

Banking & Sustainability

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Course Format

The course consists of 6 four-hour sessions, further enriched by 4 hours of interactive teaching dedicated to seminars and e-tivities that support the development of students' final work.

The first session is dedicated to presenting the main dynamics and critical issues related to sustainable finance and bank sustainability. Before the session, each student must read and analyze the recommended readings and propose a presentation (30 minutes) on a topic of particular interest.

Sessions 2 and 3 are dedicated to analyzing three articles. Each student should choose one of the four suggested papers.

Each student must independently read the assigned paper and prepare an individual presentation (PowerPoint or PDF format) lasting approximately 30 minutes. The students will then use their presentations as a basis for class discussion and comparison.

The presentation should contain a personal discussion of the following issues:

- Describe the research questions raised by the paper;
- Describe the theoretical framework and the literature that lead to the research hypotheses;
- Describe the data and the research methodology;
- Summarize the findings and conclusions;
- Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the study.

After session 3, students are asked to choose a theme related to sustainable banking and finance that could be the subject of the final assignment. Session 4 is dedicated to discuss a PowerPoint or PDF presentation (30 minutes) on the potential research questions for the final assignment. The presentation should contain the main information on 2-3 papers that inspire the development of the research question for the final assignment.

Sections 5-6 are dedicated to discussing the research proposal that should be presented as the final assignment. Before the session, each student must prepare a PowerPoint or PDF presentation (30 minutes) that highlights the theoretical context and the methods that should be used to develop the research proposal.

Dynamic class discussions about assignments and round-table presentations are expected.

Course evaluation

The final evaluation is based on:

- Class participation and assessment of each session assignment (50% of grade).
- Final paper (50% of grade).

Detailed syllabus with sessions' assignment

Session 1	April 8 th
Topic	<i>Sustainable finance and bank sustainability</i>
	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N. Linciano, E. Cafiero, A. Ciavarella, G. Di Stefano, E. Levantini, G. Mollo, S. Nocella, R. Santamaria, M. Taverna La finanza per lo sviluppo sostenibile. Tendenze, questioni in corso e prospettive alla luce dell'evoluzione del quadro regolamentare dell'Unione europea, Consob, giugno 2021. • Adrienne Coleton, Maria Font Brucart, Pilar Gutierrez, Fabien Le Tennier & Christian Moor, Sustainable finance market practices, EBA staff paper series, n. 6, 2020.

Session 2	April 9 th
Topic	<i>Sustainable and Responsible Investment</i>
Assignments	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soana, M. G. (2011). The relationship between corporate social performance and corporate financial performance in the banking sector. <i>Journal of Business Ethics</i>, 104(1), 133-148. • Wu, M. W. Shen, C. H. (2013). Corporate social responsibility in the banking industry: Motives and financial performance. <i>Journal of Banking & Finance</i>, 37(9), 3529-3547. • Filippini, M., Leippold, M., & Wekhof, T. (2024). Sustainable finance literacy and the determinants of sustainable investing. <i>Journal of Banking & Finance</i>, 163, 107167. • Fatica, S., & Panzica, R. (2024). Sustainable investing in times of crisis: evidence from bond holdings and the COVID-19 pandemic. <i>Journal of Banking & Finance</i>, 107238.

Session 3	April 15 th
Topic	<i>Social Dynamics in Finance: Experimental Insights on Bias and Behavior</i>
Assignments	<p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agnew, J. R., Bateman, H., Eckert, C., Iskhakov, F., Louviere, J., & Thorp, S. (2018). First impressions matter: An experimental investigation of online financial advice. <i>Management Science</i>, 64(1), 288-307. • Bapna, S., & Ganco, M. (2021). Gender gaps in equity crowdfunding: Evidence from a randomized field experiment. <i>Management Science</i>, 67(5), 2679-2710. • Ceravolo, M. G., Farina, V., Fattobene, L., Leonelli, L., & Raggetti, G. (2022). Anchoring effect in visual information processing during financial decisions: An eye-tracking study. <i>Journal of Neuroscience, Psychology, and Economics</i>, 15(1), 19. • Genevsky, A., Yoon, C., & Knutson, B. (2017). When brain beats behavior: Neuroforecasting crowdfunding outcomes. <i>Journal of Neuroscience</i>, 37(36), 8625-8634.



Session 4	
April 17th	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presentation of the possible research question</i>
Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of 2-3 papers related to the topic chosen by each student to develop the research question. Before the session, each student must agree with the professor on the papers that will be the subject of the presentation; read and analyze the papers; prepare a short presentation to expose the possible research question (30 minutes).

Session 5-6	
April 30th – May 06th	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presentation of the research proposal for the final assignment</i>
Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literature review and discussion of the research proposal that underlies the final assignment. Before the session, each student must prepare a PowerPoint presentation (30 minutes) to highlight the theoretical context and helpful method to develop the research proposal that underlies the final assignment.

Interactive teaching activities (4 hours) will be scheduled with the students throughout the semester.