University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Responding to global economic change – social risks and policy challenges, PG_00179155		
Field of study	Criminology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	e-learning
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	English English language
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Faculty of Economics -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr inż. Tomasz Laskowicz	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 30.0

eNauczanie source address: https://mdl.ug.edu.pl/

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to develop in-depth and critical knowledge of global economic processes and their social and environmental consequences. The course enables students to understand the mechanisms that sustain and deepen economic inequalities between developed countries and the Global South, the limitations of economic growth in developing economies, and the impacts of climate change, which most severely affect disadvantaged and excluded communities. The course fosters the ability to analyse how tax policy, consumption models, value chains, and international economic regulations influence the dynamics of social exclusion, migration, and environmental degradation. Students will explore the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from an economic perspective, acquire skills to assess alternative development indicators, including the concept of degrowth, and reflect on social responsibility and the ethical dimension of managerial decisions. The course prepares future leaders to design policies and economic strategies oriented towards inclusive and equitable development that goes beyond the traditional understanding of growth measured solely by GDP.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
		The student identifies the causes and consequences of global economic and social transformations, including the effects of climate change, migration, and the development of international value chains. The student knows the basic norms and ethical principles related to corporate social responsibility, poverty reduction, and preventing social exclusion in the context of the global economy. The student is able to analyse the impact of globalization, climate change, and social inequalities on the economic situation of developing countries and to interpret migration processes within the global economic context. The student can identify and compare different public policy strategies aimed at reducing poverty and social exclusion, evaluating their effectiveness and side effects. The student is able to take into account environmental, social, and ethical aspects when analysing economic projects and to assess their impact on sustainable development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work

Subject contents	**Lecture 1** **Global economic inequalities and economic convergence** • Geography of wealth and poverty: Global North vs. Global South • Differentiation between Solows convergence model and divergence according to Dani Rodrik • Indicators of economic development and quality of life **Lecture 2** **Barriers to economic growth in developing countries** • Technological and infrastructural constraints • Access to capital and foreign investment • Analysis of economic growth maps and development criteria according to ESPON **Lecture 3** **Globalization and its social consequences** • Development of global value chains and their role in unequal development • Consumerism and mechanisms of labor exploitation (including child and youth labor) • Dependency theory and critique of neocolonial economic structures **Lecture 4** **Climate change: causes, consequences, responsibility** • Identification of main sources of emissions (e.g., IPCC reports) • Climate impacts on the economies of developing countries • Links between industrialization and environmental degradation in a historical perspective **Lecture 5** **Economic consequences of climate crises** • Models for estimating economic losses and the cost of inaction • Examples of climate disasters (droughts, floods) and their effects on agriculture in the Global South • Theory of external costs and internalization of negative externalities **Lecture 6** **Migration crises: origins and impacts** • Causes of economic, climate, and political migration • Consequences of migration for labor markets, demographics, and welfare systems

- Push-pull model in migration analysis

Lecture 7
Social exclusion in the global economy

- Definitions and dimensions of social exclusion
- The concept of social capital (Putnam) and its relevance for local development
- Strategies for social inclusion in public policies

Lecture 8
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in economic perspective

- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their significance for economic policy
- Relationships between economic growth, poverty, and inequality
- Examples of alternative indicators beyond GDP (Human Development Index, Genuine Progress Indicator)

Lecture 9
Taxation as a tool of redistribution and equal opportunity

- Tax systems: progressive taxation, wealth taxes, corporate taxation
- The impact of taxation on income inequality (Piketty)
- Examples of tax reforms in different countries

Lecture 10
Evaluation of the effectiveness of public policies and development aid

- Methods for assessing development interventions (e.g., ex-ante and ex-post evaluation)
- Examples of international projects funded by the World Bank and the EU
- Discussion of the effectiveness of Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Lecture 11
International organizations and their role in combating poverty and social exclusion

- UN, OECD, World Bank, and NGO activities
- Support instruments: grants, microcredits, climate funds
- Analysis of selected initiatives (e.g., Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 2030)

Lecture 12
Degrowth and alternative models of economic development

- Degrowth theories and criticism of the paradigm of unlimited growth

	• Doughnut Economics (Kate Raworth) • Examples of public policies based on limiting excessive consumption **Lecture 13** **Ethical aspects of globalization and responsible leadership** • Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in practice • Ethical leadership in international corporations • Examples of good practices and criticism of greenwashing **Lecture 14** **Energy security and renewable energy in the context of social justice** • Energy transition as an element of reducing inequalities and energy poverty • Insights from the literature of Naomi Klein and Daniel Yergin • Examples of renewable energy projects in developing countries **Lecture 15** **Presentations and discussion of selected topics** • Development of individual thematic projects by students • Presentation of results and joint evaluation of problems and proposed solutions
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Basic knowledge of macroeconomics, basic knowledge of socio-economic geography, and basic knowledge of statistics. B2 level of English or higher.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Report and presentation	51.0%	40.0%
Written exam	51.0%	60.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	Stiglitz, J.E., Walsh, C.E. Principles of Economics. W.W. Norton. Sachs, J.D. The Age of Sustainable Development. Columbia University Press. Piketty, T. Capital in the Twenty-First Century. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. OECD. Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development. OECD Publishing.
Supplementary literature	Sen, A. Development as Freedom. Oxford University Press. Castles, S., De Haas, H., Miller, M.J. The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World. Guilford Press. Raworth, K. Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist. Random House Business. United Nations. The Sustainable Development Goals Report. United Nations Publications. World Bank. World Development Report. The World Bank Group.
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Analysis of convergence criteria according to the Solow model and divergence mechanisms identified by Rodrik, including assessment of the effectiveness of cohesion policies in reducing development disparities based on empirical data and drawing conclusions on the impact of public interventions. Evaluation of the development potential of European countries based on ESPON reports, with a detailed analysis of the growth dynamics of countries that joined the European Union after 2000, and understanding the relationship between EU support and structural economic transformation. Examination of the structure of global value chains and identification of mechanisms for transferring environmental and social costs to developing countries, including calculating the actual carbon footprint of products consumed in developed economies and interpreting the results. Historical analysis of greenhouse gas emissions by main sectors and regions, identification of the causes of emission increases in historical and contemporary perspectives, and critical assessment of the effectiveness, costs, and achieved outcomes of mitigation efforts. Analysis of the causes of economic and climate migration and understanding of the mechanisms by which migration affects demographic structures, labor markets, and welfare systems in both origin and destination countries, based on statistical data and migration models. Assessment of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in economic and social dimensions, analysis of actual progress and discrepancies between declared objectives and achieved results, and drawing conclusions on the effectiveness of related policies. Analysis of the tax systems of selected countries, identification of mechanisms through which progressive taxation operates, its impact on income redistribution and inequality reduction, along with evaluation of budget revenues and the tax wedge, and conclusions on the effectiveness of these instruments. Evaluation of the impacts of development projects implemented by international organizations, analysis of their effectiveness in reducing poverty and social exclusion, and identification of success and failure factors in project implementation. Critical analysis of the concept of degrowth and alternative models of economic development, identification of arguments for and against their application, and assessment of the feasibility of implementing such approaches in national policies. Understanding the mechanisms of corporate social responsibility and ethical leadership in the context of globalization and climate change, and analysis of the relationships between business strategy and the reduction of negative effects of economic development.
Work placement	Not applicable

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