

# Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) Aspects of International Development

## SYLLABUS

*as of 8 October 2021*

## 1 Course Details

### 1.1 Instructor

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### 1.2 Important Dates

Introductory meeting : 27 October 2021  
Assignment of topic : 3 November 2021  
Submission of exposé : 24 November 2021  
Presentations of exposés : 3 December 2021  
Start of Bachelor thesis : 10 December 2022  
Submission of Bachelor thesis : 4 February 2022

### 1.3 Class Implementation and JGU-Mainz's COVID-19 regulations

We plan to hold the introductory meeting and the presentations of exposés in-person. We will adhere to the University's regulations throughout the semester. If courses are back fully online, I will provide the link to the virtual meetings. Please follow the University's regulation about presence on campus, as provided here: <https://corona.uni-mainz.de/>.

## 2 Course Description and Objectives

The seminar prepares and facilitates students to explore studies that cover environment, social, and governance aspects of international development. We place these aspects central in our studies, not only as given features in which markets, economies, and countries evolve, but also as outcomes. In addition, we pose questions related to sustainability factors. Due to the breadth of potential topics, we focus on topics related to the use of natural resources as a source of growth; international trade and public health; and development and the environment. We review contributions to these topics and develop ideas for your theses.

We aim to answer several pertinent questions. They are:

1. What are the distributional economic impacts related to the chosen topic?
2. Which environment, social, and governance aspects affect the public in general but may not necessarily be taken into consideration in private decision-making processes?
3. Are there economic policies that can encourage the inclusion of public interest into private behaviour related to your chosen topic of interest?
4. Explain whether the current situation supports sustainable development

Some basic literature related to the course include:

- Anthony J Venables (2016). “Using natural resources for development: why has it proven so difficult?” In: *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30.1, pp. 161–84
- Michele Ruta and Anthony J Venables (2012). “International trade in natural resources: practice and policy”. In: *Annu. Rev. Resour. Econ.* 4.1, pp. 331–352
- Richard Smith et al. (2015). *Trade and health: Building a national strategy*. World Health Organization
- Brian R Copeland, Joseph S Shapiro, and M. Scott Taylor (May 2021). *Globalization and the Environment*. Working Paper 28797. National Bureau of Economic Research. DOI: [10.3386/w28797](https://doi.org/10.3386/w28797). URL: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w28797>
- Seema Jayachandran (2021). *How economic development influences the environment*. Tech. rep. National Bureau of Economic Research
- Jevan Cherniwchan, Brian R Copeland, and M Scott Taylor (2017). “Trade and the environment: New methods, measurements, and results”. In: *Annual Review of Economics* 9, pp. 59–85

### 3 Course Prerequisites

Students should have intermediate levels in economics.

### 4 Grading

There are three deliverables related to this course. Each seminar participant is expected to submit an exposé, present their exposé, and submit a Bachelor thesis. The grade of the seminar is exclusively taken from your presentation of exposé. Attendance to the introductory meeting and all exposé presentations is expected from all participants. I encourage you to actively participate in all of these meetings.

### 5 Class Policy

In general the Academic Conduct of the JGU-Mainz applies. Please see the code of conduct on plagiarism, academic integrity, and copyright in the following [link](#). Lack of knowledge thereof is not a reasonable explanation for violation. Academic honesty is obligatory. Any suspected plagiarism will be taken seriously. Questions related to exams and the Disciplinary Code should be directed to the *Studienbüro*. Failure to comply with formal requirements results in a grade of 5. We cover these formal requirements in the introductory meeting.

## Special accommodations

- If you have a disability or other special needs that require accommodation, please let me know within the first week of class or as soon as possible.
- Please feel free to also get support from JGU-Mainz's Service Point for Accessible Studies (*Servicestelle für barrierefreies Studieren*): <https://www.barrierefrei.uni-mainz.de/>.

## Additional Notes

- Please engage in the class, ask questions, and listen to others.
- Please visit my office hours to discuss and prepare your exposé, presentation, and thesis. Please meet me at least twice for office hours. I will create a team for this seminar course in MS Teams, which is also the platform we use for office hours.
- Be curious and courageous in learning as well as in presenting your work.
- Our class should be a safe space to learn from each other. Be mindful that finished works need *process*. Please be respectful towards everyone in the class.

## 6 Resources

I will post all materials to the class' online folder on LMS Moodle. The following resources may be of your interest.

- access to scholarly journals and articles: JSTOR via the University of Mainz's VPN
- access to statistical and econometric softwares: ZDV's App Store

## 7 Health and Wellness

If you are facing challenges from your academic life, health or other important parts of your life, please know that JGU-Mainz offers various forms of supports. If you, or anybody you know, could benefit from mental and physical health care, please refer to the following resources.

- Counseling and Psychological Support: <https://www.pbs.uni-mainz.de/beratung/>
- General health: <https://www.studium.uni-mainz.de/gesund-studieren-in-mainz/>

## References

- Cherniwchan, Jevan, Brian R Copeland, and M Scott Taylor (2017). "Trade and the environment: New methods, measurements, and results". In: *Annual Review of Economics* 9, pp. 59–85.
- Collier, Paul et al. (2010). "Managing resource revenues in developing economies". In: *IMF Staff Papers* 57.1, pp. 84–118.
- Copeland, Brian R, Joseph S Shapiro, and M. Scott Taylor (May 2021). *Globalization and the Environment*. Working Paper 28797. National Bureau of Economic Research. DOI: [10.3386/w28797](https://doi.org/10.3386/w28797). URL: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w28797>.

- Dupas, Pascaline (2011). “Health behavior in developing countries”. In: *Annu. Rev. Econ.* 3.1, pp. 425–449.
- Gleeson, Deborah and Sharon Friel (2013). “Emerging threats to public health from regional trade agreements”. In: *The Lancet* 381.9876, pp. 1507–1509.
- Jayachandran, Seema (2021). *How economic development influences the environment*. Tech. rep. National Bureau of Economic Research.
- Kremer, Michael (2002). “Pharmaceuticals and the developing world”. In: *Journal of Economic perspectives* 16.4, pp. 67–90.
- Ruta, Michele and Anthony J Venables (2012). “International trade in natural resources: practice and policy”. In: *Annu. Rev. Resour. Econ.* 4.1, pp. 331–352.
- Smith, Richard et al. (2015). *Trade and health: Building a national strategy*. World Health Organization.
- Smith, Richard D, Kelley Lee, and Nick Drager (2009). “Trade and health: an agenda for action”. In: *The Lancet* 373.9665, pp. 768–773.
- Van der Ploeg, Frederick and Anthony J Venables (2012). “Natural resource wealth: The challenge of managing a windfall”. In: *Annu. Rev. Econ.* 4.1, pp. 315–337.
- Venables, Anthony J (2016). “Using natural resources for development: why has it proven so difficult?” In: *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30.1, pp. 161–84.