainability. |
| **Teaching Arrangement** | The module will be delivered through constant interactivity, debates, and discussions. |
| **Learning Outcomes** | By the end of this module, students should be able to:<br>1. Explain the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and identify how a company can use them as a framework for action.<br>2. Describe the key societal and economic challenges of sustainable development within the corporate context.<br>3. Recognise the role of managers in the deployment of a company's sustainability strategy. |
| **Competency Goals**\* <br>*(Knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills)* | PGE_U_CG05 - Innovate to adapt to its environment |
| | PGE_U_CG04 - Manage a profit responsibly |
| **Alignment with Programme Learning Goals**\* | PGE_U_CG05_LO01 - Analyse the organisation's activity and develop innovative projects |
| | PGE_U_CG04_LO04 - Implement CSR policy |

## SESSION TOPICS / MODULE SCHEDULE

*(Please note, a session/sequence may be more than one scheduled class)*

Session 1: From the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
*Content:*
- History of environmental concerns
- The MDGs
- The SDGs

*References:*
- (n.d.) *How your company can advance each of the SDGs*, *United Nations Global Compact*. Available at: https://unglobalcompact.org/sdgs/17-global-goals.

*Assignments:*
- Watch the video at: (n.d.) *Take action for the sustainable development goals*, *Sustainable Development Goals*. Available at: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/.

Session 2: Corporate Engagement in Combating Climate Change
*Content:*

- Overview of climate change
- How are company responding to climate change?

*References:*
- (n.d.) *Business strategies to address climate change*, *Center for Climate and Energy Solutions*. Available at: https://www.c2es.org/content/business-strategies-to-address-climate-change/.

*Assignments:*
- Read: (n.d.) *Business strategies to address climate change*, *Center for Climate and Energy Solutions*. Available at: https://www.c2es.org/content/business-strategies-to-address-climate-change/.
  - Answer the provided questions

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Session 3: Why Companies Should Engage in the Energy Transition
*Content:*
- Geostrategic/geopolitical balances related to the energy resources worldwide
- What energies for tomorrow? – the future of nuclear energy and its implications for businesses and economic actors

*References:*
- Cote, C. (2024) *How climate change affects business strategy*, *Harvard Business School Online*. Available at: https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/climate-change-and-business-strategy.

*Assignments:*
- Read: Cote, C. (2024) *How climate change affects business strategy*, *Harvard Business School Online*. Available at: https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/climate-change-and-business-strategy.
  - Answer the provided questions

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Session 4: Water – A Strategic Resource
*Content:*
- Global water usage
- Role of companies in the exploitation and conservation of water resources

*References:*
- United Nations (n.d.) *Water action decade*, *Sustainable Development Goals*. Available at: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-action-decade/.

*Assignments:*
- Read: United Nations (n.d.) *Water action decade*, *Sustainable Development Goal*s. Available at: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-action-decade/.
  - Answer the provided questions

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Session 5: Incorporating Health in the Workplace
*Content:*
- Global health overview
- Quality of life and well-being in the workplace

*References:*
- Burton, J. (2010) *Healthy workplaces: A model for action. For employers, workers, policy-makers and practitioners*. rep. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization (WHO), pp. 1–26.

*Assignments:*
- Read: Burton, J. (2010) *Healthy workplaces: A model for action. For employers, workers, policy-makers and practitioners*. rep. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization (WHO),

pp. 1–26.
- ○ Answer the provided questions

Session 6: How Companies Can Engage in Reducing Inequalities
*Content:*
- Inequalities and poverty worldwide
- Feeding the planet and addressing inequalities
- Inequalities within companies

*References:*
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (n.d.) *Sustainable development goals business and the SDGs, Denmark | SDG Accelerator*. Available at: https://www.undp.org/sdg-accelerator/business-and-sdgs.

*Assignments:*
- Explore the following database: https://wid.world/
  - ○ Complete the assigned exercise

Session 7: Gender Equality – When Will We Achieve It?
*Content:*
- Defining gender equality
- What practices can be implemented in companies?

*References:*
- (n.d.) *Gender equality*, *United Nations Global Compact*. Available at: https://unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/social/gender-equality.

*Assignments:*
- Read: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (n.d.) *Women's empowerment principles: Equality means business*. rep. United Nations Global Compact.
  - ○ Answer the provided questions

Session 8: Resilient Cities and Territories
*Content:*
- The smart city as an opportunity for businesses
- Innovations and territories

*References:*
- (n.d.) *People centred-smart cities*, *UN-Habitat*. Available at: https://unhabitat.org/programme/people-centred-smart-cities.

*Assignments:*
- Read: (n.d.) *People centred-smart cities*, *UN-Habitat*. Available at: https://unhabitat.org/programme/people-centred-smart-cities.
  - ○ Answer the provided questions

Session 9: Responsible Consumption and Production
*Content:*
- The consumer as a lever for responsible production
- Short supply chains

*References:*
- (n.d.) *Sustainable consumption and production policies*, *UN Environment Programme*. Available at: https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-

do/sustainable-consumption-and-production-policies.

*Assignments:*
- Read: (n.d.) *Sustainable consumption and production policies*, *UN Environment Programme.* Available at: https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/sustainable-consumption-and-production-policies.
  - Answer provided questions

Session 10: Peace, Democracy, and Global Governance
*Content:*
- Peace around the world
- Companies and their partnerships for achieving the SDGs

*References:*
- (n.d.) *Peace*, *United Nations Global Compact.* Available at: https://unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/governance/peace.

*Assignments:*
- Read: 'Senior officials sound alarm over food insecurity, warning of potentially "biblical" famine, in briefings to security council' (2020) *United Nations* [Preprint]. Available at: https://press.un.org/en/2020/sc14164.doc.htm.
  - Answer provided questions

## KEY TEXTS

1. Kopnina, H., Padfield, R. and Mylan, J. (2023) *Sustainable business: Key issues*. 3rd edn. Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge.
2. (n.d.) *SDG compass: The guide for business action on the SDGs*. rep. GRI, United Nations Global Compact, WBCSD.
3. Brockett, A. and Rezaee, Z. (2012) *Corporate sustainability: Integrating performance and reporting*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
4. Van Tulder, R. (2018) *Business & the sustainable development goals: A framework for effective corporate involvement*. Rotterdam, Netherlands: Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University.

## SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

1. (n.d.) *How your company can advance each of the SDGs*, *United Nations Global Compact*. Available at: https://unglobalcompact.org/sdgs/17-global-goals.
2. (n.d.) *Take action for the sustainable development goals*, *Sustainable Development Goals*. Available at: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/.
3. (n.d.) *Business strategies to address climate change*, *Center for Climate and Energy Solutions*. Available at: https://www.c2es.org/content/business-strategies-to-address-climate-change/.
4. Cote, C. (2024) *How climate change affects business strategy*, *Harvard Business School Online*. Available at: https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/climate-change-and-business-strategy.
5. United Nations (n.d.) *Water action decade*, *Sustainable Development Goals*. Available at: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-action-decade/.
6. Burton, J. (2010) *Healthy workplaces: A model for action. For employers, workers, policy-makers and practitioners*. rep. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization (WHO), pp. 1–

26.
7. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (n.d.) *Sustainable development goals business and the SDGs*, *Denmark | SDG Accelerator*. Available at: https://www.undp.org/sdg-accelerator/business-and-sdgs.
8. (n.d.) *Gender equality*, *United Nations Global Compact*. Available at: https://unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/social/gender-equality.
9. United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (n.d.) *Women's empowerment principles: Equality means business*. rep. United Nations Global Compact.
10. (n.d.) *People centred-smart cities*, *UN-Habitat*. Available at: https://unhabitat.org/programme/people-centred-smart-cities.
11. (n.d.) *Sustainable consumption and production policies*, *UN Environment Programme*. Available at: https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/sustainable-consumption-and-production-policies.
12. (n.d.) *Peace, United Nations Global Compact.* Available at: https://unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/governance/peace.
13. 'Senior officials sound alarm over food insecurity, warning of potentially "biblical" famine, in briefings to security council' (2020) *United Nations* [Preprint]. Available at: https://press.un.org/en/2020/sc14164.doc.htm.

## MODES OF ASSESSMENT

| **Continuous Assessment** (40%) | Written exam | 20% |
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| | Oral presentation | 20% |
| **Final Exam** (60%) | Closed book written dissertation | |

## MODULE DESIGN TEAM

- Author: *Sébastien Bourdin*
- Reviewer: *Eric Golson*
- External Reviewer: *Sudiappu Kankanamalage Premaratne Perera*

*Last reviewed: 11/09/2025*