

Principles of Sustainability
Course syllabus (DAMIA cohort)
17 8200 A01

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Ghermandi

E-mail: aghermand@univ.haifa.ac.il

Office hours: Mon/Thu, by appointment.

Location: Room 509, Jacobs Building

Phone: 04-828-8542

Course period: Period 1 (Oct-Dec 2016)

Course Description

Sustainability is an interdisciplinary field that examines the complex relationships between the environmental, economic and social aspects of the problems facing human populations at the local, regional and global levels. This course provides the students with a basic understanding of the theoretical foundations of the concept of sustainability and a first exposure to the tools for sustainability assessment, some of which will be explored in further detail in later courses. The business case for sustainability is presented and case studies of sustainability reporting from leading companies are critically analyzed and discussed in class.

Course Requirements

The course will be executed by means of a sequence of frontal lectures, case studies, classroom discussions, a group work, and a final written examination. The final exam will include both a section of multiple-choice questions and an essay question. Students are expected to attend each class, having done the previously assigned reading, and be fully prepared for discussion. Unjustified absences will result in a penalization on the final grade. Unjustified absence of more than two sessions will result in the student not getting any credit for the course. Justified absences should be supported by relevant documents (e.g., medical certificate for sick absence, military documents for reserve duty absence, letter of mission and flight tickets for business trip out of Israel, etc.), which are to be submitted to the Program Coordinator and approved by the Teaching Committee. Participation points will be given based on the students' contribution to class discussions.

Grading system

Attendance	10%
Participation	10%
Group work	30%
Final exam	50%

Prerequisites

None.

Course material

The lectures are held in English. All lecture notes and required reading material will be made available on the University's eLearning portal (Moodle) as printable pdf documents. Suggestions for additional mandatory or recommended readings will be provided on a lecture-by-lecture basis.

Course Outline and Schedule*

Lecture	Subject	Date
1	The context of sustainability: foundations and definitions	31.10.2016 14:00–17:00
2	Economic roots to the sustainable development paradigm	7.11.2016 14:00–17:00
3	Ecological and social indicators of sustainable development	14.11.2016 14:00–17:00
4	Sustainability assessment methodologies and selected case studies	21.11.2016 14:00–17:00
5	The dual relationship between climate change and sustainable development	28.11.2016 14:00–17:00
6	The business case for environmental sustainability	5.12.2016 14:00–17:00
7	Sustainability reporting: trends and best practices	12.12.2016 14:00–17:00
8	Presentation and discussion of student projects	19.12.2016 14:00–17:00

* The schedule may be subject to variation.