Making the sustainability transition work – data, policies, behaviours
A.Y. 2022/23
Alessio D'Amato

DEADLINES:
Assignment deadline: May, 5th, 2023
Send the assignment in Word (or equivalent software) by email to Prof. D'Amato (damato@economia.uniroma2.it) using subject: "MESCI2023 Assignment".

INSTRUCTIONS:
- Each candidate will have to reply to two questions:
  - A general one, which is the same for all candidates, aimed at verifying the understanding of the main concepts underlying the module, and
  - A specific one, linked to a topic of interest for the candidate among the ones available.
- Compliance with the following space limits is required:
  - General part: 2 pages of A4 paper.
  - Specific part: 4 pages of A4 paper.
  Parts of text exceeding those limits will not be evaluated.
- Exam questions are broad and there is not a unique way to answer correctly.
- Answers must be rigorous and based on lectures content and on provided sources (of course subject to personal re-elaboration). Use of additional references/sources is strongly encouraged.

EXAM TOPICS

GENERAL PART (COMPULSORY – THE SAME FOR ALL CANDIDATES)

- Define sustainable development, with a specific attention towards environmental issues. Discuss the role of natural and man-made capital in the achievement of sustainable development
- Describe how the achievement of Agenda 2030 can be measured, and discuss current evidence you are aware of.

The suggested references should be a "starting point" and be used with lectures materials and additional references identified by students.

1. Economics of climate change.
   o Briefly present the climate change problem
   o Discuss the main challenges related to policy design and international cooperation in dealing with climate change

Suggested reference: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/index_en

2. Illustrate the links between economic growth and sustainable development, with particular attention to the role of policies and/or how it can be measured.

Suggested reference: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/Overview/

3. Discuss the driving forces of consumers' environmental behaviours under a microeconomic perspectives. Address at least one example of (traditional or "modern") policy to affect consumers' behavior.

Suggested reference:
https://eplca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/uploads/LCIND2_Consumers_behaviour.pdf
(see, in particular, chapter 3).

4. Nudges as an environmental policy tool: provide a discussion of the main merits and difficulties.

Suggested reference: https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1065958/FULLTEXT01.pdf (See, in particular, chapters 1 and 2).

5. Introduce the concept of the Circular Economy, and discuss the role of the related transition on the way to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

Suggested reference: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_en