

**ECN 331T-Sustainable Economic Development-Exploring  
Rishikesh and Bhutan**

Spring 2019



'THE SAME BOAT'

**I. Course Information**

---

**Instructor : Dr. Poulomi Dasgupta**

**Email : pdasgupta@fus.edu**

**Class meets: Wednesdays, 1:00 pm to 3:45 pm LAC#7.**

**Office: LAC #13**

**Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm  
Wednesdays: 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm (by appointment)**

## **II. Course Description**

---

Traditionally, efficiency has been given priority over sustainability in orthodox economics. With the recent declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations, the idea of sustainability has become central in mainstream economic and policy discussions, thereby challenging many fundamental building blocks of economics.

This course will examine the different approaches used in economics to study sustainability within the context of economic development. This will include both mainstream approach that uses neoclassical assumptions of market clearing and the rational choice theory and non-mainstream schools of thoughts that include Marxian economics, Ecological economics and Institutional economics. The course will then explore the relationships between sustainability and various economic and political issues like employment generation, property and resource rights, mode of production, economic growth, access to health, access to health care and poverty. The aim of this course is to provide tools to students that will allow them to critically examine the various approaches to sustainable development.

The travel component will include visits to Rishikesh in India and Bhutan. The holy city of Rishikesh, often referred to as the yoga capital of the world, is situated in the foothills of the Himalayas with India's longest river, Ganges, flowing through it. Its unique geographical location also makes this area vulnerable to many environmental challenges like rapid deforestation, water pollution and habitat loss for wildlife. Site visits will include visits to Rajaji National Park (home to Asian elephants and tigers), organic farms and surrounding villages. Students will get an opportunity to observe the complex interplay between economic development and a distinctive mountain ecosystem. In Bhutan, students will specifically look into the issues of sustainable agriculture and sustainable tourism. Site visits will include visits to Paro and capital city Thimphu. The travel component will allow students to observe two similar geographical areas that are situated in two very different economic, political and cultural conditions and thereby help them make some insightful conclusions about conservation efforts and economic development.

Pre requisite: ECN 100 (with a grade of at least C is highly recommended) or instructor's permission.

## **III. Course Goals**

---

This course has been designed to teach students about the alternative approaches to sustainable economic development. By the end of this course students will learn a) about the alternative ways in which sustainable development is defined and b) about the different approaches used in economics to understand the inter relations between the economy and the environment

The course will allow students to look at the current economic system and the constraints this system places on issues of sustainability. The travel component of this course will allow students to observe and learn about sustainable methods of carrying out various economic activities like agriculture, tourism, energy generation, livestock etc.

## **IV. Specific Student Learning Outcomes**

---

- This course will help students develop critical and analytical skills
- Enable students to make connections between readings in class and their observations during the academic travel
- Develop skills to work in teams and collaborate effectively with people from various backgrounds
- Students will learn to read research papers and summarize the salient points of such papers. They will also learn to discuss such works from a critical perspective.
- Articulate, discuss and debate their points of views with their peers in a classroom environment.
- Students will also gain a deeper understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of sustainable development economics. They will be exposed to readings from different social sciences and will gain skills to apply it to development issues.
- Students will learn to use data sets and apply it to calculating alternatives indicators of economic development

**EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THIS SYLLABUS**

## **V. Required Text and Readings**

---

Small is beautiful by E.F. Schumacher

Our Common future

Additional readings will be uploaded on Moodle or will be placed in the Library reserves to make copies from. Students are expected to go through all the assigned class reading and come prepared for the class.

## **VI. Assessment overview**

---

Midterm: 30%

Final exam: 30%

Assignments and Class presentations (4): 20%

Attendance and participation: 20%

## **VII. Assessment Details**

---

**Exams:** There will be one midterm and one non-cumulative final exam for this course. The midterm will take place on **March 6, from 1pm to 2:45 pm**. Students will be tested on readings from the class. Make up exams **will not be** allowed. They will be allowed only when both the following conditions are met: 1) a state of illness or serious family emergency is explained in writing and formally certified; and 2) the student makes every effort to notify the instructor in advance of the exam to be missed by email. If any of these conditions are not met, the score of the missed exam is zero.

**Assignments:** Assignments will be based on class readings and presentations will be based on prompts. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Exceptions will be made only in case of a **medical emergency**. **Proper official documentation** will have to be provided. If you are unable to attend a class, make sure you submit your assignment prior to the due date or ask a friend to submit it on your behalf.

You will be given 5 days to a week to complete your assignments. These assignments will be returned in 7-10 days. Please see the course outline for dates.

**Attendance and participation:** There are two components to this part of the grading

### **1) Maturity, preparation, attendance and behaviour during travel:**

This includes the following

- **Following the rules set by the travel leader**
- Appropriate behaviour through out the travel
- **Asking relevant and well thought questions to the speakers and guides**
- **Taking notes during lectures and presentations.**
- Working in groups and respecting other students in the group.
- Being on time for the different activities planned

**Important note: If your behaviour endangers a member of the group or the smooth running of the trip, you will be asked to return to Lugano. Dismissal on disciplinary ground will result in an automatic F.**

### **2) Class attendance and participation:**

This includes the following

- Being in class on time. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you will be marked absent for the class.
- Reading the class material and being prepared in class
- Participate in class discussions
- Being prepared for the travel with respect to visas, medication etc.

**EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THIS SYLLABUS**

## VIII. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

---

<b>93-100 : A</b>	<b>80-82 : B-</b>	<b>67-69:D+</b>
<b>90-92 : A-</b>	<b>77-79 : C+</b>	<b>63-66: D</b>
<b>87-89 : B+</b>	<b>73-76: C</b>	<b>60-62:D-</b>
<b>83-86 :B</b>	<b>70-72: C-</b>	<b>0-59 :F</b>

90-100=A (excellent); 80-89=B (good); 70-79=C (satisfactory); 60-69=D (minimal pass); 0-59=F (unsatisfactory).

## IX. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

---

- **Attend regularly:** This course requires students to have a solid understanding of material taught in earlier classes. Students who miss lectures will find themselves having difficulties grasping new material. You are also expected to pay attention in the class. Please see above for attendance policy in this class.  
**Note on attendance:** You are **expected to attend classes regularly**. Only **one** absence will be allowed. Any other absences beyond that during the course of the semester will have a direct impact on the **20%** of your total grade that is based on class participation and attendance.
- **Revising material taught in class on a regular basis:** Please do not wait for the day before your exam to prepare for it. You should spend at least 5-6 hours every week outside of your classroom hours on this course.
- **Contact hours with instructor:** You are encouraged drop by my office during my office hours or get in touch with me if you have concerns or questions regarding this course. The best way to contact is to email me. Please make sure that you send your emails from your **student.fus.edu** accounts and put **ECN331T in the subject line**. There is a chance that I will check my emails over a weekend. However, please do not rely on me responding over a weekend.

## X. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

---

A student, whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

See the Academic Catalog for full statement (page 215):

[https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS\\_ACADEMIC\\_CATALOG\\_2016\\_2018\\_web.pdf](https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS_ACADEMIC_CATALOG_2016_2018_web.pdf)

## XI. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

---

**Library:** <https://www.fus.edu/library>

**The Writing and Learning Center:** <https://www.fus.edu/writing-and-learning-center>

For all writing and learning support issues (time management, study skills, preparing for exams, reading and presentation skills, and all steps of the writing process from brainstorming a paper to outlining, editing to proofreading) schedule an appointment with a tutor by going to the website [wlc.setmore.com](http://wlc.setmore.com). Drop-in assistance 9am-7pm (Fridays only 9am- 3pm). Tutors can give you individual one-one-one support in all of these areas.

**Career services:** <https://www.fus.edu/career-center>

**Honors Society:** This offers an added opportunity for students seeking to pursue their academic interests. The program is especially suitable for students contemplating graduate study after Franklin. Contact Professor Marcus Pyka ([mpyka@fus.edu](mailto:mpyka@fus.edu)), LAC 12.

**Accessibility Services:** If you have a disability and you would like to discuss the possibility of receiving accommodations, please write to [accessibility.services@fus.edu](mailto:accessibility.services@fus.edu) to make an appointment

**EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THIS SYLLABUS**

with the Accessibilities Coordinator.

## **XII. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

---

Week 1 (January 23<sup>rd</sup>)

- Introduction
- Important information about visas and vaccinations
- Details about academic travel
- Refresher session on introductory macroeconomics.

### **I. Defining Sustainable Development**

Week 2 (January 30<sup>th</sup>)

- Chapters 1, 2 and 3 from Our common futures available at <http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf>

### **II. Theoretical approaches to Sustainable Development in Economics**

Week 3 (February 6<sup>th</sup>)

- Sustainable development: theory and practice for a Sustainable future by Steer and Gery (uploaded on Moodle)
- Sustainable Development: an overview of economic proposals by Franck-Dominique Vivien available at <https://sapiens.revues.org/227>

Week 4 (February 13<sup>th</sup>)

- **Presentations on Sustainable Development Goals. (Assignment#1)**
- Ecological Economics by Constanza (uploaded on Moodle)

### **III. Area Studies**

Week 5 (February 20<sup>th</sup>)

- Bhutan's success in conservation (reading uploaded on Moodle)
- Introduction to Navdanya and organic farming in Dehradun.

Week 6 (February 27<sup>th</sup>)

- **Midterm Review**
- **Assignment 2 due**
- No rights to live in the Forest by Rakesh Agrawal. (Reading uploaded on Moodle)

Week 7 (March 6<sup>th</sup>)

- **Midterm (1:00 pm to 2:30)**
- Travel preparations

Week 8 and Week 9: Academic travel

Week 10 (March 27<sup>th</sup>)

- **No Class**

### **IV. Alternative approaches and calculations**

Week 11 (April 3<sup>rd</sup>)

- Chapters 1,2 and 3 from Small is Beautiful by E. F. Schumacher available at <http://www.colinalalexander.info/files/pdfs/Schumacher.pdf>
- **Assignment 3 due**

Week 12 (April 10<sup>th</sup>)

- University Day (No class)

**EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THIS SYLLABUS**

Week 13 (April 17<sup>th</sup>)

- Small is beautiful (cont.)
- Calculating Gross National Happiness Index

Week 14 (April 24<sup>th</sup>)

- Capability approach and the environment.
- **Group presentations on travel sites (Assignment #4)**

#### **V. Economic issues and the environment**

Week 15 (May 2<sup>nd</sup>)

- Unemployment and environment  
Green jobs: addressing the critical issues surrounding the environment, workplace and employment by Mathew Forstater available at <http://cas2.umkc.edu/econ/economics/faculty/Forstater/420/420papers/04%20Forstater.pdf>
- Environment and resource rights (reading uploaded on Moodle)

Week 16 (May 8<sup>th</sup>)

- **Final exam**  
**(Course outline is subject to change with minor revisions)**

## Preliminary Itinerary

<b>Date and Day</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Night stay</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> March, Monday	Leave Lugano	In transit
12 <sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday	Arrive in New Delhi 13:35 Visit to India Gate	Radisson Blu, New Delhi
13 <sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday	Fly to Paro (Druk Air) Visit National Museum and Monastery	Hotel Norbuling, Thimphu
14 <sup>th</sup> March, Thursday	Dochula pass, Buddha point Vocational school	Hotel Norbuling Thimphu
15 <sup>th</sup> March, Friday	Visit paper factory Organic farm visit	Tashi Resort, Paro
16 <sup>th</sup> March, Saturday	Fly back to Delhi	The Grand, Delhi
17 <sup>th</sup> March, Sunday	Leave for Haridwar  Visit Rajaji in the afternoon Drive to Rishikesh hotel	Hotel Ganga Kinare
18 <sup>th</sup> March, Monday	Visit Navdanya organic farm from Rishikesh	Hotel Ganga Kinare
19 <sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday	Village walk in Rishikesh Haridwar visit Back to Delhi	Hotel Grand, Delhi
20 <sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday	Day in Delhi	Hotel Grand, Delhi
21 <sup>st</sup> March, Thursday	Leave for Switzerland	

### **Hotels**

1. Radison Blu Plaza, Near Mahipalpur Extension Nh 8, Delhi 110037, India  
Phone: +91 11 2677 9191
2. Hotel Norbuling: Chang lam street, Cham Lam Rd, Thimphu, Bhutan  
Phone: +975 2 335 754
3. Hotel Tashi resort: Opposite Paro International Airport, Paro, Bhutan  
Phone: +975 8 272 318
4. The Grand, Nelson Mandela, Road, Vasant Kunj II, New Delhi, Delhi 110070, India **Phone: +91 11 4766 1200**
5. Ganga Kinare, 237, Virbhadrta Road, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand 249201, India **Phone: +91 90155 44000**

**EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THIS SYLLABUS**

## **Transportation**

### **International Flight details**

11.03.2019	Milan Malpensa-Muscat	WY 144	dep. 21:30 - arr. 7:05 +1
12.03.2019	Muscat-New Delhi	WY 245	dep. 09:05 - arr. 13.35
21.03.2019	New Delhi -Muscat	WY 242	dep.10.15 - arr. 12.25
21.03.2019	Muscat - Milano Malpensa	WY 143	dep. 14.45 - arr. 19.05

### **Air transportation to Bhutan**

13. 03.2019	New Delhi-Paro	KB 205	Dep. 6.35 - arr. 10.30
16. 03. 2019	Paro-New Delhi	KB 204	Dep. 11.30- arr. 14.30

### **Internal transportation**

17.03.2019	New Delhi-Haridwar	12017	dep. 6.45 - arr. 11.30
19.03.2019	Haridwar-New Delhi	12018	dep. 18.12 - arr. 22.50