

COURSE LEADER

Boleslaw Rok, visiting professor from Kozminski University, Poland
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/boleslaw-rok-5401582/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores different possibilities of taking climate action to the next level. It is important to understand current trends and innovative practices in sustainability transition. The key focus of this course is on the real business contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a promising way to cope with the tragedy of climate crisis. There is a shift in corporate practices from reactive attitude and passive compliance with societal expectations to more proactive engagement based on disruptive innovation, particularly in climate sensitive industries like energy, construction, textile, or food production and distribution.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand different challenges at the governance level currently facing global and local business and ability to connect successful business solutions with social, environmental and ethical demands;
- understand corporate responsibility and sustainability as a part of theory and management practice in big companies and start-ups;
- identify climate risks and recognize challenges and opportunities for innovation and disruptive change;
- develop knowledge and skills to apply managerial and entrepreneurial instruments for sustainability in the changing context
- understand the importance of business model innovation in association with strategy in creating a sustainable competitive advantage.

TACKLED CONCEPTS

Corporate Sustainability, SDGs, Sustainable Enterprises, Start-ups, Climate Neutrality, Circular Economy, ESG

LEARNING METHODS /
TEACHING PROCEDURES

Lecture, group case discussion, mini-workshop, presentation

ASSIGNMENTS

Class participation, case study preparation, and practical exercises

EVALUATION

Group case presentation (60%), exercises (10%), group project pitch (30%)

BIBLIOGRAPHY / COURSE
MATERIAL

- Crane, A., Matten, D., Glozer, S., & Spence, L. (2019). Business ethics: Managing corporate citizenship and sustainability in the age of globalization. Oxford University Press.
- The Business Student's Guide to Sustainable Management. Principles and Practice, (2017) ed. by P. Molthan-Hill, Greenleaf Publishing Co
- Responsible Business in Uncertain Times and for a Sustainable Future, (2019), Capaldi N., Idowu S., Schmidpeter R., Brueckner M. (eds), Springer

Additional reading materials will be provided on the first day of classes.

NUMBER OF CREDITS

4 ECTS; 2 US

SCHEDULE

8 sessions of 3 hours each

Session Description

1. Different Faces of Corporate Sustainability
2. Business Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals
3. New Governance Framework: ESG, Transparency and Compliance
4. New Trends in Sustainable Finance and Responsible Banking
5. Responsibility and Sustainability in the Supply Chain Management
6. Positive Impact Start-ups - an Alternative to the Business as Usual
7. Climate Neutral Economy, Purpose-driven Companies, Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyle
8. Q&A, Assessment