



SO BS 334 - GLOBALISATION AND SUSTAINABILITY: IRELAND IN CONTEXT

IES Abroad Dublin

DESCRIPTION:

If a country is defined by a colour, it is Ireland. Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle, a green country of fields and wild landscapes. Ironically, Ireland has the highest CO₂ emissions per person in the EU, mainly due to the agricultural industry. Ireland is also one of the most globalised and wealthiest countries in the world. It is the third largest exporter of pharmaceuticals in the world, the sixth largest exporter of financial services, the centre of the global aircraft leasing industry and the location of the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) headquarters for Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, Intel, HubSpot, Salesforce, among others. But the opportunities in Ireland, as a result of globalization, have led to pressures on housing, transportation, energy provision and other infrastructure. With the population potentially doubling in the years to come, especially if a United Ireland transpires, Ireland will face challenges in sustainably managing its development and retaining its competitive position within the globalized world.

This course will help you understand the relationship between globalisation and sustainability, how globalisation is impacting on climate change and the resulting consequences for globalisation itself. It will analyse how globalisation is a vital component in developing sustainable solutions. Students will appreciate how Ireland, embedded in globalisation, can face the challenges and opportunities of a sustainable future and live up to its worldwide perception of being a green country.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: Students should be familiar with a seminar-style learning environment

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Students will, in weekly classes, learn through lectures, class discussion, group work & group presentations, field trip and/or guest speakers.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Individual presentation - 25%
- Group presentation - 35% total
 - Standard of Presentation - 25%
 - Individual Presentation Journal - 10%
- Research Assignment - 30%
- Class Contribution and Participation in Discussions - 10%

Individual Presentation

Students will present on a contemporary topic of their own choosing but related to globalization and sustainability. Topics will be identified and discussed with the instructor and recommendations made during week 3 of class, with individual presentations scheduled during weeks 4-7. Timeline: 20 minutes, with questions afterwards.

Research Assignment

Students will select a current theory on globalization and sustainability and will critically analyse the theory in relation to a country/subject of their choice, writing a research paper of 2,500 words. Topic to be confirmed with professor by week 3, with the assignment due week 6.

Group Presentation Project

In groups of three-four, students will select an industry in Ireland and critically analyse the challenges that industry faces in the

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transition to a greener economy. Students will then individually write a Reflective Learning Journal (800 words) that outlines their experiences. Group presentation topics will be confirmed in week 8, with presentations occurring weeks 9-12. Groups will also attend preparatory checkpoint meetings with instructor.

Class Contribution and Participation in Discussions

Students are expected to complete readings before class in order to participate fully in class debates and discussions.

Assessment of papers and presentations will be based upon:

- **Content:** Develops and supports a central thesis. Provides a focused argument throughout the essay/talk.
- **Clarity:** Writes/speaks clearly by developing a coherent, well-organized paper/presentation; arranges sentences in a logical manner; uses correct punctuation, spelling, and grammar; and provides correct citations.
- **Comprehensiveness:** Has reviewed the relevant literature and material, demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the topic, and uses multiple bibliographic sources (books, journal articles, interviews, cited web-based information). Does not use web-based sources exclusively. Able to critique differing points of view on the topic.
- **Creativity:** Draws the reader/listener in and engages him/her in the topic, Makes an original contribution to the topic. Presents material in an interesting or unique way that is particularly helpful to the reader/listener.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Define and explain the concepts of globalisation and sustainability, and identify their effects on the environment
- Describe how sustainability is modifying the integration of global systems
- Analyse and compare how governments, businesses, and individuals approach sustainability goals differently
- Assess the risks and evaluate the opportunities for Ireland in the transition to a green, Net Zero economy
- Evaluate initiatives and obligations that intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations might expect Ireland to champion, monitor or support by developing a thorough understanding of Ireland's position, both in a European and global context
- Predict and evaluate the implications of the interplay between globalisation and sustainability for Ireland's future in this new age of mass migration
- Apply approaches to sustainable practices to future learning opportunities and related topics both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and beyond

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class attendance is mandatory. The IES Abroad Dublin Centre Attendance Policy will apply in all instances.

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 1	Globalisation & Sustainability: An Introduction • Introduction to globalisation • Introduction to sustainability • Brief analysis of the reciprocal impacts of globalisation and sustainability • Framing the relationships between globalisation and sustainability in an Irish context • United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	• Geringer et al., (2023) - Module 1 p.34-60 (27) • Dicken (2015) - Chapter 1, p.1-6 (6) • Todaro & Smith – (2020) - Chapter 12 – pp. 600-614 (15) • White & Krishnan (2023) Globalization is greener. (2 pages) - link in Readings below. • WTO Annual Report (2024). p.4-29 (26) • UNSDG Report (2024) p. 3-46 (44)

Week 2	Globalisation • Ideologies - Hyper globalists; Sceptical globalists • Drivers of globalisation • Consequences of globalisation • Future of globalisation	• Geringer et al., (2023) - Module 1 pp.34-60 (27) • Cavusgil et al – Chp. 2, p.30-69 (70) • Dicken (2015) - Chp. 1, pp.1-6 (7) • White (2023) <i>How our interconnected world is changing</i> - Podcast - (35 mins) • Wolf, M., (2022) <i>Globalisation is not dying, it is changing</i> (3 pages)
Week 3	The Science of Sustainability • Climate change ○ Evidence ○ Consequences • IPAT equation • Impact of globalisation on sustainability	• Geringer et al., Module 4 - p.122-153 (30) • Video: Guggenheim, D. (2006) An Inconvenient Truth, Paramount Global. (1 hour, 40 mins) • World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) <i>Brundtland Report</i>, p. 11-27 (17) • IPCC Reports • Government of Ireland & EPA (2023) <i>Climate Change Assessment: Climate Science – Ireland in a Changing World</i>. Volume 1. p.1-19 (20) • Thunberg (2023) <i>The Climate Book</i> - 1.4. p.11-15; 1.8. p.32-40; 2.24. p.122-125; 3.11, p.165-168; 4.27. p.313-317; 5.3. p. 331-336 (33) • <i>Civilization and the planet with Peter Frankopan</i>, David McWilliams Podcast. (35 mins) Topic(s) for individual presentation, research assignment confirmed

Week 4	Globalisation and Ireland: Historical analysis • Ireland's historical participation in globalization as a British colony • Ireland's withdrawal from globalization after independence • Post 1950's: reintegration of Ireland into the globalized world • Case study: Globalisation and Ireland Individual presentations in class	• O'Grada (1995) <i>Ireland: A New Economic History</i>, p.1-25 (26) • O'Hagan et al. (2021) – Chapter 1 - p.5-30 (26) • McWilliams, D. (2018) <i>Renaissance Nation</i>, Chapters 1-2, p.2-28 (27)
Weeks 5	Economic Growth Theories and Globalisation: Part I • Analysis of how economies grow • Case Study: The reasons for the Celtic Tiger and Ireland's success • Rethinking the goals and outcomes of economic growth Individual presentations in class	• Mankiw & Taylor – Chapter 21 - 463-484 (22) • Todaro & Smith – Chapter 3 - p.139-144; 149-155 (13) • Raworth, K. (2018) <i>Doughnut Economics</i> - p. 31-93 (63) • <i>Doughnut Economics with Kate Raworth</i>, David McWilliams Podcast (56 mins) Research assignment check-in
Week 6	Economic Growth Theories and Globalisation: Part II • Case Study: The reasons for the Celtic Tiger and Ireland's success (cont'd.) • Rethinking the goals and outcomes of economic growth (cont'd.) Individual presentations in class	• Hickel, J (2021) <i>Less is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World</i>, p.1-36 (37) • <i>Is the Degrowth Movement the future?</i> David McWilliams Podcast, 8 August 2023 (42 mins) • McWilliams (2018) <i>Renaissance Nation</i>. Chapter 3, p.29-49 (21) Research assignment due

Weeks 7	The Impact of Sustainability on Globalization: Part I - International Collaboration on Climate Change - Business Accountability - CSR and ESG - Socially Responsible Investment Individual presentations in class	- Cavusgil et al, Chapter 4, p.92-119 (29) - Global Sustainable Investment Alliance (2022) <i>Global Sustainable Investment Review 2022</i>, p. 6-18 (13)
Week 8	The Impact of Sustainability on Globalization: Part II - Socially Responsible Investment (cont'd.) - Green innovation - The Circular Economy	- Singh, N. K., Pandey, S., Sharma, H. & Goel, S. (2021) <i>Green Innovation, Sustainable Development and Circular Economy</i>, p.215-226 (12) Balbo Sugar plantation in Brazil - video (20 mins) Topic of group presentations confirmed
Week 9	Globalisation & Sustainability in Dublin - Walking tour of a global city - Dublin - History (Famine & Malthus Theory) 2008 Financial Crisis - bank bailouts, etc. - Brexit (finance companies moving to Ireland, trade) - MNC's (types, operations, employment, consequences) - Sustainability in Dublin (Dublin City Climate Action Plan, Sustainable Business Models, Construction, Housing) Group presentations in class	- Dublin Economic Monitor (2025), p. 1-20 (21) - Dublin Chamber (2022) Sustainability Survey, p. 1-10 (11) - Dublin City Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, p. 1-35 (36)
Week 10	Government Policy and Sustainability - Factors that influence public policy - Business and government relations	- Gittel et al. (2012) Chapter 2, p.40-82 (43) - O'Hagan et al. (2021) - Chapter 11, p.283-308 (24) - The European Green Deal

	• Market failures and the role of public policy • Public Policy features • United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Group presentations in class	• https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en • Government of Ireland (2024) Climate Action Plan 2024, p.17-22 (6) • Mazzucatto (2018) <i>The Entrepreneurial State</i>. p. 1-16 (17) • Perez (2018) The Fifth Industrial Revolution is Happening - Video (20 mins) • <i>Climate Change Opportunity with Dr. Douglas Alexander</i>, David McWilliams Podcast (45 mins)
Week 11	Sustainable Transition - Risks and Opportunities for Ireland • Role of innovation in sustainability • Globalisation's influence on innovation • Risks and opportunities of transition to Net Zero • Could Ireland be the Saudi Arabia of Renewable Energy? Group presentations in class	• TFCD (2017) <i>Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures</i>. p. 5-11 (7) • One Acre Farm in Uganda - video (6 mins) https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-examples/one-acre-farm • Government of Ireland & EPA (2023) <i>Climate Change Assessment: Achieving Climate Neutrality by 2050</i>. Volume 2. p.1-18 (19) • Government of Ireland & EPA (2023) <i>Climate Change Assessment: Realising the Benefits of Transition and Transformation</i>. Volume 4. p.1-20 (21) • Lonergan & Sawers (2002) <i>Supercharge Me: Net Zero Faster</i> p. 1-35 (36) • Ellen McArthur Foundation https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org • <i>Why climate change is an investment, not a cost</i> with Eric Lonergan and Corrine

		Sawers, David McWilliams Podcast. (35 mins) • <i>There's great dryin' in that wind! with Vanessa O'Connell, Head of Inis Offshore Wind</i>, David McWilliams Podcast. (35 mins) • The Economist (2024) <i>An influx of Chinese cars is terrifying the West</i>. (3 pages)
Week 12	Future of Ireland - economy, environment, and society • What is required to make Ireland a better place to live? • A synthesis of the course that examines what Ireland needs to do to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and achieve net zero, while maintaining our global interests Group presentations in class	• Government of Ireland & EPA (2023) <i>Climate Change Assessment: Being Prepared for Ireland's Future Climate</i>. Volume 3. p. 1-20 (21)

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Guided Tour of Dublin Port focusing on global freight and passenger trends and on-site sustainability practices
- Walking Tour of Dublin as a globalised and sustainable city in the developed world

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Cavusgil, S.T., Knight, G., Riesenberger, J.R., Rammal, H.G. and Rose, E.L. (2025) *International Business: The New Realities*, 6th edition, Pearson Education, New Jersey.
- Dicken, P. (2015) *Global Shift*, 7th edition, Sage, London.
- Geringer, J.M., McNett, J.M. and Minor, M.S. and Ball, D.A. (2023) *International Business*, 3rd edition, McGraw-Hill, New York.
- Gittell, R., Magnusson M. and Merenda M. (2012) *The Sustainable Business Case Book*, Saylor <https://resources.saylor.org/wwwresources/archived/site/textbooks/The%20Sustainable%20Business%20Case%20Book.pdf>
- Global Sustainable Investment Alliance (2022) *Global Sustainable Investment Review 2022* <https://www.gsi-alliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/GSIA-Report-2022.pdf>
- Gopinath, C. (2018) *Globalization, 'A Multi-Dimensional System'*, 3rd edition, Edward Elgar.
- Government of Ireland (2023) *Climate Action Plan 2023* <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7bd8c-climate-action-plan-2023/>
- Government of Ireland & Environmental Protection Agency (2023) *Climate Change Assessment: Climate Science – Ireland in a Changing World*. Volume 1.
- Government of Ireland & Environmental Protection Agency (2023) *Climate Change Assessment: Achieving Climate Neutrality by 2050*. Volume 2.

- Government of Ireland & Environmental Protection Agency (2023) *Climate Change Assessment: Being Prepared for Ireland's Future Climate*. Volume 3.
- Government of Ireland & Environmental Protection Agency (2023) *Climate Change Assessment: Realising the Benefits of Transition and Transformation*. Volume 4.
- Hickel, J (2021) *Less is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World*, Windmill Books; 1st edition.
- Hill, Charles W.L., (2022) *International Business: Competing in the Global Marketplace*, McGraw Hill, 14th Edition.
- Jacobs, M. (Ed) and Mazzucato, M. (Ed) (2016) *Rethinking Capitalism: Economics and Policy for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth* (Political Quarterly Monograph Series), Wiley-Blackwell.
- Juniper, T. (2013) *What has nature ever done for us? How money really does grow on trees*. London: Profile Books.
- Karaduman, C. (2022) "The effects of economic globalization and productivity on environmental quality: evidence from newly industrialized countries", *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, Vol. 29, pp. 639-652.
- Muzzucato, M. (2018) *The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths*, Penguin., London.
- O'Grada, C. (1995) *Ireland: A New Economic History 1780-1939*, Clarendon Press.
- O'Hagan, J., O'Toole, F. & Whelan, C. (2021) *The Economy of Ireland: Policy Making in a Global Context*, 14th edition, Bloomsbury.
- Perez, C. (2018) *The Fifth Industrial Revolution is Happening - Is it Time to Reshape Our Future?*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhNd3tVR1hI>
- Schmelzer, M., Vansintjan, A. and Vetter, A. (2022) *The Future is Degrowth: A Guide to a World Beyond Capitalism*, Verso.
- Raworth, K. (2018) *Doughnut Economics*, Random House Business, London.
- Singh, N. K., Pandey, S., Sharma, H. & Goel, S. (2021) *Green Innovation, Sustainable Development and Circular Economy*, Routledge.
- TCFD (2017) *Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures Final Report*.
- The Economist (2024) *An influx of Chinese cars is terrifying the West*.
- Thunberg, G. (2023) *The Climate Book: The Facts and the Solutions*, Penguin Press.
- Todaro, M. and Smith, S. (2020) *Economic Development*, 13th edition, Pearson.
- Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2022
<https://www.transparency.org/en/news/cpi-2022-highlights-insights-corruption-conflict>
- Transparency International (2021) *Corruption and climate vulnerability – a devastating relationship*.
<https://www.transparency.org/en/blog/corruption-and-climate-vulnerability-a-devastating-relationship>
- Trek (2021) *Sustainability Report 2021*
<https://view.publitas.com/trek-bicycle/trek-bicycle-2021-sustainability-report/page/8>
- United Nations (2024) *Sustainable Development Report 2023* <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4053200?v=pdf>
- White, O., (2023) *How our interconnected world is changing*, McKinsey Global Institute.
<https://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/our-research/how-our-interconnected-world-is-changing>
- White, O, and Krishnan, M., (2023) *Globalization is Greener*, McKinsey Global Institute
<https://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/overview/in-the-news/globalization-is-greener>
- Wolf, M., (2002): Globalisation is not dying, it is changing, *Financial Times*, 14 Sept 2022
- World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) *Brundtland Report*.
- World Trade Organization (2024) *Annual Report 2024*, WTO.
<https://www.wto-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789287076120/read>

REQUIRED VIDEO/AUDIO:

- British Broadcasting Corporation (2021) [39 Ways to Save the Planet](#). BBC Podcast Series.
- Guggenheim, D. (2006) [An Inconvenient Truth](#), Paramount Global.
- McWilliams, D. (2021) [Lessons from Oslo: How to create green innovation](#), David McWilliams Podcast, 2021.
- McWilliams, D. (2021) [Doughnut Economics with Kate Raworth](#), David McWilliams Podcast, 2021.
- McWilliams, D. (2021) [Climate Change Opportunity with Dr. Douglas Alexander](#), David McWilliams Podcast, 2021.
- McWilliams, D. (2022) [How it all came down: the story of the last leader of the USSR](#), David McWilliams Podcast, 2022.
- McWilliams, D. (2022) [There's great dryin' in that wind! with Vanessa O'Connell, Head of Inis Offshore Wind](#), David McWilliams Podcast, 2022.
- McWilliams, D. (2022) [Why climate change is an investment, not a cost with Eric Lonergan and Corrine Sawers](#), David McWilliams Podcast, 2022.



- McWilliams, D. (2023) [*Is the Degrowth Movement the future?*](#) David McWilliams Podcast, 2023.
- Mc Williams, D. (2023) [*Civilization and the planet with Peter Frankopan*](#), David McWilliams Podcast, 2023.