

THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Approval of Undergraduate Course

Section 1: Academic Administration ⁽¹⁾

1.1 Catalog

- a) Course to be effective from: Academic Year 2023-2024 Term Fall
- b) Department Code⁽³⁾: IPO Subject Area⁽³⁾: ENVR Course Number ⁽⁴⁾: 4340
 Previous Course Code⁽⁵⁾: N/A
- c) Full Title⁽⁶⁾ (max. 100 characters): Social Sustainability: Risks and Challenges
- d) Abbreviated Title⁽⁷⁾ (max. 30 characters): Social Sustainability
- e) Course Credits⁽⁸⁾: ☒ Fixed: 3 ☐ Range: From _____ To _____

- f) Catalog Description⁽⁹⁾ (word limit = 150):

Social sustainability is the least defined and least understood of the different ways of approaching sustainability. Nevertheless, reflecting on countries or regions where internal conflicts are fierce, it is clear that environmental or economic sustainability would be difficult without social stability or sustainability. In this course, referencing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) championed by the United Nations, we shall examine the challenges regarding social sustainabilities. This course shall first provide a review of the SDGs, highlighting the SDGs related to social sustainability and using them to discuss how their progress is measured and improved in various counties. The course shall also discuss existing and emerging challenges to social sustainability and the risks and impacts when countries fail to improve upon these goals. Case studies and quantitative analyses will be used as much as possible.

- g) Grading Type⁽¹⁰⁾: ☒ Letter Grades ☐ Distinction/Credit/Pass/Fail ☐ Pass/ Fail
☐ Distinction/Pass/Fail ☐ Others (please specify): _____

- h) ☒ Prerequisites⁽¹¹⁾:

| Course Code / Public Exam | Course Title / Exam Subject and Level / Grade attained |
|---------------------------|--|
| SUST1000 | Introduction to Sustainability |
| | |

- i) ☐ Corequisites⁽¹²⁾:

| Course Code | Course Title |
|-------------|--------------|
| | |
| | |

- j) ☐ Exclusions⁽¹³⁾:

| Course Code / Public Exam | Course Title / Exam Subject and Level / Grade attained |
|---------------------------|--|
| | |
| | |

- k) ☐ Co-listing⁽¹⁴⁾: ☐ Multi-coding⁽¹⁴⁾:

| Course Code | Course Title |
|-------------|--------------|
| | |
| | |

- l) Other Enrollment Restrictions⁽¹⁵⁾ ☒ No ☐ Yes
- ☐ Instructor's approval required
- ☐ Restricted to specified student group(s)
(please specify, e.g. year and program of study): _____
- ☐ Others (please specify): _____
- m) Medium of Instruction/Materials⁽¹⁶⁾: ☒ English ☐ Others, (Pls specify and provide a justification in Section 1.3): _____
- n) Allow course repetition for credit⁽¹⁷⁾: ☒ No ☐ Yes

1.2 Contribution of course to Programs of Study [Check all appropriate boxes below]

| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Program of Study</th> <th colspan="3">As</th> </tr> <tr> <td>BSc in Sustainable and Green Finance</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required Course</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Elective</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite</td> </tr> </table> | Program of Study | As | | | BSc in Sustainable and Green Finance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Elective | <input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Program of Study | As | | | | | | | | |
| BSc in Sustainable and Green Finance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Elective | <input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minor | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Program of Study</th> <th colspan="3">As</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Required Course</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Elective</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite</td> </tr> </table> | Program of Study | As | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Required Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Elective | <input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite |
| Program of Study | As | | | | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Required Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Elective | <input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Core | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others (pls specify): | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Program of Study</th> <th colspan="3">As</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Required Course</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Elective</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite</td> </tr> </table> | Program of Study | As | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Required Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Elective | <input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite |
| Program of Study | As | | | | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Required Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Elective | <input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisite | | | | | | |

1.3 Rationale for Introducing this course and other relevant information ⁽¹⁸⁾

Social sustainability is the least defined and least understood of the different ways of approaching sustainability. Nevertheless, reflecting on countries or regions where internal conflicts are fierce, it is clear that environmental or economic sustainability would be difficult without social stability or sustainability. In this course, referencing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) championed by the United Nations, we shall examine the challenges we have regarding social sustainabilities.

This course shall first provide a review of the framework of the SDGs, their background, the targets of each SDG, and the indicator system used to measure and encourage progress across countries at a very different stage of development. The course will then focus on the goals more related to social sustainability, including 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 10 (reduced inequalities), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), and goal 17 (partnerships) through case studies. Examples will also be used to illustrate how the indicator system assesses and monitor the progress of these SDGs in improving social sustainability in different countries according to their developmental status. The course shall also discuss existing and emerging challenges to social sustainability and the risks and impacts when nations fail to improve upon these goals. Case studies and quantitative analyses will be used as much as possible.

Section 2A: Learning Outcomes and Alignment (for courses not proposed to be Common Core Courses)

2.1 Key Course Intended Learning Outcomes (Should not normally exceed six or eight outcomes)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to do the following:

| | Course ILOs | Nature of the learning outcomes (A - Knowledge/Content Related; B - Academic Skills/Competencies; C - Others) |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Describe the framework of the UN SDGs, their background, and the system for assessing their progress. | A |
| 2 | Review and comment on the latest development of the SDGs related to social sustainability (1,2,3,4,5,10,11,16 and 17) in key countries. | A, B |
| 3 | Deliberate the essential needs of social sustainability and associate the risks without social sustainability for a country's development. | A, B |
| 4 | Analyse how the interests of various stakeholders facilitate or hinder the attainment of these goals | B |
| 5 | Interpret case examples, understand how certain countries or regions managed to overcome difficulties, and make significant progress in recent years. | B |
| 6 | Critically evaluate the specific bottlenecks facing some countries or regions and make informed suggestions. | B |

2.2 Contribution of Learning Outcomes to Programs of Study identified in Section 1.2

(Please also complete Section 4.1)

| | Program of study 1: <u>BSc in Sustainable and Green Finance</u> | To be achieved through these course ILOs (Write CILO-1, CILO-2, etc.) |
|----|--|--|
| | Program ILOs: Graduates from the program are expected to: | |
| 1 | have a broad understanding of Sustainable and green business functions and integrate these functions to adopt an inter-disciplinary approach and formulate effective and innovative solutions to tackle complex real-world problems. | CILO1, CILO2, CILO3, CILO4 |
| 2 | have an in-depth grasp of Sustainable and green finance knowledge and skills, and transfer acquired knowledge and skills to meet changes and challenges in different fields. | CILO3, CILO4, CILO5 |
| 3 | engage in activities that lead to the impact of societal improvement. | CILO5, CILO6 |
| 4 | make effective ESG finance decisions supported by analytical and quantitative techniques. | CILO3, CILO5 |
| 5 | have the ability to create and innovate with divergent thinking. | CILO5 |
| 6 | communicate effectively with people of different levels and work areas. | CILO5, CILO6 |
| 7 | work independently, collaborate effectively in teams and lead a team to success. | CILO5 |
| 8 | demonstrate a global outlook and function effectively in multi-cultural and international settings. | CILO5, CILO6 |
| 9 | effectively use information technology and sources of information in work applications. | CILO4, CILO5 |
| 10 | understand professional and ethical responsibility, and recognize the importance of a sustainable and green living society. | CILO6 |

Section 2B: Additional Information⁽²⁾ (for courses not proposed to be Common Core Courses)

2.3 Planned Teaching & Learning Arrangement

| Teaching & Learning Arrangement | | Weekly Scheduled Hours/ Estimated Weekly Learning Hours | Indicate which course ILOs this activity serves to achieve (Write CILO-1, CILO-2, etc.) | Additional Information (optional) |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| Face-to face activities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture* | 3/5 | CILO1, CILO2, CILO3, CILO4 | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutorial* | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seminar/Small-class* | 0/1 | CILO5, CILO6 | Project guidance/Case discussion |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory* | | | |
| | *Does the above scheduled component(s) involve structured active learning activities? ⁽¹⁹⁾ <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes If yes, please specify for each scheduled component, the percentage and the type of active learning involved in the "Additional Information" column. | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others (e.g. fieldtrip, visit, etc.), pls specify: Visiting social minority groups/communities in HK. | | CILO 6 | Will arrange as far as possible for student's better understanding of social inequity issues etc |
| Online activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Online lecture videos | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other online learning tasks, pls specify: _____ | | | |
| The total learning hours of the course [#] is equivalent to <u>120</u> hours ⁽⁸⁾ [#] including both scheduled instructional hours and hours for self-study activities & assessment | | | | |

- For course adopting a pedagogic approach other than lecture, tutorial and laboratory, please indicate the pedagogy used:

☐ Blended learning⁽²⁰⁾

☐ Pure online delivery⁽²¹⁾

☐ Experiential learning⁽²²⁾

☐ Others, pls specify: _____

2.4 Planned Assessment Weightings

| Assessment Task | Proportion of Final Grade (%) | Indicate which course ILOs this task is to assess (Write CILO-1, CILO-2, etc.) | Additional Information (optional) |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-class test | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-term test | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final exam | 50% | CILO1, CILO2, CILO3, CILO4, CILO5 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Written assignment | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project report | 20% | CILO 1, CILO2, CILO3, CILO4, CILO5, CILO6 | Group project work on social sustainability issues |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation | 10% | CILO 1, CILO2, CILO3, CILO4, CILO5, CILO6 | Project presentation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning portfolio | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course participation | 10% 10% | CILO5, CILO6 | In-class and project discussion Visit Report and Reflection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peer evaluation | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others (e.g. proctored online exam, etc.), pls specify: _____ | | | |

2.5 Course Duration

☒ 1 term ☐ 2 terms ☐ Others, pls specify: _____

2.6 Planned Frequency of Offerings [Check all appropriate boxes]:

☒ Every Fall ☐ Every Winter
☐ Every Spring ☐ Every Summer
☐ No fixed pattern
☐ Other (pls specify): _____

2.7 Course outline attached

☐ No ☒ Yes

• Internationalization:

Internationalization in a course refers to course content and/or pedagogic approaches which incorporate an intercultural and international perspective. Examples may include:

- Collaboration with overseas institutions to develop and adopt international course content, or to arrange international field trip
- Insertion of international theme as part of the course
- Integrating the course content with international material as examples or case studies
- Elements to provide global diversified perspectives and/or practices around the world

Please briefly list or summarize any component(s) in the course that contributes to internationalizing the curriculum:

- Social sustainability is fundamentally social equity (gender, food, education, social mobility, etc.) agenda which is internationally relevant and applicable despite challenges and risks varies according to the developmental status of the country/region.
- Project works help students transfer the knowledge and analytical skills from class to the studied countries not covered in the classes.

2.8 Resources

Request extra resources for teaching this course? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Section 4: Development, Concurrence and Approval

4.1 Contribution to the Program Learning Outcomes

The course is confirmed by the following Major/Minor program department(s)/unit(s) as indicated in Section 1.2 that it would contribute appropriately to overall program learning outcomes.

| <i>Department/Program unit</i> | <i>Position</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Division of Environment & Sustainability | Head of Division | Prof. Alexis LAU | 16-Feb-21 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

4.2 Approvals

Recommendation from offering department(s) and School(s)/IPO

| <i>Offering Department/Program Unit</i> | <i>Position</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Division of Environment & Sustainability</u> | <u>Head of Division</u> | <u>Prof. Alexis LAU</u> | <u>16-Feb-21</u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

| <i>Recommending School/IPO</i> | <i>Position</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Interdisciplinary Programs Office</u> | <u>Chair of IUSC</u> | <u>Prof Jimmy FUNG</u> | <u>19-Feb-21</u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Concurrence from other Schools or departments/units

[illegible]

Attachment 1: Course Outline

| Week No | Topic |
|---------|--|
| 1 | Introduction to Social Sustainability, the United Nations 17 Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) |
| 2 | Targets and indicator system in assessing and monitoring the progress of the SDGs |
| 3 | Perspective and Challenges on SDG1 – No Poverty |
| 4 | Perspective and Challenges on SDG2 – Zero Hunger |
| 5 | Perspective and Challenges on SDG3 – Good Health & Well-being |
| 6 | Perspective and Challenges on SDG4 – Quality Education |
| 7 | Perspective and Challenges on SDG5 – Gender Equity |
| 8 | Perspective and Challenges on SDG 10 – Reduced Inequality |
| 9 | Perspective and Challenges on SDG11 – Sustainable Cities & Communities |
| 10 | Perspective and Challenges on SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions |
| 11 | Perspective and Challenges on SDG 17 - Partnerships |
| 12 | Risks and Impacts with Social Sustainabilities |
| 13 | Project Presentation |