Course Descriptions None 2015-2016

Course Title	Sustainable and Responsible Investments
Course Code	EBC4212
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
4	1-2-2016	1-4-2016		X			X

Level	Advanced
Coordinator	Paul Smeets For more information:pm.smeets@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	
Goals	The goals of this course are to discuss sustainable and responsible investments in the context of stock-market listed firms and other classes, through both an academic and practitioner's lens. Students first learn how environmental, social, and governance factors as well as fundamental financial factors can affect the decisions of equity investors who seek for a specific return/risk profile of their portfolios. Subsequently, students learn beyond the issue of return-risk optimization how important it is to understand the financial and nonfinancial preferences of investors, and concepts such as trust and cheating, all of which have practical implications for the successful development investment products that cater to specific groups of clients.
Description	This course fully focuses on the theory and practice of sustainable investments. It demonstrates how sustainability issues affect the development of financial products and may influence the performance of investment strategies. The first part of the course explains how sustainable investing translates to the management of investment portfolios in traditional asset classes, such as the optimization of return/risk characteristics of equity portfolios, but also fixed-income portfolios, by means of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Factors. Subsequently, the course explains how analysing the (non-) financial preferences and behavioural characteristics of prospective clients/customers are important in developing and successfully marketing sustainable financial products. Students can also get a basic understanding of sustainable investments that are explicitly intended to have positive sustainable-development impact in emerging markets, such as 'impact investments' and 'microfinance'.
Literature	the course is taught using use a collection of top-ranked academic and high-impact practitioner-oriented articles, and cases that help students to confront theory with practice.
Prerequisites	Courses and workload are demanding for all IB Master courses. Exchange students need to have obtained a Bachelor degree in business. The course touches on topics from the finance domain (and investments in particular) and economics. Students are expected to understand the key basic concepts in investment analysis and portfolio theory (such as CAPM, Modern Portfolio Theory, and investment performance evaluation). Analytical skills, understanding of excel, statistics, and an advanced level of English are required.
Keywords	
Teaching methods	PBL / Lecture / Assignment
Assessment methods	Participation / Written Exam
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Master Business Research	IB Electives
Master Business Research Track OR	IB Electives
Master International Business Track Accountancy	Electives
Master International Business Track Controlling	Electives
Master International Business Track Entrepreneurship	Electives
Master International Business Track Finance	Electives
Master International Business Track Organisation	Electives
Master International Business Track Strategy and Innovation	Electives
Master International Business Track Sustainable Finance	Electives
Master International Business Track Sustainable Finance	Sustainable Finance
SBE Non Degree Courses	Master Courses