UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Ethics and Management of Sustainability (blended)

2425-2-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 questions 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
- Acquire the analytical skills to develop, implement, and assess the sustainable frameworks in relation to ethical challenges in business practices and for the decision processes
- Create solutions and address the problems
- Teamwork
- Discuss a business case / logical case

Contents

Business ethics and sustainability are key in the contemporary management of institutions. Ethics is a crucial component of individual and group behavior, and it is at the heart of organizational responsibilities. 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 the 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 challenges of national and international institutions, and on emerging governance structures, on management systems, and innovative business models that can support ethical behaviour and 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
- The ethical problem in the perspective of business
- Business for Society: business corporate from the perspective of business ethics, sustainability and social responsibility
- Individual Ethics, decisions and values
- Decision-making process and ethical dilemma
- Understanding ethical violations
- Ethical approaches and interpretations of the ethical problem
- Multidimensional frameworks of ethics and sustainability
- Global and local interdependences
- Sustainable and innovative business models
- Change management, governance and leadership
- Ethical and knowledge management
- Digital scenario and ethical challenges

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

This course is provided through a blended learning approach. It is designed as an interactive laboratory of 48 hours, of which approximately 16 hours are lectures that integrate didactic delivery (frontal lectures with the use of slides, audio and video) with interactive teaching (case analysis, testimonies, role play and design of classroom interventions), and 32 hours are devoted to conducting a project work with distance techniques and cooperative learning mode (group work).

Assessment methods

The assessment aims to test the preparation on the topics of the program and the ability to reflect on and discuss critical points of the program.
It will be structured as follows: written exam with open/closed question or a brief case study analysis, group project work and contributions in class discussion.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- Teaching material uploaded on the e.learning platform and course textbooks/reading materials indicated at the beginning of the course.
- NONAKA, Ikujiro; TAKEUCHI, Hirotaka. L’impresa saggia. Come le imprese creano l’innovazione continua. goWare & Guerini Next, 2021

Semester

II semester

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS