Special Topics in International Management 247.038

Winter Semester 2024/2025

Hüseyin Celik, MSc

Hueseyin.Celik@jku.at

Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to sensitize students to the topics and challenges of sustainability and sustainability management. Students learn the basic and advanced theories relating to sustainability, sustainability management and sustainability reporting. Furthermore, a connection between theory and practice is established as part of this course.

Course Content and Structure

The course topics reflect the key terms, industry-specific, and company-specific aspects. The treatment of the topics covers both foundational and applied aspects. The course consists of five sessions, with the first two sessions covering basic and in-depth sustainability topics. The last three sessions have each a specific focus. The third session focuses on essential terms, the fourth session focuses on industry-specific, and the fifth session focuses on company-specific topics. Assessment includes a five-page seminar paper, three in-class projects, active participation and one reflection. The language of instruction is English and 80% attendance is required for completion of this course.

Requirements and Grading

individual	Active Participation	10 Points	maximum 2 points per lecturer
individual	Reflection	10 Points	at the end of the course
team	In-Class projects	30 Points	10 points per In-Class Project
individual	Seminar Paper	50 Points	Final submission on
	Sum	**100 Points**	

For a passing grade students must obtain at least 50 per cent of the total points in the in-class projects, reflection and the seminar paper. The maximum score for the written seminar paper is 50 points. Students write a five-page seminar paper in which they explore either a specific term, an industry, a specific company or any issue related to sustainability. The five pages are exclusive of the title page, table of contents and bibliography.

Structure of the paper and expectations will be discussed in class and a template will be uploaded to Moodle with detailed instructions. Please, follow the instructions precisely, because failing to meet the basic criterion of the paper (length, structure, plagiarism, AI misuse, inappropriate sources, incorrect in-text and final referencing) leads 0 point for this assignment. Please keep to the deadlines (exact deadline will be indicated in Moodle and Kusss).

The maximum point for submitted paper is 50 points. Please, note that there is no replacement for the submitted paper as it is a home assignment and you are free to use any sources. Please, also note that deadline is strict and it is not possible to move it. Please, avoid using Chat GPT

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or any similar AI text producing software. If you choose to support your work with such AI software (e.g. for language editing), include a paragraph at the end of any assignment that uses AI explaining what you used the AI for and what prompts you used to get the results. Failure to do so is in violation of academic honesty policies. AI detection and plagiarism checking apply for all submitted papers.

At the end of the course, students are tasked with providing a reflective analysis of the course content. They are encouraged to craft approximately one page, emphasizing the new insights they have acquired. This may encompass conceptual foundations, applied fundamentals, essential terminology, industry-specific or company-specific perspectives, as well as any discussions.

Active participation is expected in this course and students receive a maximum of two points per session for active participation.

The grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

0-59.5 (5); 60-69.5 (4); 70-79.5 (3); 80-89.5 (2); 90-100 (1).

Planned Structure

Session 1	Thursday, 3rd October 2024	• Introduction and organizational information regarding grading and structure of this class • Conceptual foundations (Theoretical Input)
Session 2	Thursday, 10th October 2024	Applied basics (Theoretical Input)
Session 3	Thursday, 24th October 2024	Essential Terms • Theoretical Input • In-class project 1 • Discussion
Session 4	Thursday, 31st October 2024	Industry-specific • Theoretical Input • In-class project 2 • Discussion
Session 5	Thursday, 14th November 2024	Company-specific • Theoretical Input • In-class project 3 • Discussion

Before each session, students are provided with literature for the respective session so that they can prepare for the session. The first two sessions consist of a theoretical input from the course instructor. The last three sessions consist of a theory input by the course instructor followed by the in-class project and finally, after each presentation, there is a short discussion and then a short reflection on the session.

This part of grading involves students working in groups (five students in one group) in a very short time (45 minutes) on a topic which is handed by the instructor. The students should collect the most important information on a flip chart or on a PowerPoint slide and then present it. The duration of the presentation is limited to a maximum of five minutes.

Course Material

Selected chapters from the following books:

- Fantoni, S. et al. (2024). Quantitative Sustainability: Interdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Development Goals. Springer Nature.
- Dana, L. P. et al. (2024). Fashion and Environmental Sustainability: Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Technology. De Gruyter.
- Lehmann, H. et al. (2023). The impossibilities of the circular economy: Separating aspirations from reality. Taylor & Francis.

Selected journal articles, handouts and videos complement the textbook chapters.

Moodle Support

All course material is available in Moodle. Points and grades will be posted in Moodle as well.

Sustainability Policy

As a department that strives to promote environmental sustainability, we encourage you to consider the environment and refrain from printing the readings.

Discipline Rules

As an academic institution, the Department of International Management does not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism encompasses presenting as one's own the words, work, opinions, or factual information of someone else without giving that person credit, as well as borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement. All discovered instances will result in an immediate decrease in grade of the assignment or exam. In severe cases, this may result in a failing grade for the assignment or exam. In addition, there will be an automatic decrease in overall grade. Consequently, this may result in the failure of the course. In the case of group work, the consequences will be extended to the entire team. For details see our code of conduct at www.jku.at/iim.