



FINA 5525 Z: Sustainable Finance
MFin Summer 2026

Instructor	Amar Benaissa
Email Address	amar.benaissa@carleton.ca
Class Times	Thursdays 6:05pm – 8:55pm
Modality	In-person
Office Hours	Thursdays 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Office Location	NA
TA Name/Email	NA

Pre-Requisites & Preclusions:

Prerequisites: FINA 5505

Course Description/Instructor’s Statement

Carleton Calendar Description

Theoretical and practical application of sustainable finance principles and mechanisms to business issues. Sustainable investments and sustainable finance products. The motivations for sustainability of financial institutions, institutional investors, and their role in speeding up the transition to a sustainable economy. Experiential Learning Activity.

Instructor’s Course Description:

This course focuses on the theoretical and practical application of sustainable finance principles and business growth. Scarcity of resources, increased income disparity and climate change have increased awareness of sustainability globally. Efforts are underway to speed up the transition to a sustainable economy at the international level to make sustainable finance part of mainstream finance. Sustainability is seen as a triple bottom-line concept that focuses on economic, social and environmental considerations. Sustainable Finance is the study of finance and sustainability in an integrated manner drawing on financial and investment principles and moving towards financial analysis, financing and valuation, and effective risk assessment. It also examines sustainable financial products and services, socially responsible investments and sustainability indices, and carbon finance products.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course provides students with analytical insights and the necessary theoretical and conceptual tools used in investment analysis in a sustainable manner. The main objective is to examine the current state of sustainable finance and to provide an understanding of the growing importance of sustainable finance and the linkage between environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues and key value drivers, such as the cost of capital, profitability, and debt financing.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Discuss the concept of environmental, climate-related, social and governance risks & their importance to finance professions & the finance industry
2. Describe & discuss current developments & trends in the area of sustainable finance
3. Explain the theoretical foundations of finance & how climate & environmental aspects fit into classic financial frameworks
4. Distinguish between different types of sustainable finance products & critically evaluate their climate effectiveness
5. Understand & explain the relation between sustainability performance & financial performance of corporations
6. Apply sustainable finance mechanisms to a real-life investment case study
7. Explain how climate-related decisions can influence firm values
8. Discuss opportunities & challenges for scaling sustainable finance

Course Mission:

This course prepares students for the many emerging jobs where analysts and decision makers must apply their finance knowledge training together with a keen understanding and appreciation for sustainability issues and goals. Examples of these jobs include:

- Asset Management: Finance roles in asset management and private equity, where ESG/CSR and other sustainability related objectives/measures are fast becoming required knowledge.
- Equity analysis roles: Situations where understanding the ESG/CSR and sustainability risks and opportunities of firms is important – for example to analyze and value resource companies, etc.
- Pension Funds and Endowments: Advising roles for institutions facing pressures to divest from fossil fuels and other “sin” stocks in their endowments.
- Not-For Profit Institutions: Roles in large and small non-financial corporations and not-for-profit institutions where financial literacy and finance skills are required in the pursuit of goals related to sustainability

Required/Optional Materials & Prices

Required

Principles of Sustainable Finance

- Schoenmaker & Schramade; Illustrated Edition; Oxford University Press; 2019
- Amazon
 - o Hardcover: **\$57.56**
 - o Paperback: **\$33.99**
 - o Kindle: **\$32.29**

Vital Source (E-Textbook)

- o 180 Day Rental: **\$20.79**
- o 1 Year Rental: **\$23.99**
- o Lifetime: **\$34.99**

- Print ISBN-13: 9780198826606
- E-Text ISBN-13: 9780192561244

The course will be taught using lectures, research articles, and case studies. Each student will be part of a discussion every week made up of their group members

Textbook (s) available at the Campus Store in Nideyinàn or order online for pick up:
<https://carletonshop.ca/Course/term>

Grading Scheme

Class Participation	15%	Ongoing
Quiz	10%	June 4th
Case Analysis	15%	Due June 11
Group Project & Presentation	25%	Due Jun 18
Final Exam	35%	During 22-25 June
TOTAL	100%	

Policies & Accommodations

<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>

<https://carleton.ca/pmc/current-students/academic-accommodations/>



Stay updated with important notifications and announcements from Carleton University, by downloading the Carleton University App!

Preparation and Participation:

Individual contribution in class is necessary to make this course a dynamic learning experience for all. Sustainable Finance issues are better understood and learned by hearing diverse viewpoints on current and topical issues. You are expected to bring to the classroom discussion relevant themes from ongoing sustainability and financial risk issues at time of the course. Marks will be assigned for attendance and participation in the discussions.

QUIZ (10%)

To encourage students to keep up with the course material and to measure students' understanding of the material, I will administer one in-class quiz. The quiz will be 25-30 minutes in duration and will be multiple choice questions. At the end of the lecture preceding the week of the quiz, you will be informed of the topics that will be tested in the quiz.

GROUP WORK:

As noted below this course involves group case analyses. During the first class, you should form your group of 3 to 4 students. After the first class, each group should email the professor the names and student numbers of the group members.

Case Analysis (15%)

Each group will be responsible for preparing a detailed analysis of a Harvard Business School Case on Sustainable Finance titled 'Divesting Harvard's Endowment (HBS case 9-221-009)'. The assignment will be professionally written with a maximum length of 7-15 pages (excluding appendices). The first page of your report will consist of an executive summary of the group's analysis and recommendations. The subsequent pages will document the analysis and reasoning. Guidelines for the assignment will be posted on Brightspace.

NB: The case together with Norway Sells Wal-Mart (HBS 9-308-019) (to be discussed during Lecture 4) may be purchased from Harvard Business School or obtained through the Library.

Group project and presentation (25%)

This is a collaborative group project that will involve analysis of a selected firm's sustainability issues and its transition preparedness. Details of the project and expectations on graded deliverables are posted on Brightspace.

FINAL EXAM (35%)

The final exam will be comprehensive, covering material from the entire course, including concepts, readings, guest speaker talks, presentations and cases. The exam format will be explained during the last week of class. It is important that you are available for the exam. Accommodation will not be made for conflicting travel plans.

Note: If you obtain less than 50% on the final exam, you will receive an "F" grade regardless of your total marks in the course. Also, students who do not demonstrate a minimum level of performance during the term will not be allowed to defer the final exam. The requirement for satisfactory in-term performance is an overall mark of 50% or better on the assignments and quiz. Students with unsatisfactory in-term performance who miss the final exam will be awarded a grade of F for the course.

DEFERRED FINAL EXAMINATION:

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control must contact the instructor and the MFin office in writing to request a deferred exam. Permission may be granted when the absence is supported by a medical certificate and or appropriate document/s to support the reason for the deferral. Deferred exams are not granted for students who have made travel arrangements that conflict with examination schedule.

Course Schedule

Lecture	Topic	Chapter	Additional Readings to be discussed
1	Principles of Sustainable Finance	Ch1	1. European Commission (2018), Final Report of the High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance, January, https://ec.europa.eu 2. Youtube Video on What is Sustainable Finance?

			https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpwKkMuCExQ
2	Externalities	Ch2	<p>1. The true price of Jeans: Impact Institute and ABN AMRO https://www.impactinstitute.com/news/energy-transition/the-true-price-of-jeans/</p> <p>2. Chava, S (2014) Environmental externalities and cost of capital, Management Science, 60 (9) 2223-47</p>
3	Governance and Behaviour	Ch3	<p>1. Case: Norway Sells Wal-Mart (HBS 9-308-019)</p> <p>2. Board Gender Diversity case: Gender Lens Investing Initiative case : https://thegiin.org/glenmede/</p>
4	Investing for Long Term Value Creation	Ch7	<p>1. Amel-Zadeh, A., Serafeim G., (2017), "Why and how investors use ESG Information: Evidence from a global survey", Financial Analyst Journal, 74 (3): 1-17.</p> <p>2. Friede et al (2015): ESG and financial performance: aggregated evidence from more than 2000 empirical studies. Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investments (5), 4, 210-233.</p> <p>3. Youtube Video: How ESG Metrics Work And Why All Investors Should Care. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LPRQaG83Ls</p> <p>4. Youtube Video: Global Impact Investing Network: ESG ratings are not what they seem: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_rrS-_giP8</p>
5	Sustainable Finance Products: Equity	Ch8	<p>1. Making Impact Investing Markets: IFC</p> <p>2. Youtube Videos: Greenwashing: When Companies Aren't as Sustainable as They Claim : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NsBcVrPQok</p>
6	Sustainable Banking (Climate finance)	Ch10	<p>1. Haas, Ralph, D. (2023) Sustainable Banking, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</p>

			working paper No 282. 2. Youtube Video. Insights from Larry Fink on the future of sustainable investing; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZwjG2E0bjU
7	Final Exam		

***Refer to Academic Calendar for dates University Closed Dates and Holidays**
<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

e-Proctoring

If e-Proctoring is implemented for digital exams, please note that tests and examinations in this course will use a mandatory remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information at <https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring/> .

Students are responsible for ensuring that the application is working properly on your computer during the exam. Failure to ensure proper functioning of CoMaS will constitute a violation of the exam rules and may be grounds for an allegation that you have violated the Academic Integrity Policy.

The minimum computing requirements for this service are as follows:

Hardware: Desktop, or Laptop

OS: Windows 10 or higher, Mac OS 10.14 or higher

Internet Browser: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, or Microsoft Edge

Internet Connection (High-Speed Internet Connection Recommended)

Webcam (HD resolution recommended)

Note: Tablets, Chromebooks, Smartphones and Windows-based tablets are not supported at this time.

Deferred In-Class Tests:

In the event that you are unable to write a midterm, test, or other scheduled assessments due to extenuating circumstances (such as a death in the family, illness, etc.), you must provide appropriate supporting documentation to your professor. Upon review, a deferred test may be offered. Please note that students who do not provide valid documentation or fail to offer a reasonable explanation for missing an assessment will receive a grade of 0% for that test.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

This is a human-centered course. In this course, evaluation focuses on what you can do *without* AI assistance. While you are welcome to use AI tools to explore ideas, study, or clarify concepts, all submitted work must represent your independent thinking and original effort. Use AI for learning, not for producing graded submissions. Your understanding and reasoning—not AI output—will form the basis of assessment. Using AI for graded submissions constitutes an academic integrity violation.

Contribution to Program Learning Goals (MFin):

MFin Learning Goal	Not Covered	Introduced	Taught but Not Assessed	Taught <u>and</u> Assessed
MF1 Ethical and Professional Conduct <i>Graduates will conduct themselves in alignment with the CFA Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.</i>			✓	
MF2 Financial Markets, Institutions, and Instruments <i>Graduates will demonstrate an understanding of financial markets, instruments, and institutions.</i>				✓
MF3 Portfolio Management <i>Graduates will understand the motivations of investors and manage an investment portfolio that achieves those objectives.</i>		✓		
MF4 Data Analysis <i>Graduates will be proficient in data management, analytics, and modeling.</i>		✓		
MF5 Communication <i>Graduates will be effective communicators.</i>				✓

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course Sharing Websites:

Materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Recommended Calculator for Examinations:

If you are purchasing a calculator, we recommend any one of the following options: Texas Instruments BA II Plus (including Pro Model), Hewlett Packard HP 12C (including Platinum model), Staples Financial Calculator, Sharp EL-738C & Hewlett Packard HP 10bII

Group work

The Sprott School of Business encourages group assignments in the school for several reasons. They provide you with opportunities to develop and enhance interpersonal, communication, leadership, followership, and other group skills. Group assignments are also good for learning integrative skills for putting together a complex task. Your professor may assign one or more group tasks/assignments/projects in this course. Before embarking on a specific problem as a group, it is your responsibility to ensure that the problem is meant to be a group assignment and not an individual one.

Grading

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 34), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

Grades entered by Registrar:

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

DEF = Deferred

Academic Regulations

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

Requests for Academic Accommodation

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical*

and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

Pregnancy Accommodation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, please review the [pregnancy academic accommodation process](#).

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, please review the [religious academic accommodation process](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the [Paul Menton Centre website](#).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit the [Equity and Inclusive Communities website](#).

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, see the [Senate Policy on Accommodation for Student Activities \(PDF, 25 KB\)](#).

Academic Consideration for Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances

Due to medical and other extenuating circumstances, students may occasionally be unable to fulfil the academic requirements of their course(s) in a timely manner. The university supports the academic development of students and aims to provide a fair environment for students to succeed academically. Medical and/or other extenuating circumstances are circumstances that are beyond a

student's control, have a significant impact on the student's capacity to meet their academic obligations, and could not have reasonably been prevented. Students may request Academic Consideration for Coursework or Other Academic Deliverable. For further information please review the [Procedure for Academic Consideration](#) and the [FAQ page](#).

Scheduling and Examination Support

Scheduling and Examination Services provides various supports for both in-term and end-of-term tests and exams. Details can be found on the [Exam Support website](#).

Academic Integrity:

Violations of academic integrity—presenting another's ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, misrepresentation, fabricating or misrepresenting research data, unauthorized co-operation or collaboration or completing work for another student—are a serious academic offence, weaken the quality of the degree, and will not be tolerated. Penalties may include; a grade of Failure on the submitted work and/or course; academic probation; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; suspension from full-time studies; suspension from all studies at Carleton; expulsion from Carleton, amongst others. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy which is available, along with resources for compliance at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Centre for Student Academic Support:

The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning both inside and outside the classroom. CSAS offers academic assistance with course content, academic writing and skills development. Visit CSAS on the 4th floor of MacOdrum Library or online at: <https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Other Important Information:

- Students must always retain a copy of all work that is submitted.
- All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.
- For us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CARLETON address. Therefore, in order to respond to your inquiries, please send all email from your Carleton cmail account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you can do so by visiting <https://carleton.ca/its/get-started/new-students-2/>