

Course Outline 2016
MGMT 737: SUSTAINABILITY
(15 POINTS)

Semester 2 (1165)

Course Prescription

Review of the development of the global interest in a more sustainable society, international issues related to sustainable development, corporate leadership in the area of sustainability, and social issues linked to stewardship, systems thinking and 'beyond the horizon' approaches to planning.

Goals of the Course

In this course we ask why business is associated with either sustainable or unsustainable practices. The overall goal is to gain an understanding of the actors and forces that drive sustainability outcomes, the points at which strategic choices matter, and the role of both market and non-market institutions in structuring business activity.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course it is expected that the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the range of meanings associated with the concept of sustainability.
2. Identify different types of actors, ideas and institutions that affect the economic, environmental and social sustainability of business operations.
3. Demonstrate a critical understanding of contending arguments about the relationships among business, politics, economic development, society and the physical environment, including the ability to identify assumptions and assess empirical evidence relevant to these arguments.
4. Apply theoretical arguments about the actors, ideas and institutions that affect sustainability to specific contemporary situations and cases.

Content Outline

Part 1: Concepts and questions

1. Course overview. Issues and questions: what do we mean by sustainability?
2. Approaches: the 'business case for sustainability' – critics and alternatives

Part 2: Cases, companies and sectors

3. Finance: banking for sustainability?
4. Resources: renewable and non-renewable energy
5. Manufacturing: the things we make and buy
6. Food: everyone eats

Part 3: Arguments and ideas: explaining outcomes

7. Actors and interests: consumers, workers, business owners and others
8. Ideas: why do we believe in certain things?
9. Institutions: bringing ideas and interests together

10. Politics: putting things in action/explaining inaction

Part 4: Putting it together

11. Findings: student research

12. In-class test

Learning and Teaching

This course is built around four elements, all of which involve students in active roles:

- Guided and independent reading: assigned essential readings and additional materials selected by students. Reading materials are of three main types: extracts from classic texts, more recent scholarly analyses, and contemporary news and opinion pieces.
- Participatory seminars: in which students engage with their peers, with the facilitation of the lecturer, to discuss course materials, issues and findings.
- Small group discussion sessions and team-based investigation.
- Assessment tasks: designed to check understanding and provide students the opportunity to develop their own investigation and critical thinking skills.

Each student is expected to come to the seminars having read and prepared the assigned material. Students are asked to participate in a process of active learning and encouraged to take responsibility for setting and reaching their own learning goals. This is not a series of lectures ☺ Your lecturer acts as a guide and a facilitator of constructive discourse and exploration.

Teaching Staff

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Learning Resources

Required readings and other materials for the course are in the weekly schedule available through Cecil. Written materials are available in electronic format (journal articles will need to be accessed through a campus connection), and audio-visual materials are available either in-class, through the University audio-visual library, or in other online locations.

Assessment

Participation in weekly seminars	10%
Team-based case investigation, presented weeks 3-6	20%
Written assignment	40%
present in class week 11, hand in written version and upload to turn-it-in week 12	
In-class test week 12	30%

Learning Outcome	Participation	Case investigation	Written assignment	Test
1		X		X
2	X	X		X
3	X	X	X	X
4	X		X	X