



BUSINESS SCHOOL

Course Outline 2018

GLMI 707 – Responsible Business and Sustainability (15 Points) Semester II (1185)

Course prescription

This course covers corporate social responsibility and sustainability and **their** implications for business, society and the environment; strategic challenges facing local and global firms with respect to sustainable innovation; ethical governance; indigenous business leadership and governance

Course advice

This course is designed to explore the critical social and economic challenges facing business as we look to the future and to examine the meaning of responsible business action within these contexts.

Goals of the course

The intention of this course is facilitate a deeper engagement with themes of ethics, values and justice as we look to the future and seek practical ways to ensure collective thriving. Specifically defining the range of issues that necessarily become involved when trying to define and act for an improving world is an almost impossible task and by necessity, we will be covering ideas from many disciplines and traditions. In many ways trying to segment themes into a rigid framework of week-by-week topics works against a broader and more integrative understanding but it is essential that we have an idea of the scope and range of themes central to the course.

During the next few weeks then we will be spending focused time looking at the issues below in particular.

- Climate change and resource scarcity
- Technological adaptation and innovation
- Social ethics and well-being
- Business, politics and power
- Indigenous perspectives and priorities

As we bring these areas to life we will be working with the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework to help make sense of how these interact and see how coordinated business and government action can impact values of responsibility, ethics and sustainability in positive ways. The group work around projects will particularly use this lens.

As a result of this learning it is hoped that students will have a much more informed and better considered view of business and its potential to contribute positively and also, have an improved sense of their own values and how these might be used more consciously in decision-making that impacts others.

Learning outcomes (LO)

By the end of the course, it is expected that students will be able to:

#	Learning outcome	Graduate profile capability*
LO1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically discuss the range of meanings associated with the concept of sustainability and responsible business leadership 	1. Disciplinary knowledge and practice
LO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify different types of actors, ideas and institutions that affect the economic, environmental and social sustainability of business operations 	6. Social and environmental responsibilities
LO3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a critical ability to resolve competing arguments about the relationship among business, politics, economic development, society and the physical environment 	3. Solution seeking
LO4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply theoretical arguments about the actors, ideals and institutions that impact sustainable, responsible and ethical practices in business in contemporary organisations 	1. Disciplinary knowledge and practice
LO5		
LO6		

* See the graduate profile this course belongs to at the end of this course outline.

Content outline

Week / Module	Topic	Relevant learning resources/activities	Assessment due this period
Week 1 (Ethics)	Values and Ideals	Posted resources/discussion	
Week 2 (Ethics)	Ethical perspectives	Posted resources/discussion	
Week 3 (Env't)	Climate change	Posted resources/discussion	
Week 4 (Env't)	Waste and over-consumption	Posted resources/discussion	
Week 5 (Env't)	Restoring balance	Posted resources/discussion	
Week 6 (Soc'y)	Polarisation and inclusion	Posted resources/discussion	Research essay due
Week 7 (Soc'y)	Politics and power	Posted resources/discussion	
Week 8 (Soc'y)	Media and technology	Posted resources/discussion	
Week 9 (SDGs)	Project discussions	Posted resources/discussion	Project videos submitted on-line
Week 10 (SDGs)	Project discussions	Posted resources/discussion	
Week 11 (SDGs)	Projects/ test preparation	Posted resources/discussion	
Week 12	In class test	Posted resources/discussion	

Learning and teaching

The class will meet weekly for three hours and will be discussion-based. Students are expected to cover resources and contribute perspective in rigorous and thoughtful ways. This course is not designed for the passive learner who wishes above all for 'truth' to be presented to them in non-negotiable form and in signing up for the course, it is expected that students will have a mature perspective on the contentious nature of values and ethics. Accordingly, most of our time will be spent in discussion, debate and creative co-learning.

Through a blending of formal theory, collective discussion and personal reflection this class will provide learners with an opportunity to explore key contemporary issues in ways that are meaningful, relevant and personally empowering.

Teaching staff

The course is taught by Dr Ross McDonald. Contact details are as follows:

e-mail: ra.mcdonald@auckland.ac.nz

Learning resources

As a class designed to be responsive to emerging themes, events and points of confusion, it is important that the specifics that will add to learning maintain the ability to be flexibly scheduled to maximise learning potential. This being the case, resources will be posted each week to maximise relevance and these will be accompanied by brief notes of explanation and context to ease integration into our unfolding conversation.

Assessment information

Assessment task	Weight %	Group and/or individual	Submission
Research Essay	30%	Individual	Paper
Group Project	30%	Group and Individual	Video, paper and discussion
In-class test	30%	Individual	Paper
Participation	10%	Individual	None

Pass requirements

Students will pass the course when the marks they receive for the assessment tasks combine to pass the 50% point. There is no need for all individual components to be passed in order to pass the course successfully.

Description of assessment tasks

Assessment task	Learning outcome to be assessed
Research Essay – A formal academic essay on one of a choice of topics given in the opening weeks of the course and covering practical and current issues in business ethics	LO 1 - 4
Group project – A small team based investigation of the Sustainable Development Goals and how business is and could further these	LO 1 - 4
Participation – a component of the assessment designed to reward those who contribute positively to the deepening learning of the group by sharing ideas and voicing views	LO 1 - 4
In-class test – a comprehensive summary of learning in which students will be asked to apply ethical perspectives to resolve complex real-world problems	LO 1 - 4

Inclusive learning

Students are urged to discuss privately any impairment-related requirements face-to-face and/or in written form with the courses convenor/lecturer and/or tutor.

Academic integrity

The University of Auckland will not tolerate cheating, or assisting others to cheat, and views cheating in coursework as a serious academic offence. The work that a student submits for grading must be the student's own work, reflecting his or her learning. Where work from other sources is used, it must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This requirement also applies to sources on the worldwide web. A student's assessed work may be reviewed against electronic source material using computerised detection to provide an electronic version of their work for computerised review.

Student feedback

This course is designed to be highly responsive to student interests both in terms of content and process. It is then a format that allows students to have considerable input into the learning dynamics and to help target the flow of learning in ways that are constructive and helpful. A formal evaluation will be conducted at the end of the semester and the feedback used to shape future offerings of this course.

In the event of an unexpected disruption

We undertake to maintain the continuity and standard of teaching and learning in all your courses throughout the year. If there are unexpected disruptions, the University has contingency plans to ensure that access to your course continues and your assessment is fair, and not compromised. Some adjustments may need to be made in emergencies, In the event of a disruption, the University and your course coordinators will make every effort to provide you with up to date information via Canvas and the University website.

Graduate profile for

The following six themes represent the capabilities that the Business School seeks to foster in all of its graduates. The development of these capabilities does not come all at once, but rather is expected to build from year to year. Each course is not expected to contribute to all capabilities, but each course will have its own goals and learning outcomes that relate to the overall development of this profile.

Master of Management

Graduate Profile	
1. Disciplinary knowledge and practice	Graduates will be able to demonstrate an advanced understanding of theory and practice and apply this in current management contexts.
Critical thinking	Graduates will be able to synthesise and critically evaluate ideas and information from multiple sources to develop coherent and evidence-based arguments.

Graduate Profile

Solution seeking

Graduates will be able to creatively and systematically address complex business and management issues and develop practical and innovative solutions.

Communication and engagement

Graduates will be able to work effectively in teams and engage diverse audiences by communicating professionally using multiple formats.

Independence and integrity

Graduates will be able to work professionally and ethically as well as demonstrate self-management in complex situations.

Social and environmental responsibility

Graduates will be able to demonstrate respect for the principles underpinning the Treaty of Waitangi, as well as diversity, equity and sustainability, when operating in a global business environment.