



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011

ELE 3727 Corporate Environmental Management

Programme

Responsible for the course

Department

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

7,5

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

The objective of the course is to examine, from a systems viewpoint, the major managerial issues and tasks that practicing managers face as they deal with demands for environmentally and socially sustainable performance.

Learning outcome

Acquired knowledge

You will learn about the organizational implications of the concept of sustainable development, and the opportunities that exist to work with various stakeholders relating to the issue of sustainability. You will also get an understanding of how the firm, as a learning organization, and the manager, as a change agent, can foster the conditions needed to forward the sustainable development concept.

Acquired skills

You will be introduced to environmental accounting and management tools that you will have occasion to make use of during your career, and be able to use a moral and ethical framework as a basis for decision making for sustainability. We will focus on factors that will improve your ability to implement environmental policies and objectives, and on ideas of how to deal effectively with them

Reflection

Organizations play a dominant role in society and their actions have influence far beyond the immediate industry in which they compete. Environmental managers have, therefore, a special responsibility to consider the ethical, moral, and legal implications of their decisions in addition to traditional financial concerns. They must be able to reflect and engage in critical thinking with respect to the principles that guide behaviour, the character of the individuals and the firm, and the consequences of the actions under consideration. The course is designed to encourage this type of thinking in complex decision-making situations.

Prerequisites

None

Compulsory reading

Collection of articles:

Fred Wenstøp. 2011. Artikkelsamling til Corporate Environmental Management: A systems thinking approach to making a sustainable difference. Oslo: Handelshøyskolen BI. The main issues and associated literature (Changes are to be expected):

General background to the environmental challenge

- Colby, S.J., T. Kingsley, and B.W. Whitehead (1995). "The real green issue: Debunking the myths of environmental management," The McKinsey Quarterly, No. 2, pp. 132-143.
- Dietz, T., A. Fitzgerald, and R. Schwom (2005). "Environmental Values," Annual Review of Environmental Resources, Vol. 30, pp. 355-372.
- Hardin, G. (1968). "The Tragedy of the Commons," Science, Vol. 162, No. 13

(December), pp. 1243–1248.

- Harper, C.L. (2008). *Environment and Society: Human Perspectives on Environmental Issues* (4th ed.). Upper Saddle River NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall. Chapter 1
- Stead W.E. and J.G. Stead (1994). "Can humankind change the economic myth? Paradigm shifts necessary for ecologically sustainable business," *Journal of Organizational Change Management* 7 No. 4, pp. 15-31.
- The organizational challenge of the environment
- Banerjee, S.B. (1998). "Corporate environmentalism: Perspectives from organizational learning," *Management Learning*, 29 (2), pp. 147-164.
- Forrester, J.W. (1971). "Counterintuitive behavior of social systems," *Theory and Decision* 2, pp. 109-140.
- Kerr, S. (1975/1995). "On the folly of rewarding A, while hoping for B," *Academy of Management Executive* Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 7-14.
- The managerial challenge
- Rittel and Webber (1976). "Dilemmas in a general theory of planning," *Policy Sciences* 4, pp. 155-169.
- Ulhøi, J.P. (1995). "Corporate environment and resource management: In search of a new managerial paradigm," *European Journal of Operational Research* 80, pp.2-15.
- The legal and institutional challenge
- Bansal, P. and W.C. Bogner (2002). "Deciding on ISO 14001: Economics, Institutions, and Context," *Long Range Planning* 35, pp. 69-290.
- Moxen, J. and P.A. Strachan (2000). "ISO 14001: A case of cultural myopia," *Eco-Management and Auditing* 7, pp. 82-90.
- Rugman, A.M. and A. Verbeke (1998). "Corporate Strategies and Environmental Regulations: An Organizing Framework," *Strategic Management Journal*, Vol. 19, No. 4, Special Issue: Editor's Choice (April), pp. 363-375
- Ruhl, J.B. (2006). "Regulation by Adaptive Management—Is It Possible?" *MINN. J.L. SCI. & TECH.* Vol. 7:1, pp. 21-57.
- Strategies for sustainability
- Cohen-Rosenthal, E. (2004). "Making sense out of industrial ecology: a framework for analysis and action," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 12, pp. 1111–1123.
- Hart, S.L. (1997). "Beyond greening: Strategies for a sustainable world," *Harvard Business Review* (January–February), pp. 66–76.
- Hart, S.L. (1995). "A natural-resource-based view of the firm," *Academy of Management Review* 20, No. 4 (October), pp. 986-1014.
- Lovins, A.B., L.H. Lovins, and P. Hawken (1999). "A Road Map for Natural Capitalism," *Harvard Business Review*, May/June, Vol. 77 Issue 3, p145-158.
- Meadows, D.H. (1997). "Places to Intervene in a System," <http://www.wholeearthmag.com/ArticleBin/109.html>
- Nielsen, S.N. (2007). "What has modern ecosystem theory to offer to cleaner production, industrial ecology and society? The views of an ecologist," *Journal of Cleaner Production* 15, pp. 1639-1653.
- Stern, P.C., T. Dietz, T. Abel, G.A. Guagnano, and L. Kalof (1999). "A Value-Belief-Norm Theory of support for social movements: The Case of Environmentalism," *Human Ecology Review*, Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 81-93.
- Young, A. and A. Kielkiewicz-Young (2001). "Sustainable supply network management," *Corporate Environmental Strategy*, Vol. 8, No. 3, pp. 260-268.

Recommended reading

Other:

Much of the literature consists of articles from the academic and professional press. Some of these will be posted on It's Learning as PDF files. References to others will be given so that they can be accessed through the Library's electronic journal databases.

Course outline

The course opens with an overview of the environmental demands on business organizations and asks the basic strategy question of how much corporations should be expected to do in response to environmental issues. Fundamental concepts and methods of environmental accounting and life cycle analysis are presented and critiqued. Alternative environmental policy contexts and their implications for business response are considered. Fundamental tasks involved in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of corporate environmental actions are examined, as are the major tasks involved in working with key internal and external stakeholders in changing environmental performance.

Thematic elements:

The course is composed of six major "themes" which are closely intertwined. These themes are the following:

- Foundations: philosophy and theory of sustainability, ethics, and moral behaviour

- The psychology of the environment
- Sustainability measurement and reporting
- The role of management
- Strategies for corporate environmental management
- Reality and applications

Computer-based tools

None

Learning process and workload

The students will attend lectures with class discussions, analyze cases, make presentations and write a term paper. The students' presentations will be discussed by the class and feedback will be given by the instructor.

Recommended workload in hours

Activity	Hours
Class meetings	36
Preparation for lectures/reading literature	48
Preparation case analysis	12
Preparation presentation	12
Group work	24
Writing term paper	68
Total recommended use of time	200

Use of hours

36 hours - Lectures/class activity

5 hours - Tutorials (groups)

4 hours - Administration of It's learning

45 hours total

Examination

A term paper concludes the course.

The term paper must be completed in two weeks by individuals or by student groups of no more than three students.

Examination code(s)

ELE 37271 - Term paper which accounts for 100% of the grade in the course ELE 3727 Corporate Environmental Management - 7.5 ECTS credits.

Examination support materials

All support materials are permitted.

Re-sit examination

A re-sit is held at the next scheduled exam in the course.

Additional information