

Cities and the Challenge of Sustainable Development Course Syllabus

Jeffrey Sachs

Module 1: Introduction to the SDGs

Professor Jeffrey Sachs introduces the SDGs and their importance. This module briefly describes the importance of creating sustainable living spaces and what we can expect from a future that is built on the principles of economic prosperity, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

Module 2: Why Cities? The Importance of SDG 11

Professor Sachs talks about the ideas and thought-processes that are used to work towards achieving sustainable cities. He elaborates the circumstances in which SDG 11 was created, and uses current data to estimate future global needs and the expectations that must be fulfilled to establish sustainable cities. The outcomes of modifying and designing cities for the increasing world population are also elaborated.

Module 3: The 10-Point Agenda for 21st-Century Cities

Professor Sachs discusses the pros and cons of advancements in science and technology. He outlines a 10-point agenda for sustainable cities and discusses each topic individually to elaborate the breadth and depth of this complex issue.

Module 4: Urban Environment and Energy Systems

Professor Sachs highlights the escalating issues due to climate change and pollution and establishes the urgent need to achieve clean and smart cities. To illustrate the limited timeline under which sustainability must be achieved, he uses current data to forecast possible future solutions. This module also includes examples of new methods and cutting-edge technologies that can be used to achieve SDG 11.

Module 5: Cities as Hubs of Knowledge

This concluding module draws on the cross-cutting issues previously discussed, including the importance of developing urban settlements into smart, shared spaces that foster creativity and knowledge growth. Using case studies, Professor Sachs provides further examples of how this is being done across the world, and how this method can be applied in the future.