

COURSE OUTLINES: BF2228 Sustainable Finance

Academic Year	2022/2023	Semester	2
Course Coordinator	Ji Min (Kate) Park		
Course Code	BF2228		
Course Title	Sustainable Finance		
Pre-requisites	AB1201 or BU5201 or BU8201		
No of AUs	3 AUs		
Contact Hours	3 hours X 13 weeks		
Proposal Date	July, 2022		

A) Course Aims

This is an introductory course on Sustainable Finance. The course discusses the fundamental concepts to understand how sustainability issues have become relevant to the investment decisions by corporate managers, professional investors, and any participant in the market. This course aims to provide basic understanding and analytical skills in sustainable finance to students interested in a career in finance and prepare them to take other advanced finance courses. Students will learn how ESG (environmental, social, and governance) factors affect the various sectors in finance, how to interpret these metrics of companies to access financial returns, and how to measure risks associated with sustainable issues such as climate change. Sustainable investing is now a common practice in the financial markets. This course also covers basic knowledge of impact investing and sustainable and responsible investment by investment firms. Students will learn how to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world sustainable issues in finance.

B) Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)/Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Apply the key sustainable finance concepts to real world sustainability-related issues in finance
2. Interpret financial reports and sustainability reports for Singapore and international contexts
3. Describe the basics of ESG factors and their applications
4. Analyze the impact of recent policy and regulatory changes on sustainable finance
5. Assess corporate sustainable risks and the impacts of risk on stakeholders
6. Examine how sustainability issues affect management decisions by corporate managers and investment decisions by professional investors such as mutual funds, pension funds, private equity, etc

C) Course Content

1. Introduction to the Sustainable Finance
2. ESG (environment, social, and governance) factors
3. Sustainability Reporting
4. Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility
5. ESG and Climate Change
6. Sustainability and Financial Returns
7. Impact Investing
8. Overview of Responsible and Sustainable Investment

D) Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)					
Component	ILO Tested	NBS Learning Goal	Weighting	Team/Individual	Assessment Rubrics
1. Class Participation	ILO1-6	Oral Communication	10%	<i>Individual</i>	Appendix 4
2. Quizzes	ILO1, ILO3-6	Critical Thinking, Acquisition of Knowledge	30%	<i>Individual</i>	N.A
3. Homework Assignment	ILO2-6	Critical Thinking, Acquisition of Knowledge	10%	<i>Individual</i>	N.A
4. Group Case Study	ILO1-5	Problem Solving & Decision Making, Critical Thinking, Teamwork & Interpersonal Skills	20% (All members of group receive same group score unless peer evaluation indicates that the member did not contribute.)	Team	Appendix 1 and 3
5. Final Project	ILO1-6	Critical Thinking & Creative Thinking, Teamwork & Interpersonal Skills, Oral & Written Communication	30%, of which 20% is a group score and 10% is an individual presentation score (All members of group receive same group score unless peer evaluation indicates that the member did not contribute.)	Team (20%) Individual (10%)	Appendix 2 and 3
Total			100%		

Description of Assessment Components:

C1. Absence from class will affect your class participation scores. During seminars, you are expected to participate in in-class activities and discussions. Class participation includes your responses to the instructor's cold call. Please refer to Appendix 4.

C2. At the beginning of four lectures, I will distribute a short quiz that tests your understanding of the pre-class reading assignment and the materials covered in the previous lectures. You will have 30 minutes for each quiz, and the quiz is a closed book with multiple-choice and short answer questions. The quiz aims to test whether you have understood the concepts in the previous lectures and whether you have finished your reading assignment. I will distribute the graded quiz in the next class for your review. If you miss the quiz and your absence is not excused by the university rules, then your numerical grade for the quiz is zero. If you have to miss the quiz and your absence can be excused by the university approved reason, you should email the instructor before the quiz to schedule an alternate quiz date and time for you.

C3. The homework assignments will be distributed via NTULearn and due by 8:00 am one week later. Late assignment will not receive any credit. You are responsible for submitting the assignment using NTULearn. It is not allowed to share any work with other students in class. If you have trouble accessing NTULearn due to technical issues, the pdf version of the assignment should be sent to the instructor's email account at kate.park@ntu.edu.sg by the due date. The assignment will be graded on a pass-fail basis.

C4. The case study is a team project. Each group comprises around five students to have a total of 10 groups in the course. The instructor will randomly assign students to groups. In the case study, each group will be asked to select a company of their choice. You should preferably select a publicly traded company and should not select banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions. The company does not need to be listed in Singapore, but you should be able to find the accounting information for the selected company and submit it with your final version of the slides. You will also need to select one competitor to make comparisons. The competitor should be as related as possible to the company that you choose and its accounting information should be available in the standard source as your chosen company. Your choice of two companies will be one major part of grading. Specific guidelines and assessment criteria will be provided. Each group member is not required to present. All group members are required to complete a peer evaluation for each team member and will receive the same group score. If the peer evaluation indicates that you have not contributed enough to the project, your group score will be awarded based on your average ratings from the peer evaluation. Please refer to Appendix 1 for assessment criteria and Appendix 3 for peer evaluation.

C5. The final project is a team project. Each group comprises around five students to have a total of 10 groups in the course. The instructor will randomly assign students to groups. In the final project, each group will develop an impact investing/responsible investing strategy. The presentation slides should be submitted prior to the presentation date. Specific guidelines and assessment criteria will be provided. Each group member is required to present for the individual presentation scores. All group members are required to complete a peer evaluation for each team member and will receive the same group score. If the peer evaluation indicates that you have not contributed enough to the project, your group score will be awarded based on your average ratings from the peer evaluation. Please refer to Appendix 2 for assessment criteria and Appendix 3 for peer evaluation.

E) Formative feedback

Feedback is central to this course. In addition to your scores, you will receive summative group feedback on each quiz and homework assignment. For the group case study and the final project, I will ask for digital copies of your written report/presentation so that I may provide feedback on both style and content.

F) Learning and Teaching approach

Approach	How does this approach support you in achieving the learning outcomes?
Seminars	The seminar sessions will be interactive and there is ample opportunities for open discussion on the conceptual questions raised in the class allows you to think critical and share their ideas and concept with the class. This also allows me to get the concepts clearly through the entire class by involving you and ensure that the targeted learning outcomes are being achieved
Quizzes	I will design the quizzes to help you understand reading assignments and deepen your analytical skills to apply the concepts and materials in the course.

Homework assignment(s)	The assignments require you to generate, analyze and deliver humorous materials in a guided manner.
Group projects	Some learning outcomes for this course are skills which are practical in nature and cannot be achieved by reading and writing. The achievement of such learning outcomes requires hands-on experience, in-class activities provide such opportunities.

G) Reading and References

Seminar notes will be provided prior to the start of seminar session. Academic articles, magazine/news articles, and other relevant readings will be supplemented to address the issues in sustainable finance. These will be posted on NTULearn.

H) Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

(1) General

- You are expected to complete all assigned pre-class readings and activities, attend all seminar classes punctually and take all scheduled assignments and quizzes by due dates. You are expected to take responsibility to follow up with course notes, assignments and course related announcements for seminar sessions they have missed. You are expected to participate in all seminar discussions and activities.
- Given the uncertain nature of pandemic situation, the course requirements, deadlines, and meeting arrangements are subject to sudden change. The instructor will communicate any adjustments using university email, verbal and written content during seminars, and announcements on NTULearn.
- No late submission for homework assignment will be accepted. Late submissions for group projects will receive half credits.

(2) Absenteeism

- Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies.
- If you miss a lecture, you must inform the course instructor via email prior to the start of the class.
- If you miss the quiz/individual presentation and your absence is not excused by the university rules, then your numerical grade is zero. No make-up quiz/individual presentation will be provided.

I) Academic Integrity

Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work as a student relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core of NTU's shared values.

As a student, it is important that you recognize your responsibilities in understanding and applying the principles of academic integrity in all the work you do at NTU. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. You need to actively equip yourself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the [academic integrity website](#) for more information. Consult your instructor(s) if you need any clarification about the requirements of academic integrity in the course.

J) Course Instructors

Instructor	Office Location	Phone	Email	Consultation Hours
Ji Min (Kate) Park	S3 B1A-20	TBA	kate.park@ntu.edu.sg	By prior appointment via email

K) Planned Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	ILO	Readings/ Activities
Week 1	Introduction to Sustainable Finance and Overview of ESG factors	1	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn
Week 2	Sustainability Reporting	1,2	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn
Week 3 (E-learning due to Chinese New Year)	Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility -1	1-4	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn
Week 4	Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility -2	1-4	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn #Quiz 1
Week 5	ESG and Climate Change -1	1-4	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn
Week 6	ESG and Climate Change -2	1-4	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn #Quiz 2
Week 7	Group Case Study Presentation	1-4	Group Case Study Due
Recess Week			
Week 8	Sustainability and Financial Returns	5, 6	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn
Week 9	Impact Investing - 1	3-6	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn

			#Quiz 3
Week 10	Impact Investing - 2	3-6	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn *Guest Speaker
Week 11	Overview of Responsible and Sustainable Investment - 1	3-6	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn
Week 12	Overview of Responsible and Sustainable Investment - 2	3-6	*Seminar notes will be posted on NTULearn #Quiz 4
Week 13	Final Project Presentation	1-6	Final Project Due

Appendix 1: Assessment Criteria for Group Case Study

You will be asked to select a company and one competitor to make comparisons. These companies should be publicly traded and should not be banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions. Their accounting information should be available in the standard sources, and you will be required to submit them with your presentation slides.

You will be evaluated largely based on the following criteria:

Traits	1 Below Expectations	2 Met Expectations	3 Above Expectations
Apply Concepts to Real World Situations	Students are not able to apply the concepts learnt in class to real world situations.	Students are able to apply the concepts learnt in class to real world situations.	Students are able to apply the concepts learnt in class to real world situations and expand upon it.
Analysis	Students consider one dimension of ESG factors. Students incorrectly describe and explain concepts. Students are not able to provide logical explanations to draw conclusions.	Students miss one dimension of ESG factors. Students correctly describe and explain concepts. Students are able to provide logical explanations to draw conclusions.	Students well analyze all dimensions of ESG factors. Students correctly describe and explain concepts. Students provide thorough comparisons and logical explanations to draw conclusions.
Organisation of the group presentation	Information is not presented in a logical sequence	Information is presented in a logical sequence with good use of visual aids to illustrate certain key points	Information is presented in a logical sequence; Well designed and attractive visual aids that simplify / summarise key pointers
Overall group dynamics and delivery	Time management is poor; Delivery is not smooth; No group spirit	Little improvement needed for time management or delivery; Works as a team	Good time management and smooth delivery; Excellent group spirit
Writing	Slides are difficult to understand. Problems with sentence structure, leaving reader unsure of meaning.	Slides can be adequately understood.	Slides are well-organized, easily understood, succinct and to the point.

Appendix 2: Assessment Criteria for Final project

You will be asked to develop an impact investing/responsible investing strategy. Each group member is required to present for the individual presentation scores.

You will be evaluated largely based on the following criteria:

Group Component:

Traits	1 Below Expectations	2 Met Expectations	3 Above Expectations
Originality	Students simply use one of the investment strategies covered in class.	Students build on an investment strategy covered in class.	Students build on and expand upon an investment strategy covered in class. OR Students develop a strategy distinct from any of the strategies covered in class.
Analysis	Target investors are not identified. Students are not able to describe the strategy.	Target investors are specified. Students are able to describe the strategy.	Target investors are specified in detail with good explanations. Students describe the strategy with analytical evidence.
Use of visual aids such as images, charts, graphs, or diagrams	Visual aid is hard to read or not legible from distance. OR Visual aid is not used to emphasize key points and explain important numbers.	Visual aid is standard. Visual aid is used to help the audience understand key points and numbers.	Visual aid is clear, simple and easy to read and enhance students' presentation. Visual aid is effective to keep the audience engaged or maintaining their interest during the presentation.
Organisation of the group presentation	Information is not presented in a logical sequence.	Information is presented in a logical sequence.	Information is presented in a logical sequence; The order of subtopics is well-designed, and the presentation is coherent.
Overall group dynamics and delivery	Time management is poor; Delivery is not smooth; No group spirit	Little improvement needed for time management or delivery; Works as a team	Good time management and smooth delivery; Excellent group spirit
Writing	Slides are difficult to understand. Problems with sentence structure, leaving reader unsure of meaning.	Slides can be adequately understood.	Slides are well-organized, easily understood, succinct and to the point.

Individual Presentation Component:

Traits	1 Below Expectations	2 Met Expectations	3 Above Expectations
Enthusiasm/ Audience Awareness	Shows no interest in topic presented	Occasionally shows positive feelings about the presentation	Demonstrates strong enthusiasm during the entire presentation
Delivery	Uncertain and hesitant, does not maintain eye contact with audience. Mumbles, speaks too softly, or speaks in monotone	Generally professional, establishes eye contact with audience some of the time. Speaks with satisfactory variation of volume and inflection	Stands poised and confident, establishes eye contact with audience. Speaks with fluctuation in volume and inflection to maintain audience interest and emphasize key points

Appendix 3: Peer Evaluation Instructions

All members of the same group will receive the same score **unless** the peer evaluation indicates that the member has not contributed enough to the project.

Specifically, all members are required to complete a peer evaluation for each member of the team. The completed peer evaluation form must be submitted individually to the instructor immediately after the team assignment has been submitted for grading.

Each member will rate the other team members with regards to five traits on a scale ranging from “1” through “7” with “7” denoting the most positive evaluation. For each member, I will compute the average rating across the five traits submitted by the other team members:

1. If a member’s average rating is ≥ 4 , the member will receive **100%** of the overall score awarded to the team assignment.
2. If a member’s average rating is < 4 but ≥ 3 , the member will receive **80%** of the overall score awarded to the team assignment.
3. If a member’s average rating is < 3 but ≥ 2 , the member will receive **50%** of the overall score awarded to the team assignment.
4. If a member’s average rating is < 2 , the member will receive **30%** of the overall score awarded to the team assignment.

Ratings will be kept **confidential**, and identity of appraisers will not be revealed to other team members. You will only be informed of your score and, if the peer evaluation indicates that you have not contributed enough to the project, how many points you lost as a result.

The following is a description of the five traits along with a description of the scales:

Traits	Performance	
<u>Roles and Responsibility</u> Behaves professionally by upholding responsibility and assuming accountability for self and others in progressing towards the team’s goal.	Scant Unclear about his/her own role; refuses to take a role in the group; insists to work individually and has limited coordination or communication with others.	Substantially Developed Always fulfills responsibilities; performs his/her role within the group with enthusiasm and demonstrates willingness to work collaboratively.
	Evaluation: Scant <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> Substantially Developed	
<u>Communication</u> Identifies appropriate mechanisms to coordinate and correspond with team members.	Scant Modes of communication are not appropriate, causing confusion and miscommunication among team members.	Substantially Developed Modes of communication are appropriate, and maintains timely communication and correspondence with team members.
	Evaluation: Scant <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> Substantially Developed	
<u>Conflict Resolution</u>	Scant Does not recognize conflicts or is unwilling to resolve conflicts.	Substantially Developed
	Evaluation: Scant <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> Substantially Developed	

Resolves conflicts using a variety of approaches.		Consistently resolves conflicts through facilitating open discussion and compromise.
Evaluation: Scant 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Substantially Developed		
<u>Contributions</u> Contributes positive input for the team; effectively utilizes one's knowledge and expertise.	Scant Largely disinterested in working in a group and refuses to participate; observes passively or is unwilling to share information with other team members.	Substantially Developed <u>Actively attends and participates in all activities and provides meaningful contribution in articulating ideas and opinions.</u>
Evaluation: Scant 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Substantially Developed		
<u>Relationship</u> Maintains cooperative interaction with other team members regardless of individual /cultural differences and respects diverse perspectives.	Scant Rarely listens to others and does not acknowledge the opinions that differ from his/her own.	Substantially Developed Engages in respectful relationships with all other members in the team. Embraces and accepts diverse points of view without prejudice.
Evaluation: Scant 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Substantially Developed		

Appendix 4: Assessment Criteria for Class Participation

Traits	1 Below Expectations	2 Met Expectations	3 Above Expectations
Contribution frequency	Does not speak up/ contribute in class	Occasionally speaks up/ contributes in class	Regularly speaks up/ contributes in classes
Contribution quality	No contributions/ contributions lack substance	Contributions demonstrate basic understanding of subject matter	Contributions are constructive and insightful