



UNSW

UNSW Course Outline

FINS5544 Sustainable Finance - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : FINS5544

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Business School

Academic Unit : School of Banking and Finance

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Sustainable and socially responsible investing is a multi-trillion-dollar industry and growing. This course builds on ethics components in existing capital market and investments courses by introducing environmental, social responsibility and corporate governance considerations and

methods that operationalize them into investment processes, products, and practices. The goal is to educate students socially responsible, ethical, sustainable investing issues, opportunities and challenges and to engage them to discuss and design investment processes, products, and practices that encourage positive changes in the world while also delivering investment returns and fund flow. This course blends finance theory, ethics, industry practices and trends using case study, data analysis, and academic research.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course builds on ethics components in existing capital market and investments courses by incorporating environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations and methods into investment processes, products, and practices. These non-financial variables complement the financial and quantitative investment analysis courses such as FINS5513, FINS5541, and FINS5542.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes	Program learning outcomes
CLO1 : Articulate the roles and impact of finance and investment professionals in directing economic activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PLO1 : Business KnowledgePLO3 : Business Communication
CLO2 : Apply ethical decision-making frameworks to investment processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PLO2 : Problem Solving
CLO3 : Identify and assess environmental, social responsibility and corporate governance issues and risks in investment decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice
CLO4 : Assess the state and practices in the socially responsible investing sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice
CLO5 : Propose and assess the impact of a socially responsible investment product and strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PLO7 : Leadership Development

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Articulate the roles and impact of finance and investment professionals in directing economic activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BlogLearning CommunityQuizzes
CLO2 : Apply ethical decision-making frameworks to investment processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BlogLearning CommunityQuizzes
CLO3 : Identify and assess environmental, social responsibility and corporate governance issues and risks in investment decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research ProjectBlogLearning CommunityQuizzes
CLO4 : Assess the state and practices in the socially responsible investing sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BlogLearning CommunityQuizzes
CLO5 : Propose and assess the impact of a socially responsible investment product and strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research Project

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

Sustainable and responsible investing is a growing and evolving field. This course thus features an active approach with extensive interactive teaching and learning. The primary weekly learning

activities will be lectures, practitioner guest speaking, and student discussion.

Other Professional Outcomes

NA

Additional Course Information

NA

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates	Program learning outcomes
Blog Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Weekly Tuesday 23:59 after lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO3 : Business Communication• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice• PLO6 : Global and Cultural Competence• PLO7 : Leadership Development
Learning Community Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO2 : Problem Solving• PLO4 : Teamwork
Quizzes Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: 12/03/2024 06:00 PM Due Date: Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO1 : Business Knowledge• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice• PLO6 : Global and Cultural Competence
Research Project Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 16/04/2024 05:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PLO1 : Business Knowledge• PLO2 : Problem Solving• PLO3 : Business Communication• PLO4 : Teamwork• PLO5 : Responsible Business Practice• PLO6 : Global and Cultural Competence• PLO7 : Leadership Development

Assessment Details

Blog

Assessment Overview

Not specified

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Articulate the roles and impact of finance and investment professionals in directing economic activities.
- CLO2 : Apply ethical decision-making frameworks to investment processes.
- CLO3 : Identify and assess environmental, social responsibility and corporate governance issues and risks in investment decision making.
- CLO4 : Assess the state and practices in the socially responsible investing sector.

Detailed Assessment Description

Weight	Assessment Name	Assessment Due Date / Timing
20%	Blog	On-going, weeks 1-10

Blog 20%

The blog, which is updated weekly and maintained individually, serves as an online learning journal. In it, you are encouraged to reflect on various content related to the topic of the week, integrating your personal interests, opinions, and research findings.

Assessment Length

100-200 words per week

Assessment information

Blog in Moodle weekly.

Copy to Turnitin for submission only after the last Blog.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Learning Community

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Articulate the roles and impact of finance and investment professionals in directing

economic activities.

- CLO2 : Apply ethical decision-making frameworks to investment processes.
- CLO3 : Identify and assess environmental, social responsibility and corporate governance issues and risks in investment decision making.
- CLO4 : Assess the state and practices in the socially responsible investing sector.

Detailed Assessment Description

Weight	Assessment Name	Assessment Due Date / Timing
10%	Inclass Engagement	On-going, weeks 1-10

Inclass Engagement 10%

Engagement and communication are critical in sustainable finance. Attendance is compulsory and does not contribute to your mark for this activity. The quality and consistency of your engagement in class discussion and involvement are the primary basis for your mark.

Assessment Length

1-5 minutes

Assessment information

You can nominate to be more involved in a particular week.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

Not Applicable

Quizzes

Assessment Overview

Not specified

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Articulate the roles and impact of finance and investment professionals in directing economic activities.
- CLO2 : Apply ethical decision-making frameworks to investment processes.
- CLO3 : Identify and assess environmental, social responsibility and corporate governance issues and risks in investment decision making.
- CLO4 : Assess the state and practices in the socially responsible investing sector.

Detailed Assessment Description

Weight	Assessment Name	Assessment Due Date / Timing
15%	Quiz 1	Week 5

Quiz 1 and 2 15% each

The two online quizzes (week 5 and 9) include short answer questions that assess the understanding and application of key concepts. Will be conducted at the beginning of class.

Assessment Length

1 hour

Assessment information

The second quiz will be on April 9th 6:00 pm.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Research Project**Assessment Overview**

Not specified

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO3 : Identify and assess environmental, social responsibility and corporate governance issues and risks in investment decision making.
- CLO5 : Propose and assess the impact of a socially responsible investment product and strategy.

Detailed Assessment Description

Weight	Assessment Name	Assessment Due Date / Timing
40%	Research Project	Week 10 1 hour before class

Research Project 40%

The default project is a group sustainable financial product proposal (20%) and individual illustrative company analysis (20%). Presentation of both the proposal and illustrative analysis will take place in week 10.

Assessment Length

2000 + 2000 words or equivalent pitch book

Assessment information

See Moodle course page for more details

General Assessment Information

Sustainability has become a significant aspect of business. Concepts, methodologies, and standards are evolving. Mastering sustainable finance demands a lifetime learning mindset, clarity, and excellent communication to be effective. The assessments are designed to support the development of these attributes.

Blog

- Personal weekly blog for authentic research and reflection.

Learning Community

- Consistent and quality engagement in class discussions as we introduce many new concepts and practices.

Quizzes

- Week 5 and 9, 15% each. They assess threshold knowledge and clarity of communication.

Research Project

- Clarity, critical thinking, creativity, communication, and teamwork are essential to improve the environmental and societal sustainability of business activities. The default project is a sustainable financial product proposal and illustrative company analysis. Students may propose an alternative sustainable finance project based on technical and business expertise and data access.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course students must:

- Achieve a composite mark of at least 50 out of 100
- Engage actively in course learning activities and attempt all assessment requirements
- Meet any additional requirements specified in the assessment details
- Meet the specified attendance requirements of the course (see Schedule section)

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Laboratory	Topic: Sustainability Challenges and Systemic Response Lecture Group Activities and Discussions Speed Dating for Project Members Blog (research and reflection)
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Laboratory	Topic: Methodologies for Sustainability in Investment and Finance Lecture Group Activities and Discussions Speed Dating for Project Members Blog (research and reflection)
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Laboratory	Topic: Environment 1- Climate Change Lecture Group Activities and Discussions Blog (research and reflection) Project Group Formed
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Laboratory	Topic: Environment 2- Biodiversity, Waste and Water Lecture Group Activities and Discussions Blog (research and reflection)
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Laboratory	Topic: Social 1- Diversity and Inclusion Quiz and Short Answers 1 (Week 1-4) @ 6 pm Lecture Group Activities and Discussions Blog (research and reflection) Submit Group Project Plan
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Laboratory	Topic: Social 2- Slavery, Safety, Other Social Considerations Lecture Group Activities and Discussions Blog (research and reflection)
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Laboratory	Topic: Governance 1 - Board Composition and Remuneration Structure Lecture Group Activities and Discussions Blog (research and reflection)
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Laboratory	Topic: Governance 2 - Reporting and Other Governance Issues Lecture Group Activities and Discussions Blog (research and reflection)
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Laboratory	Quiz and Short Answers 2 (Week 5-8) @ 6:00 pm Topic: Credit, Insurance and Sustainability Lecture Group Activities and Discussions Blog (research and reflection)
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Laboratory	In-lab Project Presentations Discussions and Feedback Blog (research and reflection) Upload documents by Sunday 23:59 after class

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

No prescribed textbook

Recommended Resources

Recommended Textbooks

- D. Schoenmaker & W. Schramade (2019). Principles of Sustainable Finance. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Edmans, A., 2020. Grow the Pie: How Great Companies Deliver Both Purpose and Profit. Cambridge University Press.

See Moodle for other readings.

Additional Costs

NA

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the myExperience survey, which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Kingsley Fong		BUS344B	+61293854932	Tue 2-3 pm	No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

COURSE POLICIES AND SUPPORT

The Business School expects that you are familiar with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW and Business School learning expectations, rules, policies and support services as listed below:

- Program Learning Outcomes

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student Responsibilities and Conduct
- Special Consideration
- Protocol for Viewing Final Exam Scripts
- Student Learning Support Services

Further information is provided on the [key policies and support page](#).

Students may not circulate or post online any course materials such as handouts, exams, syllabi or similar resources from their courses without the written permission of their instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) – under the Outcomes tab – are what you should be able to demonstrate by the end of this course, if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

CLOs also contribute to your achievement of the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), which are developed across the duration of a program. PLOs are, in turn, directly linked to [UNSW graduate capabilities](#). More information on Coursework PLOs is available on the [key policies and support page](#). For PG Research PLOs, including MPDBS, please refer to the [UNSW HDR Learning Outcomes](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances beyond your control interfere with your performance in a specific assessment task or tasks, including online exams. Students studying remotely who have exams scheduled between 10pm and 7am local time, are also able to apply for special consideration to sit a supplementary exam at a time outside of these hours.

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Special consideration applications will be assessed centrally by the Case Review Team, who will update the online application with the outcome and add any relevant comments. The change to the status of the application immediately sends an email to the student and to the assessor with the outcome of the application.

Please note the following:

1. Applications can only be made through Online Services in myUNSW (see the UNSW [Current Students](#) page). Applications will not be accepted by teaching staff. The lecturer-in-charge/ course coordinator will be automatically notified when your application is processed.
2. Applying for special consideration does not automatically mean that you will be granted a supplementary exam or other concession.
3. If you experience illness or misadventure in the lead up to an exam or assessment, you must submit an application for special consideration, either prior to the examination taking place, or prior to the assessment submission deadline, except where illness or misadventure prevent you from doing so.
4. If your circumstances stop you from applying before your exam or assessment due date, you must apply within 3 working days of the assessment or the period covered by your supporting documentation.
5. Under the UNSW Fit To Sit/Submit rule, if you sit the exam/submit an assignment, you are declaring yourself well enough to do so and are cannot subsequently apply for special consideration.
6. If you become unwell on the day of – or during – an exam, you must stop working on your exam, advise your course coordinator or tutor and provide a medical certificate dated within 24 hours of the exam, with your special consideration application. For online exams, you must contact your course coordinator or tutor immediately via email, Moodle or chat and advise them you are unwell and submit screenshots of your conversation along with your medical certificate and application.
7. Special consideration requests do not allow the awarding of additional marks to students.

Further information on Business School policy and procedure can be found under "Special Consideration" on the [key policies and support](#) page.

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

For assessments other than examinations, late submission will incur a penalty of 5% per day or part thereof (including weekends) from the due date and time. An assessment will not be accepted after 5 days (120 hours) of the original deadline unless special consideration has been approved. An assignment is considered late if the requested format, such as hard copy or electronic copy, has not been submitted on time or where the 'wrong' assignment has been submitted.

For assessments which account for 10% or less of the overall course grade, and where answers are immediately discussed or debriefed, the LIC may stipulate a different penalty. Details of such late penalties will be available on the course Moodle page.

FEEDBACK ON YOUR ASSESSMENT TASK PERFORMANCE

Feedback on student performance from formative and summative assessment tasks will be provided to students in a timely manner. Assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, will be assessed and students provided with feedback, with or without a provisional result, within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances. Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Faculty-specific Information

PROTOCOL FOR VIEWING FINAL EXAM SCRIPTS

UNSW students have the right to view their final exam scripts, subject to a small number of very specific exemptions. The UNSW Business School has set a [protocol](#) under which students may view their final exam script. Individual schools within the Faculty may also set up additional local processes for viewing final exam scripts, so it is important that you check with your School.

If you are completing courses from the following schools, please note the additional school-specific information:

- Students in the **School of Accounting, Auditing & Taxation** who wish to view their final examination script should also refer to [this page](#).

- Students in the School of Banking & Finance should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the School of Information Systems & Technology Management should also refer to [this page](#).

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the [myExperience survey](#), which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Business School is actively monitoring student learning and quality of the student experience in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance, such as to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved. The information is required for accreditation purposes, and aggregated findings will be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of Business School programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential.

TEACHING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Please note that teaching times and locations are subject to change. Students are strongly advised to refer to the [Class Timetable website](#) for the most up-to-date teaching times and locations.