



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Autumn Semester 2020

### 7,243: Corporate Sustainability Management

ECTS credits: 6

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (45%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Active participation (15%)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[7,243.1.00 Corporate Sustainability Management](#) -- Englisch -- [Walls Judith Louise](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

The course has no specific prerequisites, but an interest in sustainability management is desirable. This course also serves as a good preparation for the Asia Compact course "8,239.10 Sustainability in Singapore and South-East Asia" during the spring semester 2021.

#### Learning objectives

- Knowing and understanding the challenges and approaches of sustainable development at the level of society, the economy and in particular at the level of the company
- Recognizing and understanding the relationships between the company level and the societal level as well as the connections between business and a sustainable development
- Making sense of key conceptual frameworks in business sustainability, and knowing how to apply them in practice at strategic and operational levels
- Recognizing the strategic possibilities as well as the opportunities and risks when aligning business with sustainability goal
- Pulling information from various sources and filter as well as assess these for relevance, reliability, and rigor
- Critically evaluating ideas, synthesize arguments, reconcile divergent points of view, and develop logical conclusions about business sustainability
- Examining the tensions that arise from firms having to meet multiple social and environmental demands, and reason what trade-offs firms need to make
- Feeling confident in your own abilities to join the conversation on sustainability and defend your point of view
- Inspiring others around you, and engage them, as well as share knowledge and ideas through meaningful exchanges

#### Course content

The course starts out by taking a look at the Earth's key processes and grand sustainability challenges that have arisen in the era of the Anthropocene as a result of industrialization and its acceleration in the last 70 years. We will then take a look at key global initiatives in business that aim to address the sustainability challenges. The course introduces students to key concepts and frameworks that are current in corporate sustainability. It holistically examines the strategies and policies businesses put in place to address the triple bottom line of social, environmental, and economic performance. The course begins by exploring how the grand sustainability challenges affect business. We will then take an in-depth look at major frameworks businesses use, in



different industry contexts, to formulate sustainability strategies, and how these are implemented in their operations. Next, the course considers how firms interact with partners along the supply chain, and other external stakeholders, to manage their triple bottom line. The class will look at how companies track, measure, and monitor their progress, and how green reputation can be managed.

The course is designed to be highly interactive in order to promote students' ability to get involved and foster their reflection and critical thinking capacity. We will take a blended-learning approach that follows a flipped classroom design. That means you will be expected to do a significant amount of self-preparation every week, ahead of the class based on material provided through an online blog and supplementary readings. The classroom setting will be used as a seminar, workshop, debate and tutorial to exchange ideas, clarify concepts, and think of solutions. The in-class experience will therefore require both individual and group contributions on your part. Some portions of the course will rely on student-driven activities and you will be asked to design such activities and lead them for in-class implementation. For this reason, class attendance and participation are critical and reflect a high proportion of your overall grade.

In addition, the group presentations will be based on sustainability projects for a real-life organization. This means that your analysis of the problem(s) presented and the solutions you design may be implemented in the real world, which helps you to gain practical experience in a classroom setting.

## Course structure

The course is structured in two key blocks. The first half of the course is a flipped classroom led by the professor; students will prepare intensively for class and the classroom setting is used as a workshop. In the second half of the course, students play a driving role to direct classroom activities. In addition, some classroom time will be used to workshop the group projects. All classes will be highly interactive.

First block: flipped classroom style led by professor clarifying basic concepts and topics:

What is sustainability?

From linear to circular economy

Role of business in sustainability

Leadership and values

Key business models for sustainability

\*\* Term break \*\*

Second block: each team leads an in-class activity on one of the following topics:

Sustainable production frameworks

Sustainable supply chain management

Design for environment frameworks

Green governance

Stakeholder management

Final session: Student presentations

## Course literature

Will be provided in the course via the online blog platform: [www.csmathsg.com](http://www.csmathsg.com)



## Additional course information

- The course is conducted online via the platform CANVAS/Zoom;
- Course content such as guest lectures will be conducted online;
- The group presentations are conducted online and are being recorded.

## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/3)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (45%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

See remark in "Examination Content".

##### Examination-aid rule

Presentations

In presentations, aids for visual presentation can be used. These aids can be specified or restricted by the lecturers.

##### Supplementary aids

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##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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#### 2. Examination sub part (2/3)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (40%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Critical thinking assignment.

##### Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C., Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien, newest edition respectively).

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard.



Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.

## Supplementary aids

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## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## 3. Examination sub part (3/3)

### Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (15%)

Examination time: term time

### Remark

In-class participation to discussions etc.

### Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

## Supplementary aids

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## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## Examination content

The contents of the group and individual assignments will be announced in the first class.

Additional information to the examination sub part 1/3:

There will be two components to the group presentation:

1. Strategic sustainability analysis of a project defined by our Corporate Partner. You will be required to analyse the project and critically assess its viability using frameworks learned in class. You will then need to evaluate strategic options going forward and discuss the implementation of one option, addressing any weaknesses and opportunities (worth 30% of your grade)
2. Group leadership of an in-class activity to last 90 minutes (worth 15%)

## Examination relevant literature

The relevant literature will be provided via the online blog platform ([www.csmathsg.com](http://www.csmathsg.com)) and will be discussed during the first class.



### Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW51) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 42 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 34 (Thursday, 20 August 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 12 October 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 42 (Monday, 12 October 2020);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 44 (Thursday, 29 October 2020).