



MANT 337: Organisations & Sustainability

Summer School 2012



Welcome

The call for businesses to become more sustainable is ever increasing and now many companies are adopting what they call sustainable practices. This course will focus on exploring sustainability and organisations. It will largely concentrate on the socio-economic context of organisations to analyse the possibilities for sustainability. The course considers the central tenants of sustainable development/sustainability and how these could operate in an organisation. It includes discussions of how organisations are responding to calls for them to be more ecologically and socially sustainable and how business is responding to climate change policies. Furthermore, there will be an emphasis on evaluating and critiquing responses to business being sustainable.

At the completion of this course students should be able to:

- Discuss the study of organisations within a wider societal context to understand the social and environmental implications of managing business organisations.
- Describe the notion of sustainable development as a “solution to resolve the tension of economy and ecology.”
- Critically evaluate sustainability, sustainable development and climate change rhetoric.
- Evaluate frameworks of business sustainability.
- Be capable socially informed and environmentally aware individuals and potential employees.
- To understand and assess organisational responses to sustainability and climate change.
- Provide recommendations to organisations in terms of sustainable operations and strategy.





Course resources

Lecturing Staff

The lecturer and coordinator for the paper is Sara Walton. My details are as follows:

Dr Sara Walton
Commerce 8.20, ph 479 5108
Sara.walton@otago.ac.nz

The lectures are four hours on Tuesdays from 9-12.50pm. Attendance at lectures is not compulsory but obviously strongly recommended as the lectures will be run in a workshop style with discussion and exercises. Some material from lectures will be available via Blackboard. If you miss lectures it is your responsibility to catch up by using these sources. Any additional information that you will need will be posted on the noticeboard on Blackboard and you may, from time to time if need be, receive e-mails via your student address. Please ensure that you have some way of checking both Blackboard and your student e-mail on a regular basis. In addition to the lectures there are a small number of tutorials focused on the internal assessment.

Readings

All readings will be placed on Blackboard prior to lectures. Readings are grouped according to lecture topic. Using Blackboard enables the readings to be up-to-date and relevant. These readings are a minimum required for the course, it is expected that you read and research beyond the provided readings.

Blackboard

Blackboard the electronic web resources will be used for this course. You can access the site through <http://blackboard.otago.ac.nz>. Your Blackboard username and password is the one you also use for the library and PIMS. The helpdesk at ITS can help with any difficulties. You should be able to access the MANT 337 site after being enrolled, if there are any problems please contact Sara.

Students with disabilities

The Department of Management encourages students to seek support if they find they are having difficulties with their studies due to a disability, temporary or permanent, injury or chronic illness. Please feel free to see Sara or contact either the Department's Disability Officer—Leanne Skryba on 479 8125 or contact the Disability Office - 479 8235, email disabilities@otago.ac.nz.

Assessment

Carbon footprint assignment—50%
Exam—50%

CARBON FOOTPRINT ASSIGNMENT—50% (INDIVIDUAL)

This assignment requires you to measure the carbon footprint of your activities / your house or flat / an organisation for the period of a week. You can extrapolate this to a month or year if you so wish. There are a number of calculators available on the web (e.g. www.carbonzero.co.nz) to use as a guide but the data provided by the Ministry for the Environment should be used as a measurement tool for the emission multipliers. The assignment should show the raw data and the overall footprint and a set of recommendations for improving the footprint. The format of the footprint should follow international standards and there are example reports on Blackboard for you to follow.

In addition to the formal footprint report I would like you to provide a reflective comment on your personal environmental behaviour. Determine which of your personal behaviours are most in need of modification for you to move toward a sustainable lifestyle and a viable carbon footprint (and what those two things might mean). Your comment will consist of a description of your footprint, your analysis for why it is as it is, and a detailed description of what you would need to do in order for your lifestyle to be sustainable (including a discussion on what a sustainable lifestyle would mean). You should also reflect on the choices you would be required to make, as well as your feelings about these choices and their implications. This comment should include relevant academic literature and be around 1000-1500 words.

DUE: Friday 10 February 2012 at 4pm

SUBMISSION: hard copy to 8th floor reception + submit via safe assign on blackboard

EXAM- 50%

The final exam will be held during the examination period. The exact date is unknown and you will be informed by the University Registry. The exam will comprehensively test material covered during the entire semester. The exam will be three hours and consist primarily of essay questions.

Assessment policies

Preparing assignments

All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, page numbered and stapled. Your mark will reflect the presentation of your work. If English is your second language then please note ESL on the front cover of your work and we will take this into account.

Note:

Remember to proofread assignments and do a spell check. Spelling and grammatical errors make work look sloppy. Good business communication is essential for everyone in business. Also ensure that all references are included and that referencing is done in the APA style.

Plagiarism

Students should make sure that all submitted work is their own. Plagiarism is a form of dishonest practice. Plagiarism is defined as copying or paraphrasing another's work, whether intentionally or otherwise, and presenting it as one's own (approved University Council, December 2004). In practice this means plagiarism includes any attempt in any piece of submitted work (e.g. an assignment or test) to present as one's own work the work of another (whether of another student or a published authority). Any student found responsible for plagiarism in any piece of work submitted for assessment shall be subject to the University's dishonest practice regulations which may result in various penalties, including forfeiture of marks for the piece of work submitted, a zero grade for the paper, or in extreme cases exclusion from the University.

Please note that assignments **will** be run through safe assignment.

Handing work in late...

Any work, which is submitted late *without* a medical certificate, proof of family illness, crisis or bereavement or other circumstances for which prior approval has been given, will be penalised. There will be a 5% penalty off the total mark per day for ALL late assignments. Please try and see Sara before handing work in late.

Re-marking

All work will be internally moderated. If, upon receiving your work after marking you are concerned about the grade then you are able to have it re-marked within one week of getting your assignment back. To do so you must submit the following to paper coordinator:

Your marked assignment with markers comments; and
a clean copy of your assignment without any comments; and
a written explanation explaining:

- Why you believe that your assignment deserves more marks than assigned;
- Any material you feel was misunderstood by the marker.
- Please note this is not an opportunity to resubmit your assignment but a chance for you to clearly state why this assignment needs to be re-marked.

This year there is only one person marking your work. Sara will reconsider your grade in light of your comments. In some cases she may ask a colleague to carry out a remark. Please note that your remark grade could be lower than your original and the remark is the final grade.



Finally...

Class Representatives

The class representative system is an avenue for encouraging communication and consultation between staff and students involved in a particular paper or course of study at the University of Otago. It provides students with a vehicle for communicating their views on matters associated with the teaching and delivery of their paper or course of study. It provides staff with the opportunity to communicate information to and gain constructive feedback from students. It contributes to the development of a sense of community within a Department and School and it adds a further dimension to the range of support services that the University of Otago offers its students.

Volunteers to act as class representatives for this paper will be called early in the semester. The OUSA then invites all class representatives to a training session, conducted by OUSA, about what it means to be a class representative and some of the possible procedures for dealing with issues that arise. They also provide information on the services that OUSA offers and the role OUSA can play in solving problems that may occur. The OUSA also provides ongoing support to class representatives during the semester. School of Business staff will also meet during the semester with the class representatives for this paper to discuss general issues or matters they wish to have considered.

Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate, the information is subject to change. Changes will be notified in class. Students are encouraged to check Blackboard for any changes. It is your responsibility to be informed.

Timetable

Date	Lecture	Assessment
10 January	INTRODUCTION WHERE ARE WE? State of the environment & sustainability Climate change	
17 January	WHERE ARE WE? Measuring techniques Stakeholder management	
24 January	HOW DID WE GET HERE? 'The story of stuff'	
31 January	WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE FUTURE? Fair trade, cradle-to-cradle	
7 February	WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE FUTURE? Ecopreneurs & green innovation	CARBON FOOTPRINT DUE: FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 4PM
14 February	WHERE TO FROM HERE? Leadership for sustainability Scenario planning	

NB: please see Blackboard for more comprehensive information on each lecture.

