OBJECTIVES:

**Motivation:**

International companies are often accused of undermining sustainable development efforts in developing countries through their exploitation of the low cost labour and lax environmental standards in developing countries. On the other hand, international business investment is often welcomed by developing countries because it is seen to help create new jobs and bring in new technologies and management skills. It can be hard to sort through the various claims and arguments and understand the core issues and evidence available in this debate.

**Objectives:**

This course will examine the arguments and evidence related to international business and the role it plays in supporting and/or undermining sustainable development in developing countries.

Students will examine the role international business plays in Chinese economic development, environmental standards and practices, and social standards and practices.

**Acquired Competencies**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENT:</th>
<th>Applied Methods:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will be asked to read background material to prepare for each class session.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course lectures and discussions will offer a chance to review and discuss the material covered in the readings and highlight examples and case studies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will write a short briefing paper in English on an issue related to international business and sustainable development. Feedback will be provided on both content and effective writing and use of English.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will work in teams on an international case study, and make presentations in class that analyze and address important issues in their case study.</td>
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</table>

**Content**

The course will focus on:

- Corporate Social Responsibility as it applies to international business operations
- International standards and reporting systems for social and environmental issues
- Theories and evidence for the role of international business in improving or undermining labour and environmental standards in developing countries
- A case study examination of China, and the role international business plays in Chinese economic development, environmental standards and practices, and social standards and practices

**RECOMMENDED LITERATURE:**

- *Readings and case studies will be assigned for the course.*