

*Seminar on Sustainable Development*  
Capability Approach at the crossroad between  
the Economical/the Ethical/the Political

Fall Semester 2023



## COURSE SUMMARY

### General Orientation

The course is designed to introduce major issues and topics in the concept of sustainable development by bringing a comprehensive and interpretative approach through various disciplinary methods. First, the preliminary conceptualization of the idea of sustainable development will be based on the phenomenologico-hermeneutical analysis of human action and capabilities which give a fundamental ground for the next enrichment of the concept. Second, the economical dimension of the sustainability and development will be further studied by focusing on the inherent nature of the economical logic and its limitation. Next, the capability approach will be further developed by the intersection with justice and politics where the course mobilizes theories of justice and political theories. Fourth, in conjunction with economic-political assessment under the sign of Justice, the ethical dimension will be introduced to highlight the meaning of sustainability and development as a substantial and pragmatic reality. Finally, several case studies will be introduced to examine and testify theoretical arguments with real world experiences.

### Objectives

To achieve the general goals of the course, students are expected to obtain the following objectives

1. Understanding of general concepts on the capabilities approaches
2. Achieving intellectual flexibility in mobilizing interdisciplinary elements
3. Enhancing critical and creative thinking power on the given topics
4. Ability to discuss and debate on the topics with refined communication skills

### Methods

To achieve objectives of the seminar, the course offers the following methods.

1. Critical and informative reading of the suggested articles (in this semester, the course suggests the group reading of “ Transforming unjust structure, The capability approach” published by Springer) and some supplementary readings. In addition, the lecturer will bring some lectures when they are necessary.
  2. Every student is invited to present at least 2 articles and each presentation should include some key points(introduction of authors, background of the article, core arguments, critical assessment of the article, discussion points)
  3. All students should read the respective articles for the week before the class and prepare summary and critical comments with questions to share with the class.(No paper work is needed but active participation at the class is essential.)
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4. At the end of the semester, each student will have a short individual consultation on the final paper which is an essay on the desired topics. Guidance will be given by the instructor during consultation.

### Assessments

1. 2 presentations (20%+20%=40%)
  - Guideline given by the instructor should be respected
  - Duration 20-30min for the presentation and 10-20min for the discussion
2. Mid-exam(20%)
2. Final Paper(30%)
  - Good interaction in the consultation and Personal interest and originality in the topic will be evaluated
  - 10-15page, double spaced, 11pt
  - Deadline by 18 Dec. 12 pm.
3. Participation in the class(10%)
  - Relevant and critical(esp.) comment and question will be evaluated positively.

## COURSE SCHEDULE<sup>12</sup>

Sessions	Date	Contents	No. Of presentation
1	8 Sept	General Introduction and Orientation	TBD
2	15 Sept	Capabilities and Rights	
3	22 Sept	Capabilities and Development Ethics	
4	6 Oct	Ethical capabilities and Economic capabilities	
5	13 Oct	Democratic Practice in a unjust structure	
6	20 Oct	Economic capabilities and Social Justice (Some critiques on "SDGs")	
7	MID Ex.	(EXAM)	
8	3 Nov	Narrativity and Capability	

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<sup>1</sup> From the session 5, the sessions will be extended for 1hour to make up previous missing session until the fulfillment of the class schedule.

<sup>2</sup> An Individual consultation around 20-30 minutes will be offered to each student which is around 5-6hours in total. In consequence, the course will offer 16 sessions (including 2 non-taken-exam sessions)

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Sessions	Date	Contents	No. Of presentation
<b>9</b>	10 Nov	Enhancing capability for work	
<b>10</b>	17 Nov	Enhancing capability for education	
<b>11</b>	24 Nov	Enhancing capability for the Poor( addressing inequality)	
<b>12</b>	1 Dec	Enhancing capability for agents in the new technology context	
<b>13</b>	8 Dec	Wrap-Up discussion and conclusion	
<b>14</b>	Final Ex.	No exam (submission of the final paper)	

## READING MATERIALS<sup>3</sup>

### Essential Reading

1. SÉVERINE DENEULIN (Ed.), UNJUST STRUCTURES, The Capability Approach, Springer, 2006.
2. John D. Caputo(Ed.) Passion for the Possible Thinking with Paul Ricoeur, Fordam University, 2010.

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3. Additional materials related to the topic(books and articles including documents, documentary, websites etc.) will be communicated during the course. In addition, for the individual work, a necessary bibliography will be also informed by the instructor.

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