

2023 Global Collaborative Course Syllabus

Course Title: Sustainable Development Goals: Impacts and Limits for the People and Planet

Time: Mon ~ Fri. 13:30~16:30

Instructor:

Sukhyun Park (12 classes / in-person)

Irina Bokova (2 classes / in-person)

Sangmin Nam (1 class / online)

Course Description

- This class is designed to learn both what we will be achieving through the sustainable development goals and what the limitations of the goals are. The SDGs are a set of 17 interconnected goals that were adopted by the United Nations in 2015, and they aim to address some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity, including poverty, hunger, inequality, climate change, and ecological degradation. To understand and take advantage of the SDGs by 2030 correctly, it is necessary to have system thinking - how to see this complex world through the lens of system thinking.
- For example, achieving zero hunger (SDG 2) requires not only increasing food production under the pressure of climate change but also addressing issues like access to land, markets, and finance, as well as reducing food waste and improving food distribution systems. However, we cannot achieve this goal through agricultural and food policies without an understanding of structure and interconnectedness. Thus, this course would help how to understand the complexity of issues through system thinking practices.

Objectives

- To understand the historical and scientific background of sustainable development.
- To be able to see the world from various perspectives including the lenses of major groups and a complex system thinker.
- To encourage students to look for an opportunity to be engaged in the process of sustainable development policies and monitoring through indicators in our society.

Textbook (Downloadable from the following websites)

- Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>)
- Earth4All_Deep dive paper 13: Regenerative agriculture for food security and ecological resilience: illustrating global biophysical and social spreading potentials (https://www.clubofrome.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Earth4All_Deep_Dive_Schwarz_Breier.pdf)
- Earth4All_Deep dive paper 11: Transforming our economy from ego to eco (https://www.clubofrome.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Earth4All_Deep_Dive_Scharmer.pdf)
- All other required articles of the course will be given to you electronically.

Evaluation Plan

- Class participation (30%) – including reading assignment, questions, and comments; No credits

for 4 and more absences.

- A team presentation on pressing issues and cases (20%) – 2nd-3rd week.
- A short review paper of the VNR/VLR for the final exam (50%) – 3~4 pages

Class Schedule (June 27~July 17)

Day	Themes	Activities/Assignment
1 st week: The SDGs Framework and System Thinking Reading: Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		
Tue	Introduction to the course - A History of Sustainable Development	Orientation and lecture Team matching, what to ask and what to think about.
Wed	Systems thinking and the structure of the SDGs - What is a system? - System thinking and its applications	Lecture and practice https://vensim.com/free-download/
Thu	Women's education - Pathways towards empowerment, economic growth, and social inclusion.	Prof. Irina Bokova – Morning session (will be recorded and offered to those who cannot participate due to time shift)
Fri	Women's education - Why educating girls is one of the best strategies for achieving the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030	Prof. Irina Bokova – Morning session (will be recorded and offered to those who cannot participate due to time shift)
2 nd week: The Challenges and the Solutions for Sustainable Future Reading: Regenerative agriculture for food security and ecological resilience		
Mon	Environmental pressing issues – earth limits - Planetary boundaries and 9 vulnerable areas	Team presentations and lecture
Tue	Economic growth – sustainable economy - Donut economics	Team presentations and lecture
Wed	Social and Environmental Justice - Food security and ecological resilience - Wastes and inequality	Team presentations and lecture
Thu	Nexus Approaches and system dynamics - Nexus approaches for SDGs - System dynamics – a way of system thinking	Lecture and practice
Fri	International cooperation - Regional and global organizations' contribution to SD	Dr. Sangmin Nam lecture (online)
3 rd week: The Impacts of SDGs and transformative leadership Reading: Transforming our economy from ego to eco		
Mon	Why cities? Urban sustainability and its cases - Population and vulnerability - Green transportation and 15min city	Lecture and case discussion (strength and weakness)
Tue	Rural development and tackling inequality - International development projects and their outcomes - Distance between awareness and action	Lecture and case discussion (strength and weakness)
Wed	Local circular economy - Transition towns	Lecture and case discussion (strength and weakness)
Thu	Information and reporting - Institutionalization of SDGs - How to monitor and make feedbacks	Lecture (lots of questions and answers – brain storming)
Fri	Public discourse and participation - Citizen engagement in the process of SDGs planning and monitoring - Citizen science	Guest talk (Korean case) Assignment – Selection of a (VLR/VNR) case for the final paper

4th week: Wrap-up and action planning		
Mon	Planning and adaptive management - System approach for a better SDGs performance	Last lecture (Due: final review paper)