

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Professor: **Tancrède VOITURIEZ**

Session: **July 2024**

Language of instruction: **English**

Number of hours of class: **36h**



Objective of the Course

This course will provide intellectual material for students to understand the rationale for and challenges behind sustainable development and climate action. Students will develop a critical sense of the drivers of actions and the factors of inaction in this domain. They will explore the relationships between knowledge and beliefs, science-based policy prescriptions and contemporary politics. Based on the most up-to-date research findings and international negotiations outcomes, students will debate on propositions made by scholars, civil society movements and entrepreneurs to bridge the implementation gap and live up to the most pressing environmental and development-related challenges of our time.



Summary

Available evidence of environmental changes in the 21st century has revealed that said changes pose a major threat to our economies and societies. To ring the alarm, some scholars even coined a new term, the “Anthropocene”, to describe the unprecedented influence of human activities on the Earth system.

In 2015, the United Nations solemnly agreed with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to strengthen the universal response to the threat of global warming by keeping a global temperature rise in this century well below 2°C. The same year, UN member countries set the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and decided on 17 new and universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Yet burning questions remain on the amount of change delivered by global commitments. How do rich and poor societies confront and act on climate change targets today? What is the theory of change for civil societies, CEOs and scientists confronted with inertia or obstruction? Is litigation a way out? Can climate change

policies frame a new social contract and deliver stability in international relations in the coming years? Students will encounter these questions throughout the course.

In the first part, we will identify various environmental and development-related challenges and map out the policy responses at a global level. In the second part, we will discuss the contemporary politics of global environmental and development changes and observe that which has been achieved so far. In the last section of the course, we will look at different academic disciplines and stakeholders' initiatives in order to flesh out options likely to solve the challenges of implementation.



Organization of the course

Theme 1

Identifying sustainable development challenges and global policy responses

Theme 2

From policy to politics – mapping out the drivers of action and the factors of inertia

Theme 3

Options to solve implementation challenges



Professor's Biography



Tancrède Voituriez has a PhD in Economics and is a Senior researcher on Global Governance at Iddri. His research focuses on trade and green innovation relationships, and on the causes of inertia in the implementation of sustainable development policies. Tancred Voituriez has been involved as a coordinator and/or expert in numerous research projects on globalisation and sustainable development for the European Commission, the European Parliament, the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment, among others. He has been teaching at Sciences Po since 2005. He has been based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic since 2022.