Course Description:

This course will give you the basis to understand which is the impact of human activities on our planet and which are the main actions that policy makers, stakeholders and citizens should carry out to avoid the decline and deterioration of our ecosystems with dramatic consequences for human being.

We will undertake a science-policy journey through the knowledge of the international strategies for sustainable development, the current European green deal policies and the global and local actions needed to fight the climate changes.

The course will cover basic topics such as the protection of water resources (the most precious and limited resource) and our oceans, the importance of our ecosystems and biodiversity also for human health, the impact of chemical pollution on the environment and in which way this affects human health, the importance of a sustainable food production.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course students should be able to:

- Develop the basic concepts of the environmental sustainability
- Determine which are the main anthropogenic impacts on the planet
- Assess the risks for ecosystems and human health
- Identify the actions that policy makers, stakeholders and citizens should put in place
- Improve awareness and communication skills related to the environmental sustainability

Required Text / Materials

Assigned readings will be posted on Sakai
Assigned readings will be found on various scientific and policy publications, websites, printed papers/slides
Each week’s readings must be completed before coming to class

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following attendance policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student. Any lateness or leaving class early will impact the final course grade. Attendance is mandatory at every class meeting for each course. Absence due to sickness or injury needs to be corroborated by a doctor’s note. Students late to class twice will be credited with one absence in accordance with the JFRC’s Attendance policy. Three (3) absences will result in an automatic failure ,“F”. Travel does not constitute reason to miss class
Assessment Components

- Participation (including attendance) 25%
- Midterm Exam 30%
- Group Works 15%
- Final Exam 30%

Participation

Participation and attendance are key aspects of this course. Students must be active in participation and be prepared about the readings assigned every week. They also should demonstrate to have passion and awareness towards this topic and should also contribute to stimulate the discussions respecting the different opinions of the other students.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam is a fundamental moment along the course and will be based on the topics covered during the first part of the course.

Group Works

We will create groups of 4-5 students that will discuss important environmental topics and the way to solve them: we will organize a team debate in which the students will play different roles (Citizen, Researcher, Policy Maker, Farmer/Industrial, Syndicate of workers) and will try to solve relevant questions (e.g. the effect on environment of a new industrial installation near a city).

Final Exam

The final exam will be given on June 21st. Students will have 2 hours to complete the exam. The final exam will be based on the topics presented and discussed throughout the course.

Grading

94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D
59 or lower: F
**Academic Honesty**
Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: [http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml). You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

**Late or Missed Assignments**
Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

**Accessibility Accommodations**
Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

**Course Schedule**

**Monday and Wednesday Class Days:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text/ Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week One (22nd May)</td>
<td>Welcome/UN Sustainable Development goals</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week One (24th May)</td>
<td>Protection of Water Resources</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Two (29th May)</td>
<td>Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Two (31th May)</td>
<td>Ecosystems Health</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Three (5th June)</td>
<td>Study Visit on river Tiber</td>
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<td>Week Three (7th June)</td>
<td>Climate Changes</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<td>Week Fourth (12th June)</td>
<td>Sustainable Food Production</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Fourth (14th June)</td>
<td>Group Works</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Five (19th June)</td>
<td>European Green Deal and Circular Economy</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Five (21th June)</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>on sakai</td>
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