

Course Description and Objectives

Course Description

This course reviews the history and issues of environmental finance. In addition to specific knowledge on environmental finance and banking, the course also offers insight into general banking and finance issues. Environmental finance is generally defined in a broader context of sustainability that integrates environmental as well as social and economic issues. Environmental finance is split into two main parts: the relation between sustainability performance and financial performance of corporations on one hand, and environmental banking and financial services on the other. After introducing environmental finance, the basics of banking and finance will be looked at. The course will cover actual environmental business indicators. These indicators are a prerequisite to understanding the interaction between sustainability performance and financial performance. The course will also look at the relation between sustainability performance and financial performance of corporations with regard to carbon finance. The motivations of banks and financial institutions to go green and the impact of these institutions on the environment will be an area of focus. The course also examines sustainable financial products and services like savings, loans and mortgages, socially responsible investments and sustainability indices, project finance, carbon finance products, and microfinance.

Objectives

Successful completion of this course should enable you to:

- Identify and define strategies, products, and services of environmental finance and banking.
- Know basic history of the greening of the financial sector and basic environmental and financial indicators.
- Understand and explain the relation between sustainability performance and financial performance of corporations.
- Understand and explain different motivations to go green.
- Determine key interactions between the financial sector and the environment.
- Present sustainability strategies and show the business case of sustainability.
- Demonstrate timely and effective participation in virtual teamwork, peer-learning, and online activities.

This online course was developed by Dr. Olaf Weber, with instructional design and multimedia development support provided by the Centre for Extended Learning. Further media production was provided by Instructional Technologies and Multimedia Services.

Course Schedule

IMPORTANT: ALL TIMES EASTERN - Please see the [University Policies](#) section of your Syllabus for details.

Week	Course Content	Readings and Other Assigned Material	Activities and Assignments	Due Date	Weight (%)
Week 1: What Is Sustainable Finance?	Course Structure What Is Sustainable Finance?	Refer to the Module 1 page for readings.			
Week 2: The Basics of Banking and Finance	Basics of Banking and Finance	Refer to the Module 2 page for readings.			
Week 3: Sustainable Business Indicators and Corporate Sustainability Accounting	Sustainable Business Indicators and Corporate Sustainability Accounting	Refer to the Module 3 page for readings.	Groups for Team Assignment (Created by Instructor)	Check after Friday, January 24, 2020 by 4:30 PM	
Week 4: Corporate Environmental Finance	The Interaction Between Sustainability Performance and Financial Performance of Firms	Refer to the Module 4 page for readings.	Individual Assignment : Part I	Sunday, February 2, 2020 by 11:55 PM	15%
Week 5: Climate Finance	Climate Finance	Refer to the Module 5 page for readings.	Individual Assignment : Part II	Sunday, February 9, 2020 by 11:55 PM	8%
Week 6: The History of Sustainable Finance and Banking	The History of Sustainable Finance and Banking	Refer to the Module 6 page for readings.			
Reading Week (Saturday, February 15, 2020 to Sunday, February 23, 2020)					
Week 7: Motivations of Banks to Address Sustainability	Motivations of Banks to Address Sustainability	Refer to the Module 7 page for readings.	Individual Assignment : Part III	Sunday, March 1, 2020 by 11:55 PM	12%
Week 8: Direct and Indirect Impacts of the Financial Sector	Direct and Indirect Impacts of the Financial Sector	Refer to the Module 8 page for readings.	Team Assignment : Proposal	Sunday, March 8, 2020 by 11:55 PM	10%
Week 9: Sustainable Savings and Sustainable Credit Management	Sustainable Finance Products and Services: Savings, Loans and Mortgages	Refer to the Module 9 page for readings.	Individual Assignment : Part IV	Sunday, March 15, 2020 by 11:55 PM	20%
Week 10: Socially Responsible Investment and Sustainability Indices	Sustainable Finance Products and Services: Socially Responsible Investment (SRI)	Refer to the Module 10 page for readings.			
Week 11: Sustainable Finance Products and Services: Project and Climate Finance	Sustainable Finance Products and Services: Project Finance Sustainable Finance Products and Services: Climate Finance	Refer to the Module 11 page for readings.			
Week 12: Sustainable Products and	Sustainable Products and Services: Social Banking,	Refer to the Module 12	Team Assignment : Presentation	Friday, April 3, 2020 by 11:55 PM	30%

[Services: Social Banking, Impact Investing, and Microfinance](#)

Impact Investing, and Microfinance

page for readings.

[Team Assignment:](#) Evaluation of Team Participants

Sunday, April 5, 2020 by 11:55 PM

5%

There is no final examination for this course

Official Grades and Course Access

Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through [Quest](#).

Your access to this course will continue for the duration of the current term. You will not have access to this course once the next term begins.

Grade Breakdown

The following table represents the grade breakdown of this course.

Activities and Assignments	Weight (%)
Individual Assignment (4 Parts)	55%
Team Assignment (2 Parts)	45%

For due dates, please check the [Course Schedule](#). For late policy information, please see the [Course and Department Policies](#) section of the Syllabus.

General Information about Academic Integrity

PARAPHRASING AND QUOTES

There are many types of essays, but a good essay generally has some academic support through the use of research. It is quite acceptable to paraphrase scholars' work and in some cases to quote that work, but regardless of how you use that work, it all must be properly cited. If you do not cite someone else's work you are plagiarising.

CITATION STYLE GUIDES

There are many different citation styles, but they share common information. Citations are intended to guide the writer/ reader to the sources that were used and to give credit to the author of the quote or ideas summarized in an assignment or paper. Information on specific style guides is available from the Waterloo Library's [Citation / Style Guides](#).

The MEB and SUSM programs use the APA style guide.

ONLINE CITATION TOOLS

Many online tools help you to capture the information you need in order to cite your sources properly. The library has the licensing rights to [RefWorks®](#) along with a tutorial. Other tools found online include: [Citation Machine](#), [Zotero](#), or [Easy Bib](#).

USING PICTURES, TABLES, GRAPHS ETC.

Graphics, figures, tables and graphs that have not been created by you all need to be cited. If you have modified something created by someone else, you also need to cite it. Contrary to popular belief, just because it is posted on the Internet it is not "free". If you use the material, even with proper citation, you might be committing a copyright infringement.

GENERAL WRITING GUIDE

Writing well generally takes practice. The Waterloo Library has [Writing Assistance](#) resources to help you improve your writing.

Materials and Resources

Textbook(s)

There are no required textbooks in this course. However, we recommend the following reading that is also available as an e-book at the library:

Weber, O., & Feltmate, B. (2016). *Sustainable Banking and Finance: Managing the Social and Environmental Impact of Financial Institutions*. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

Course Reserves

Course Reserves can be accessed using the **Library Resources** widget on the **Course Home** page. See the [Readings](#) page.

Resources

- Library services for [Co-op students on work term and Extended Learning students](#)