
Sustainability Management Systems

Professor: Erola Palau Pinyana

Office hours: by appointment

Course Type: Compulsory

Credits: 3 ECTS

Term: Second

Course Description

Sustainability Management Systems is a second-term course in the MSc in Sustainability Management, at the UPF Barcelona School of Management. It is a core, compulsory course that focuses on gaining understanding of the main sustainability management systems that can be integrated in a company to improve and certify sustainability standards.

The subject will provide criteria and critical capacity to be able to identify the management systems that best adapt to the specific needs of a company. In addition, the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to implement management systems that combine the quality of processes, environmental efficiency and occupational safety will be offered.

Objectives (learning outcomes) and competences

At the end of the course, students should:

- Know the **main Sustainability Management Systems**, understand their fundamental requirements and learn how to identify the management systems that best adapt to the specific needs of a company.
- Learn about **strategizing the implementation of Integrated Management Systems (IMS)**, creating actionable plans for successful implementation, learn about their benefits and auditing.
- Learn about the **continuous improvement cycle**.
- Gather the **skills, tips and knowledge** that will allow you to lead change in your organisations (both sustainable and not) and **become better managers**.

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- Gain understanding on **impactful public and private organizations** (social enterprises, B Corporations, etc).

Methodology

The course comprises eight 3-hour sessions, which combine theory lecturing with general debates and applied discussions on business cases and exercises. Participants will also engage in presentations of reports, cases, or project assignments. Activities will require both individual and group work.

The course also involves a substantial amount of autonomous work outside the classroom combining readings that will help you to gain a deeper understanding of the material covered in the class.

Evaluation criteria

Three elements concur in the final mark:

- **Final exam (40%):** the final exam is used to assess the individual level of knowledge and understanding of each student. It will include questions covering topics from all the classes. To pass the exam the minimum grade is 5.
- **Individual short presentation (10%):** Students are to prepare a short presentation on selected ISO standards.
- **Group report and presentation (30%):** Students will apply their knowledge on a real scenario. They are expected to use the topics learnt during the classes.
- **Class attendance and active participation (20%):** Attendance in every session is expected and recorded by means of an attendance sheet. It is your responsibility to comply with this measure. Class attendance is compulsory and will be considered in your final grades; punctuality is a must. Note that unexcused absences reduce your score on the "attendance and participation" element of your final grade. In fact, two or more unexcused absences will result in an automatic score of zero and, in all likelihood, a fail mark for the course as a whole.

Attended all the sessions + actively and consistently participated in the class discussions during the entire course period,	20
Attended all the sessions + actively and consistently participated in most of the class discussions	15-19

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No more than one unexpected absence + often participated in the class discussions	10-14
No more than one unexpected absence + participated in some class discussions	5-10
No more than one unexpected absence + limited or no participation in class discussions	1-5
Otherwise	0

Other evaluation criteria to take into consideration:

Retake

Students who fail the course during regular evaluation will be allowed ONE re-take of the examination/evaluation. Students that pass any Retake exam should get a 5 by default as a final grade for the course. If the course is again failed after the retake, students will have to register again for the course the following year.

No-show

In case of a justified no-show to an exam, the student must inform the corresponding faculty member and the director(s) of the program so that they study the possibility of rescheduling the exam (one possibility being during the “Retake” period). In the meantime, the student will get an “incomplete”, which will be replaced by the actual grade after the final exam is taken. The “incomplete” will not be reflected on the student’s Academic Transcript.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is to use another’s work and to present it as one’s own without acknowledging the sources in the correct way. All essays, reports or projects handed in by a student must be original work completed by the student. By enrolling at any UPF BSM Master of Science and signing the “Honor Code,” students acknowledge that they understand the schools’ policy on plagiarism and certify that all course assignments will be their own work, except where indicated by correct referencing. Failing to do so may result in automatic expulsion from the program.

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Calendar and contents

LECTURE	TOPIC
1	Overview of the subject, Introduction to SMS, IMS and HLS. Start preparing presentation for following week.
2	ISO presentations, HLS
3	HLS (Continuation)
4	HLS (Continuation) Introduction to social enterprises
	SUSTAINABILITY WEEK
5	Debate on La Fageda Introduction to B corporations (B Corp)
6	HLS (Continuation) + report presentations
7	report presentations + Non-business-related case
8	HLS
9	Exam

Bio of Professor

Erola Palau is a researcher in the Operations, Technology and Science department at UPF Barcelona School of Management, and she is also the coordinator of the Sustainability Observatory of the same institution. Prior to joining UPF-BSM, she was International Key Account in the export department of a private company.

Erola is a graduate in International Business and Languages from the Rotterdam Business School, Master of Science in Management and Business Analytics from UPF-BSM. She is specialized in E-Commerce and Data Analytics from EDHEC Business School and is a PhD candidate in Law, Economics, and Business from the University of Girona.

She has focused on researching the equality of women in companies, the social and economic impact of organizations in their environment and on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in companies.

Reading Materials/ Bibliography/Resources

No textbook is required for this course. All the required material will be provided. Any readings, notes, handouts, dataset, or additional course material will be available through the course website.

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