UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Ethics and Management of Sustainability (blended)

2122-2-F6302N047

Learning objectives

This course regards the ethical responsibility of managers and institutions. It aims to discuss the actions and corporate decisions at the individual and organizational level through the lens of principles and moral values. We will raise the ethical challenges and provide the basic framework for shared models of success and failure in ethical management, sustainability, and corporate responsibility. We will address these issues at individual, organizational, and societal level, in national, international, and multicultural contexts.

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

- understand the fundamental processes that are at the base of the ethical management in institutions
- Understand some levers of the creation of sustainable value
- Analyze the relationship between business and society over time
- Understand the key principles of sustainability in business practice and being able to discuss the main ethical, economic, social, and environmental challenges addressed by public, private for-profit, and nonprofit institutions
- Compare different theoretical frameworks and paradigms and apply them to different contemporary challenges
- Acquire the knowledge of the relationship between the ethical management and sustainability, behavior, corporate reporting, and governance
- Acquire the analytical skills to develop, implement, and assess the sustainable frameworks in business practices and for the decision processes

- Apply skills for ethics and ethical management
- Create solutions and address the problems
- Teamwork
- Discuss a business case / logical case

Contents

Business ethics and sustainability are key concepts in the contemporary management of institutions. Ethics is a crucial component of individual and group behavior, and it is at the heart of responsibilities at organizational level. The growing importance related to the notion of sustainability stimulates reflections on the ethical and social responsibilities of organizations that go beyond their economic responsibility.

Organizations are increasingly required to expand their awareness of their role in society to include others such as employees, customers, suppliers, local communities, governments, and international organizations. The course will focus on the complex environments of national and international institutions, and on emerging governance structures, on management systems, and innovative business models that can support the alignment between the interests of a company and the expectations of the society.

Detailed program

This course will explore the following topics:

- Introduction to ethics
- Etichs and ethical dilemma
- Understanding ethical violations: why smart people do stupid things?
- History, definitions, and evolution of business ethics and sustainability
- Interdisciplinary approaches of ethics and sustainability
- The role of globalization, politics, and culture
- Corporate social responsibility
- Sustainable and innovative business models
- Social innovation
- Change management, values, governance, and leadership
- The role of companies, SMEs, public and non-profit institutions.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

Lectures, case analysis and discussion in class, group work.

Assessment methods

For attending students the assessment will be structured as follows: written exam and contributions in class discussion.

For non-attending students there will be a written exam on the texts that will be indicated at the beginning of the course.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Course textbooks will be indicated at the beginning of the course

Reader prepared by course instructor

Semester

II semester

Teaching language

Italian