

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Public and International Affairs
with effect from Semester A 2024/25**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Financing Sustainability: Policy and Mechanisms
Course Code:	PIA6505
Course Duration:	One Semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P6
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

The course is to provide an overview of the key financing mechanisms of sustainability initiatives and related regulatory and policy issues. The course is built upon the public finance foundation, with great emphases on externalities, governance, public finance instruments, and public accountability and reporting. It will also introduce market-oriented financing mechanisms and corporate involvement in financing sustainability. The course is interdisciplinary and introductory, targeting a broad audience that is not necessarily intended to be technical analysts in the financial industry.

The course covers the following topics: a) market failures, and the importance of cross-sectoral partnership in financing sustainability; b) policy and governance design for sustainable finance; c) rethinking the roles of accounting, public reporting, and measurement; and d) financing tools for sustainability.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Become familiar with concepts of sustainable development, market failures, and collaborative governance		✓	✓	✓
2.	Be exposed to key financing mechanisms by the public and private sectors for sustainability		✓	✓	✓
3.	Become familiar with different regulatory frameworks for sustainable development		✓	✓	✓
4.	Apply the above-mentioned understanding to analyse critically the financing policies and regulatory practices of different countries and regions through case studies		✓	✓	✓
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4			
Class Presentation	A group of students will present some of the required reading and lead the discussion in classes.	✓						
Class participation & Discussion	Attendance: Class attendance is compulsory. Students are expected to go through their readings PRIOR TO CLASS and participate in discussion, share ideas and opinions in a respectful manner, and analyse case studies critically and constructively.		✓	✓				
Quizzes	In-class or online quizzes are used to incentivize students to keep up with the readings and prepare before class.				✓			
Final paper	Students are asked to analyse some specific sustainability financing mechanisms of a country or a city and present the findings to the class at the end of the class.	✓	✓	✓	✓			

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4				
Continuous Assessment: 100%								
1. Class Presentation	✓	✓	✓	✓			20%	
2. In-Class participation & Discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓			15%	
3. Quizzes	✓	✓	✓	✓			15%	
4. Final paper	✓	✓	✓	✓			50%	
Examination: N/A% (duration: N/A, if applicable)								
							100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Class Presentation	Students' performance	High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Basic and adequate understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.
In-Class participation & Discussion	Students' performance	High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Basic and adequate understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.
Quizzes	Students' performance	High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Basic and adequate understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.
Final paper	Quality of the report	High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Basic and adequate understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
Class Presentation	Students' performance	High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.
In-Class participation & Discussion	Students' performance	High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.
Quizzes	Students' performance	High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.
Final paper	Quality of the report	High standard of knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Fairly good understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Rudimentary understanding of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.	Almost no knowledge of the different approaches of financing sustainability, and the core concepts and techniques of financial policy and mechanism.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Financing mechanisms, governance, public finance instruments, public accountability, market failures, cross-sectoral partnership in financing sustainability; policy and governance design, sustainable finance

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

Schoenmaker, Dirk and William Schramade. 2021. Principles of Sustainable Finance. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. [S&W]

Gleeson-White, Jane. 2020. Six Capitals: Capitalism, Climate Change and the Accounting Revolution that Can Save the Planet, 2nd edition. Sydney, Australia: Allen & Unwin. [GW]

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)