

Course Title:**Sustainable Development Goals: Pathways to a Sustainable Future**

永續發展目標：邁向永續未來的道路

Class room: 106 mathematics building

Important note:

This course will be offered in the summer of 2025, in response to students' participation in the Geneva Global Leadership Program, organized by the Center for Social Ecological and Economic Development. It is a preparatory course, and after completing the course in July 2025, students will select courses in the formal curriculum in September 2025. After September 2025, students who did not take the course during the summer will not be accepted for registration in this course.

Course Overview:

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their role in promoting global sustainability. It examines the interconnectedness of the 17 goals and highlights how these goals can be achieved through strategic policy, community engagement, and innovation. The course will include theoretical discussions, case studies, and practical examples of SDG implementation in various regions and sectors.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Understand the history and evolution of sustainable development and the role of SDGs.
 2. Analyze the 17 SDGs and their interconnections.
 3. Evaluate global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation through the lens of SDGs.
 4. Explore the strategies for achieving SDGs at local, national, and global levels.
 5. Develop skills to critically assess policies, projects, and initiatives aligned with SDG targets.
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Course Structure:**Week 1: Introduction to Sustainable Development**

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - What is Sustainable Development?
 - History and evolution of sustainability as a global concept.

- The role of the UN and global stakeholders in sustainability.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Vision and principles.
- **Reading:**
 - United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Week 2: Understanding the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - Overview of each of the 17 SDGs.
 - Interconnections between the goals.
 - The importance of inclusive, integrated, and transformative approaches.
- **Reading:**
 - SDGs and their targets from the UN website.

Week 3: SDG 1 - No Poverty

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - Global poverty and its impacts.
 - Strategies for poverty reduction.
 - Role of SDG 1 in achieving other goals.

Week 4: SDG 2 - Zero Hunger & SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - Hunger, malnutrition, and food security.
 - Strategies to combat hunger and improve health.
 - The intersection of hunger, nutrition, and health in SDG 2 and SDG 3.

Week 5: SDG 4 - Quality Education

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - Education as a tool for sustainable development.
 - The link between education, poverty reduction, and gender equality.
 - Education for all and lifelong learning opportunities.

Week 6: SDG 5 - Gender Equality

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - The importance of gender equality for sustainable development.
 - Intersection of gender, poverty, and health.
 - Gender equality in leadership, business, and society.
 - Best practices in promoting gender equality.

Week 7: SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - Global water crises and the SDG 6 targets.
 - The link between water, sanitation, and health.
 - Solutions for water management and sanitation.

- **Week 8: SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy**

- **Lecture Topics:**

- Global energy demands and the transition to renewable energy.
- The role of clean energy in reducing carbon emissions.
- Energy access and its role in sustainable development.

Week 9: SDG 13 - Climate Action

- **Lecture Topics:**

- Understanding climate change and its effects.
- SDG 13 and its role in global climate agreements.
- Mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change.

Week 10: SDG 14 - Life Below Water & SDG 15 - Life on Land

- **Lecture Topics:**

- Marine ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Land ecosystems and their role in environmental health.
- Protection of biodiversity and sustainable resource management.

Week 11: SDG 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- **Lecture Topics:**

- The importance of rule of law and effective governance.
- The intersection of SDG 16 with other SDGs.
- Corruption, conflict, and their impact on development.

Week 12: SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

- **Lecture Topics:**

- Importance of partnerships in achieving the SDGs.
- Global collaboration between governments, NGOs, and businesses.
- Multi-stakeholder approaches to sustainable development.

Week 13: SDG Integration and National Implementation

- **Lecture Topics:**

- National strategies for achieving SDGs.
- The role of policy, finance, and technology in implementation.
- Monitoring and measuring SDG progress.

Week 14: Final Project Presentations

- **Assignment:**

- Students will present their SDG case studies and projects.
- Evaluation of SDG solutions and their potential impact.

Week 15: Conclusion and Future Perspectives

- **Lecture Topics:**

- Review of SDGs progress and challenges.
- The role of individuals in achieving SDGs.

- Future outlook and new emerging sustainable development trends.
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Evaluation:

- Participation in class discussions and activities (20%).
 - Case study presentations and assignments (30%).
 - Final project on SDG solutions and strategies (50%).
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Required Reading:

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform
- Selected articles and reports on SDGs from UNDP, UNEP, and other global organizations