COURSE SYLLABUS

Institution: Boğaziçi University, School of Applied Disciplines
Department: Department of Tourism Administration
Course: TRM 581 – Special Topics: Current Sustainability Issues in the World Economy
Term: Spring 2019-2020
Prerequisites: Not available
Class meetings: Thursday 10.00-13.00
Instructor: Sevil Acar Aytekin
Office hour: By appointment
Instructor contact details: E-Mail: sevil.acar@boun.edu.tr

AIM OF THE COURSE
The aim of this course is to provide the student with an understanding of the key sustainability issues of the world with respect to economic/financial, social and environmental/ecological problems. Our discussions will focus on sustainable development implementation failures of the past, the challenges of the present, and the opportunities of the future.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
By the end of the course the student should:
1. Understand the key issues related to the (un)sustainability of the world economy
2. Be capable of discussing the pros and cons of relevant policy options that could be applied to these sustainability issues in different spheres

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION
The method of instruction is based on interactive learning which greatly benefits from the interaction between the students and the instructor, and the active participation of the students during the lectures and discussions. Living examples, videos, etc. will be discussed in class aimed at having students relate the conceptual material to real life situations.

COMMUNICATION
E-mailing is preferred as the method of communication. Each student will maintain an updated e-mail address in their Boğaziçi records and is required to check their e-mail at least once a week. Class announcements will be made both in class and via e-mail. Class resources can also be uploaded in the MOODLE system upon request.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. Violation of academic integrity may be defined to include the following: cheating, plagiarism, falsification and fabrication, abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, and personal misrepresentation.
It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the behaviors that constitute academic dishonesty. Violating the standards of academic integrity will result in getting an “F” from the course and necessary disciplinary action will be taken according to the Boğaziçi University’s regulations.
TEXTBOOKS (OPTIONAL):
Salverda, W., Nolan, B., Smeeding, T.M. 2011. The Oxford Handbook of Economic Inequality

EVALUATION POLICY
Grading Midterm exam 40%
Group discussions in class 10% (upon active participation)
Assignment submission 10%
Final exam 40%

Grading system
AA 90-100 BA 85-89 BB 80-84 CB 75-79
CC 70-74 DC 65-69 DD 60-64 F 59 or less

In order to be admitted to the final exam a student is required to have attended the midterm exam.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS
Every week, in the last hour of the course, the students are supposed to discuss the assigned articles/presentations on that week’s topic. Participation to these discussions together with assignment submission will make 20% of the total grading. These readings and discussions will help the students grasp the course material covered in class, will extend their academic knowledge beyond the compulsory readings for the corresponding topics, and will be very useful in preparing for the exams.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION
%70 attendance to class is compulsory.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE
1 19 Sept Sustainability definitions, SDGs & main economic issues of the world
2 26 Sept How economies grow and develop
3 3 Oct Patterns of growth and adjustment in the global economy
4 10 Oct Structural change and industrialization
5 17 Oct Financialization and financial bubbles
6 24 Oct Assignment submission
7 31 Oct Midterm exam
8 7 Nov Understanding inequality and social injustice
9 14 Nov Well-being and sustainability
10 21 Nov Jobs and unemployment
11 28 Nov Macroeconomics of the environment
12 5 Dec Economics of 2°C, COP21 Paris and beyond
13 12 Dec Macroeconomic policies for sustainability
Weekly Readings and Documentaries

1 Sustainability definitions, SDGs & main economic issues of the world

2 How economies grow and develop

3 Patterns of growth and adjustment in the global economy

4 Structural change and industrialization

5 Financialization and financial bubbles
We will follow together: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59AYZUI_xhw

6 Assignment submission (a 1-page discussion note on a selected paper)

7 Midterm Exam
8 Understanding inequality and social injustice
Salverda, W., Nolan, B., Smeeding, T.M. (2011). The Oxford Handbook of Economic Inequality; Part IV (Dimensions of inequality)
Guest speaker: Volkan Yılmaz (Inequalities and Social Policy)
Group discussions on the guest speaker’s presentation

9 Well-being and sustainability
Frey, B. Happiness: A Revolution in Economics
Sen, A. Development as Freedom ch. 3
Guest speaker: Ahmet Atıl Aşıcı (The economics of happiness)
Group discussions on the speaker’s presentation

10 Jobs and unemployment

11 Macroeconomics of the environment
Acar, S., Voyvoda, E. and Yeldan, E. (2018). Chapter 2.4
Guest speaker: Yael Taranto (Energy pricing and non-market flows in Turkey’s energy sector)
Group discussions on the speaker’s presentation

12 Economics of 2°C, COP21 Paris and beyond
Group discussions on: Stern, N. The Economics of Climate Change, chapter 2

13 Macroeconomic policies for sustainability (Green New Deal, etc.)

FINAL EXAM (TBA)