Management and sustainable development : constraints and opportunities

Lecturer
Eric Monami (Coordinator)

Course mnemonic
GEST-S471

ECTS credits
5 credits

Language(s) of instruction
English

Course period
Second term

Course content

The course covers the following topics:

Part 1: Foundations
- A brief historical overview of economic development and the environment;
- Measuring Wealth and Well-being;
- An Overview of Environmental Economics;
- An Outline of Ecological Economics;
- Cost-Benefit Analysis and Measuring Environmental Benefits;
- Placing a Value on Human Life;
- Risk Analysis and the Precautionary Principle;
- Some Relevant Ecological Principles.

Part 2: The Private Sector
- A Brief History of Corporate Response to Sustainability Issues;
- Eco-efficiency and other paradigms;
- Mimicking Nature: Biomimicry and Industrial Ecology;
- Thinking Systemically: Mass Balances and Industrial Metabolism; Life-Cycle Analysis; Carbon Accounting; Input-Output Analysis;
- The Search for Innovative Business Models;
- Defining Sustainability and its Components;
- Internalizing Sustainability into Corporate Strategy;
- Social Enterprise and the Social Return on Investment;
- Sustainability and Corporate Culture.

The theoretical contents of this course are mainly based on Nemetz, Peter N. 2014. *Business and the Sustainability Challenge: An Integrated Perspective*. London: Routledge.

Objectives (and/or specific learning outcomes)

This course aims at offering a comprehensive overview of the issues of sustainability as they relate to business and influence corporate strategy. It features a wide range of cases and an extensive discussion of tools to incorporate sustainability issues into strategic decision making. Students will build and then be able to apply a solid understanding of sustainability in business.

Teaching method and learning activities

The course includes 20 contact hours (Eric Monami: 16h; Nicolas Denis: 4h) and combines various teaching methods including case studies, videos and external guest speakers.

Contribution to the teaching profile

It is vitally important for future business leaders to have a holistic understanding of the many issues surrounding and shaping sustainability. The objective of this course is to make students aware of the big challenges of the world we are currently living in and teach them, through a variety of new tools, how to transform these constraints into new business opportunities.

References, bibliography and recommended reading

Available at https://uv.ulb.ac.be/

Other information

Contact(s)

Eric Monami (eric.monami@ulb.ac.be); Nicolas Denis (nicolas_denis@mckinsey.com).

Evaluation method(s)

Other

Evaluation method(s) (additional information)

Continuous evaluation (no final exam).

Determination of the mark (including the weighting of partial marks)

Continuous evaluation (no final exam).

Main language(s) of evaluation

English

Programmes

Programmes proposing this course at the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management

MA-GEST | Master in Management Science | finalité Professional/unit 1 and finalité Professional/unit 2 and MA-INGE | Master in Business engineering | finalité Professional/unit 1

Programmes proposing this course at the Brussels School of Engineering

MA-IREM | Master of science in Electromechanical Engineering | finalité Operations engineering and management/unit 2 and MA-IRMA | Master of Science in Chemical and Materials Engineering | finalité Professional/unit 2