Universidad de Navarra

Economy and society for a sustainable environment B

Guía docente 2026-27

PRESENTATION (PRESENTACIÓN)

- **Brief description:** "Economía y sociedad para un entorno sostenible (**Economy&society for a sustainable environment, ESSE**) is an undergraduate course on international political economy which combines lectures, oral presentations, group work and simulations. The course is designed as an introduction to the main ideas, trends, events and forces which shape the political, institutional and social framework in which the world economy develops. It focuses on important issues in international political economy, such as globalization, development, trade or climate policy with a strong focus on sustainability. During the semester, students will be introduced to the complex issue of sustainability using the "3Ps" framework: prosperity, planet, people. Students already know about the first one, and this course will provide an introduction to the two latter ones. For this purpose the course takes a multidisciplinary approach combining questions from different social sciences such as economics and political science. This analysis will help students develop a critical understanding of the current reality of the world economy.

The course design is heavily influenced by Fink´s taxonomy. We aim to:

- help students learn and understand the key concepts/theories taught in the course
- help students know how to use the material
- relate course content to what they have learned in past courses and will learn in future ones
- find and integrate the implications of the course´s content with their personal and professional lives today and in the future, as well as see how it affects the society they live in
- generate interest in course topics, so that students are encouraged to keep on learning
- provide students with the tools so they can continue learning about the role of economics for more sustainable societies after the course is over

- **Degree**: Economics, Business Administration, and double degrees with Law
- **Módulo/Materia**:
- Grado en Economía : Módulo I - Economía general, Materia 1.3 - economía aplicada
- Grado en ADE: Módulo V - Economía, Materia 5.1 - economía
- **ECTS**: 6
- **Year, semester**: 2nd year, 1st semester
- **Type**: Basic
- **Professor**: Isabel Rodríguez-Tejedo
- **Language**: English (this group, there is a different group in Spanish)
- **Room & time**: see online here

COMPETENCES (COMPETENCIAS)

Degree in Economics:

CG6. To be familiar with the different contexts in which their work is carried out: the circumstances, markets and historical, legal or human context.

CG7. To reach conclusions of a regulatory nature that are relevant to economic policy based on positive knowledge.

SC7. To ask and respond to relevant questions in the area of Spanish and/or world economics based on an overview of the knowledge acquired.

Degree in Management:

GC3. To prepare professional reports and/or multimedia presentations on topics related to economics and/or business.

GC6. To be familiar with the different contexts in which their work is carried out: the circumstances, markets and historical, legal or human context.

PROGRAM (PROGRAMA)

Objectives

This course aims to provide an updated view of the world economy. It will provide stylized facts about integration of the world economy, providing context to the movements of people and goods, inequality, poverty and sustainability. We will discuss the Sustainable Development Goals and use them as benchmark during the semester.

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The program is composed of the following subjects (order subject to modification):

1: Current situation and forecasts

1.1 Analysis of the IMF outlook

1.2. Case: the last financial crisis

2: Globalization and international trade:

2.1 Definition, evolution and determinants of globalization

2.2 Stylized facts in international trade

2.3 Multilateralism and bilateralism

2.4 Financial flows in a globalized world

2.5 Perspectives

3: Sustainability and limts to growth

3.1 Definition and pillars of sustainability

3.2 Sustainability: indicators

3.3 The role of the public sector

3.4 Perspectives

4: Poverty and sustainable development :

4.1 Poverty: Definition

4.2 Pverty: Indicators

4.3 Development: Definition

4.4 Development: Indicators

4.5 Inequality: Indicators

4.6 The role of climate change in sustainable development

4.7 Perspectives

5: Population and migration

5.1 Demographic structures: country comparisons

5.2 Demographic trends: population growth and demographic transition

5.3 Sylized facts in international migrations

5.4 Gender economics

5.5 Perspectives

Through the course we will use graphs to analyze the data available on the topics of the course. Being able to understand and even produce graphs in this context is an important skill, to which we will devote some time during the semester.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES (actividades formativas)

NOTE FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: if any adaptions are needed, please fill in this form and get in touch with the professor in the first two weeks of class

- **Lectures** : The teacher will explain the contents of the program, always encouraging the active participation with questions. These contents will be material for the examinations. In some cases, depending on the time, the instructor will assign readings so that each student can work on his/her own and can answer any questions with the teacher during office hours. The lectures will include activities such as concept maps, kahoots or online games to improve understanding and create discussion.
- **Discussion Item** : articles/videos/podacasts and other materials will be assigned for classroom discussion. The article items will be distributed in advance for students to prepare. The contents of these discussion items will be part of the assessments.
- **Assigned work:** this item includes work that must be completed individually by the student before the class lecture. It will be made available in ADI. It may include recorded lecture-like short videos, articles, multi-media content, serious games etc. These will be part of the assessments.

- **Aim2Flourish** : each team will identify positive business innovation and, using the appreciative inquiry methodology, interview a business leader about it. Groups will share their findings in a story and a poster. A rubric for evaluation will be made available.
- **Simulation:** simulations and online games will be used to facilitate experential learning and to approximate real-life decision making on relevant course topics. A rubric for evaluation will be made available.
- **Presentations:** students will be required to give group presentations on topics related to the course.
- **Assessments**, as detailed in the evaluation section.
- **Tutorials** : the teacher will be available to students during office hours and outside of the class to answer questions or to provide support for course-related activities.
- Need for hours of **study outside the classroom** : individual study, presentation of papers, group meetings, etc.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES ("actividades formativas")

af1. In-class lectures (theory / practice) Lectures and in class discussions and presentations: aprox. 54 hours.

af2 Directed work (personal / in group): searching for information, preparing presentations /simulations: aprox 24 hours.

af3. Individual work (studying, preparing materials...) : aprox 60 hours

af4. Consulting with the teacher (attending office hours, follow-ups, etc.): aprox 2 hours

af5. Examinations: aprox 2 hours

af7. Discussion / study of practical cases: engaging in experiential learning, simulations, cases: aprox 8 hours

TOTAL WORK HOURS : 150 hours (6 ects).

EVALUATION (EVALUACIÓN)

CONVOCATORIA ORDINARIA (MAY TOTAL)

Written Final Exam: 55% (individual assignment, maximum score in this section: 100 points). A typical exam will allocate approximately 30-40% of the points to multiple choice questions, 30% -45% to definitions, and 20-35% to long-answer or essay-style questions.

Team Project: Aim2Flourish project based on the UN´s SDGs: 30% (group assignment, with individual and group grades, maximum score in this section: 100 points)

Participation during climate action simulation: 15% (group assignment, with individual and group grades, maximum score in this section: 100 points)

NOTE: to pass the course, a student must get at least a minimum grade of 40 in the final exam and a combined total of at least 50 points in all graded activities, as well as comply with atttendance, peer evaluation & reflection requirements (see below)

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION requirements:

Attendance will be taken at random times through the semester.

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•**Some classes will require compulsory attendance** and failing to attend those will detract points from the final grade. Those will be announced via ADI ahead of time.

PEER EVALUATION and REFLECTION requirements: all students are expected to actively engage with the course material and their teams. To foster attendance & engagement I will require that all students engage in self evaluation, peer evaluation and reflection through the semester. To that end, **weekly reflections will be required.** Students will receive a Gooogle Form link to share their reflections. **Students must complete at least 80% of the reflections to pass the course**

Students are expected to fully engage with their teams. This means being responsible with assigned tasks, showing up for meetings prepared, being respectful and filling in all peer evaluations and feedback as needed.

•Students who fail to complete peer evaluations may be penalized with negative points in the group project (25% to 75% of total grade)

•Students who are negatively evaluated by their teammates may be penalized with negative points in the group project (50% to 100% of total grade)

CONVOCATORIA EXTRAORDINARIA (JUNE)

June exam: 60%. A typical exam will allocate approximately 30-40% of the points to multiple choice questions, 30%-45% to definitions, and 20-35% to long-answer or essay-style questions.

Continuous work during the semester (A2F, climate action simulation, etc) : 40%

- **Note**: the reflectiion requirements are waived.

CRITERIA TO PASS THE COURSE :

Students whose final grade is 5 points out of 10 (50 out of 100) or more will pass the course, provided they get at least a 4 out of 10 (40 out of 100) in the final exam and satisfy the attendance/reflection/peer evaluation requirements.

Students whose final grade is below 5 points out of 10 (50 out of 100) points or do not reach at least a 4 out of 10 (40 out of 100) in the final exam, or who do not satisfy the attendance/reflection/peer evaluation requirements will not pass the course and will be graded as *Suspenso* .

Students who fail to complete any of the assessment items will not pass the course and will be graded as *No presentado*.

SPECIAL CASES :

Students with special needs: please contact the Students Affairs office and the instructor **within two weeks of the beginning of classes** to discuss any needed changes or adaptations.

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Retake students, students in the professional sports programme and any others who may not be able to attend classes and follow the standard assase contact the instructor **within two weeks of the beginning of classes AND please fill in this form .**

ASSESSMENT ITEMS:

1) The course´s p**ower points** and the class **explanations of the instructor** .

2) The **items** that are discussed in class .

3) **Other materials** (discussion, self-work etc) used during the semester

Description of assessment items:

The exam will grade the student on factual knowledge, as well as the ability to use critical reasoning on the topics of the course. Examples of this assessment item will be provided via ADI.

The Aim2Flourish assignment will be graded on the quality of the deliverables and the participation and engagement in group work. In particular: for the deliverables we will evaluate based on clarity of writing, presence of a clear storyline, grammar, syntax and spelling, quality of presentation. A rubric will be provided in ADI. For engagement, we will be conducting peer evaluations.

The participation in the climate action simulation will be graded on quality of discussion, engagement, level of preparedness and oral discussion. Classmates will be grading using the rubric and using a zero-sum point distribution across groups. Teammates will also provide peer evaluation.

Important note about academic honesty:

Please note that in this course we will adhere to the academic honesty policy of the school, as detailed below (from the Ethics Committee Provisions Against Plagiarism and Copying). Any dishonest behavior will be reported and dealt with according to the regulations.

"We value honesty. Without it, there can be no trust or any meaningful social relations. Therefore, the School expects honesty and fairness from all of its members: professors, non-academic staff, and students. Dishonest behaviours will be sanctioned in accordance with the University Norms on Student Academic Discipline of August 2015, and include lying, cheating in exams, and plagiarism in written work. We take such violations seriously. Depending on their gravity, these offences will be dealt with by the Professor in charge of the subject, by the Dean of Students, and in very severe cases, by the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Sanctions include:

- formal warnings
- prohibition from entering University premises for a given period
- loss of admission rights to exams
- loss of scholarships
- A failing grade for the piece of work or the whole course"

OFFICE HOURS (HORARIOS DE ATENCIÓN)

Dra Isabel Rodriguez-Tejedo (isabelrt@unav.es)

- Room 3090, Amigos Building, 3rd floor (Tower)
- Office hours:

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- Mondays 11:30-1:00 and Wednesdays 2-3pm. Appointment necessary, please email me at isabelrt@unav.es
- Available through the week by appointment

BIBLIOGRAPHY (BIBLIOGRAFÍA)

To facilitate equitable access to education, there are no copyrighted required materials. All necessary information & materials will be provided during the course. Below you´ll find a list of materials available through the library or shared by others in open access format.

Basic books:

The CORE Econ Team 2023 *The Economy* 2.0: *Microeconomics* Open access e-text https://core-econ.org/the-economy/.

Feenstra, R. and A Taylor. 2021. International economics. MacMillan. [Chapters 1, 3, 3, 4, 6 and 7] Find it in the Library

Recommended books:

Krugman, P., Obstfeld, M. and Melitz, M., 2018. *International economics*. Boston: Pearson Addison-Wesley .[Chapters 1, 2] Find it in the Library

Feenstra, R. and A Taylor. 2014. *International Trade*. MaCMillan. [Chapters 1,2,3,4,6,7] Find it in the Library

Some recommended readings:

The age of sustainable development (by J Sachs) Find it in the Library

Economy, society & public policy (The Core ECON Team) https://core-econ.org/the-economy/.

World Development Report: Data for Better Lives (World Bank)

Through the course we will use graphs to analyze the data available on the topics of the course. Being able to understand and even produce graphs in this context is an important skill.

Some recommended books for visualization:

Good Charts: The HBR Guide to Making Smarter, More Persuasive Data Visualizations (S Berinato) Find it in the Library

Storytelling with Data: A Data Visualization Guide for Business Professionals (C Nussbaumer) Find it in the Library

- Other materials for this class will be drawn from the Internet; - Articles, Videos and Interactive Websites shall form the bulk of the course materials.