



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

Climate Finance

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

SZWARC Katarzyna

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

STEINGASS Sebastian

COURSE TYPE

Compact Seminar

MAJOR(S)

EPAP

ECTS CREDITS

no ECTS

TEACHING HOURS

10

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

not
applicable

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course explores the role of finance in the transition to a sustainable, carbon-neutral economy.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will introduce students to the crucial role of finance in achieving a net-zero economy at the global level. Students will become familiar with policy tools and instruments aimed at aligning financial flows with climate objectives. Further, the course will allow students to understand the key risks posed by climate change to the financial sector and the stability of the financial system. Finally, it will introduce them to the key sustainable finance initiatives of the EU and other key geopolitical actors.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Basic knowledge of the functioning of financial markets and financial instruments (equity and debt) will be helpful to make best of the course.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures accompanied by class discussions and short case studies.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The course will be assessed on a pass/fail basis based on:

- an online, closed-book multiple-choice test (80% of the mark) at the end of the final course session (15 minutes to answer 7 questions), and
- overall attendance (20% of the mark).

The weighted average of both assessment elements needs to be equal or greater than 50% for a student to pass the course.

Each student is entitled to re-taking the test once. The re-take test would account for 80% of the mark whilst overall attendance would account for the remaining 20%.

Since Compact Seminars carry no ECTS credits, the final result will be present on the transcript, but will have no impact on students' final average, nor on overall grade, nor on attaining the diploma.

COURSE CONTENTS

- The notion of sustainable finance and climate finance, ESG and impact investing,
- The role of banks, development institutions and private investors in delivering on climate and social objectives, including divestment and shareholder engagement strategies (with case studies),
- Climate risk, including the difference between physical, transitional and other risks, its impact on investment decisions, as well as the role of public financial institutions, notably central banks and financial regulators,
- Financial instruments and tools such as green bonds, taxonomies, low-carbon benchmarks and ESG ratings,
- The effectiveness of transparency & disclosure as climate policy tools, non-financial reporting frameworks, global ESG reporting standards,
- EU sustainable finance policies, notably the Sustainable Finance Action Plan and the Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy, and the intersections with other flagship initiatives such as the Just Transition Mechanism and the EU Green Deal,
- The geopolitical dimension of green finance, climate finance global leadership, the role of the EU, UK, US and China, the financial dimension of COPs.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Lecture slides, readings, videos and podcasts.