



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA

Master of Science in Sustainability Management

**COURSE SSM1090H – Capstone Project: Sustainable Enterprise
2018-19**

Instructors:

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Office Hours: Monday 2.00PM to 4.00PM - groups/students should make prior appointment

Course Description:

The course is designed to develop an integrative understanding of creating and managing a sustainable enterprise. In the first part of the course, an integrative case analysis/competition will be organized. The case analysis/competition will provide an opportunity to apply concepts and knowledge gained through all required and elective courses to a real life case. In a way, it will be a preparatory exercise to start the Capstone project. In the second part, students (in a group of two or three students) will work on a project related to design and management of sustainable enterprise under the supervision of course instructors. The focus of projects will be on demonstrating integration, application, and innovation skills to address challenges faced by an organization with a goal to become a sustainable enterprise.

Course Objectives:

The most challenging task of sustainability managers is to synthesize, integrate, and apply knowledge gained from different disciplines of science, social science, and management to address real life sustainability challenges faced by different types of organizations. The second challenge to sustainability managers is to develop solutions based on knowledge of different members of a group rather than individual's knowledge. Accordingly, the key objectives of this course are:

- (i) to develop and demonstrate skills in integrating and applying knowledge gained through different courses of the program to real-life decision making situations related to sustainability and sustainable enterprises;
- (ii) to develop and demonstrate skills to work effectively in a group-setting;
- (iii) to develop and demonstrate skills in analyzing the current state of sustainability and developing a strategic/management/operational plan to enhance its sustainability efforts; and
- (iv) to develop skills in developing organizational interventions and their operational plan.

Course Format:

The class does not meet every week. However, during the weeks when there are no classes, instructors will be available for consultation. Students are strongly encouraged to make best use of instructors' time. To make use of instructor's time effectively, groups/students should make prior appointments.

Some class times are set aside for student presentations. The students complete a number of assignments over the course of the term, building up to the final capstone project.

Possible Capstone Projects

Selected capstone projects should meet the features identified in the course description and objectives. Some possible projects are:

- (i) developing a strategic plan for a new sustainability enterprise;
- (ii) analyzing the current state of sustainability management of a small organization and developing a strategic plan to enhance its sustainability management;
- (iii) analyzing the current state of a sustainability initiative, such as value addition to used materials, GHG reduction, wetland management, green supply-chain management, of a medium or large organization and developing an operational plan to enhance the initiative;
- (iv) analyzing the current state of sustainability management in a department/plant/project of an organization and developing an operational plan to enhance its sustainability management;
- (v) any other project with prior approval of course instructors.

Terms of Reference for Capstone Project

- (i) The project is to be completed in a group of 2 or 3 students.
- (ii) The capstone project report must reflect integrative learning gained in the program.
- (iii) The objectives of the project must be clearly written in the report.
- (iv) Students are expected to use both primary and secondary sources of data for the project.
- (v) Page limit for the project report is 40 pages including cover page, tables, graphs, bibliography, appendix etc.
- (vi) Project report should be written in 1.5 line space with a font size of 12 in Times New Roman

Terms of Reference for Integrative Case Analysis/Competition

- (i) The Integrative Case Analysis will be completed in a group of 4 or 5 students – ideally two groups of the Capstone project will form one group for Integrative Case Analysis.
- (ii) The case analysis must reflect integration of knowledge gained through different core and elective courses.
- (iii) No written report will be required for the case analysis.
- (iv) Only Powerpoint presentation will be required for the case analysis.
- (v) Detailed instructions will be provided on January 7, 2019.

Academic Misconduct:

Students should note that copying, plagiarizing, or other forms of academic misconduct **will not be tolerated**. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be subject to academic discipline ranging from a mark of zero on the assignment, test or examination to dismissal from the university. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties.

Normally, students will be required to submit their written assignments/projects to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site

Course Drop Deadline:

This is a required course of the MScSM program. Please consult with the Program Coordinator and the Program Director if some unavoidable situation arises and you have to drop a required course of the program

Grading:

Component	Dates	Weight (%)
1. Integrative Case Analysis/ Strategic Plan	January 21, 2019	15
2. Project Proposal and its presentation	February 4, 2019	10
3. Progress Report and its presentation	March 4, 2019	10
4. Discussion with Instructors/Use of Office Hours	Continuing	10
5. Presentation of Final Project	March 25, and April ` 2019	20
6. Final Project Report	April 8, 2019	35
Total		100

Reference Books:

Chris Laszlo and Nadya Zhexembayeva.2011. [Embedded Sustainability: The Next Big Competitive Advantage](#), Stanford Business Books, Stanford.

Peter Senge et al., 2010. [The Necessary Revolution: How Individuals and Organizations Are Working Together to Create a Sustainable World](#), Crown Business, New York.

Course Schedule:

January 7, 2019:

Course Introduction

Course Introduction and Discussion of Expectations and Organization of Integrative Case Analysis/ Competition

Strategic Planning for Sustainability Management

Required Readings:

1. William R Blackburn. 2007. Chapter 6: Strategic Planning for Focused Sustainability Improvement in The Sustainability Handbook- The Complete Management Guide to Achieving Social, Economic and Environmental Responsibility, Environmental Law Institute, Washington DC. **(Posted on the Course Website).**
2. 2012, [Bringing Science to the Art of Strategy](#), HBR, Sept. p. 57

Recommended/Group Readings

1. Martin, Roger, 2014, [The Big Lie of Strategic Planning](#), HBR, 92(1/2), p.78-84

January 14, 2019

Office Hours – Please make appointment

January 21, 2019:

Integrative Case Analysis/ Competition

Format:

- Powerpoint presentation
- Content: Groups will decide their own contents and format of presentation.
- Presentation Logistics: Will be distributed and discussed on January 7, 2019.
- Only Powerpoint presentations will be submitted to instructors.

January 28, 2019

Office Hours – Please make appointment

February 4, 2019

Submission of Proposal of Capstone Project and Presentation in the Class

Format:

- Powerpoint presentation
- Content: Title, organization, key project objectives, key contact(s), primary and secondary research plan, potential challenges and strategies to address them, timeline, etc.
- Presentation time: 10 minutes
- Q/A: 5 minutes
- Your project proposal in the form of an extended version of Powerpoint slides must be submitted to instructors which will be graded.

February 11, 2019

Office Hours – Collection of Marked Proposal with Suggestions and Discussion with Instructors

February 18, 2019

Holiday – Family Day and Reading Week

February 25, 2019

Office Hours – Please make appointment

March 4, 2019

Presentation of Progress Report by all Groups

Format:

- Powerpoint presentation
- Content: Title, organization, key project objectives, primary and secondary research activities, initial findings, next steps, timeline, etc.
- Presentation time: 10 minutes
- Q/A: 5 minutes
- Your project progress report in the form of an extended version of Powerpoint slides must be submitted to instructors which will be graded.

March 11, 2019

Office Hours – Please make appointment

March 18, 2019

Office Hours – Please make appointment

March 25, 2019

Presentation of Final Project: 4 to 6 Groups (Groups presenting on March 25 will be decided on March 4, 2019)

Format:

- Powerpoint presentation
- Content: Title, organization, key project objectives, primary and secondary research analyses, complete findings and recommendations, etc. This presentation should not be a repeat of progress report presentation. This presentation must demonstrate significant progress since the March 7 progress report presentation and should present completed findings and fulsome discussion.
- Presentation time: 20 minutes
- Q/A: 10 minutes
- Your Powerpoint slides must be submitted to instructors.

April 1, 2019

Presentation of Final Project: 4 to 6 Groups (Groups presenting on April 1 will be decided on March 4, 2019)

Format:

- Powerpoint presentation
- Content: Title, organization, key project objectives, primary and secondary research analyses, complete findings and recommendations, etc. This presentation should not be a repeat of progress report presentation. This presentation must demonstrate significant progress since the March 7 progress report presentation and should present completed findings and fulsome discussion.
- Presentation time: 20 minutes
- Q/A: 10 minutes
- Your Powerpoint slides must be submitted to instructors.

April 8, 2019

Submission of Final Project Report

Format:

- (i) Page limit for the final project report is 40 pages including cover page, tables, graphs, bibliography, appendix etc.
- (ii) Project report should be written in 1.5 line space with a font size of 12 in Times New Roman
- (iii) Submit only PDF version of the report to instructors.