

Sustainability Metrics and Performance Analysis

ACC2711

Course Outline

Instructor: Senior Lecturer, Sanjna Punjabi	Department: NUS School of Business
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Background and Objectives:

As businesses recognize the importance of environmental, social, and governance factors, more managers and investors are seeking to incorporate them into their decision-making processes. This has led to a growing demand for professionals who can effectively process and analyze ESG information. The course will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of sustainability issues in business and how to disclose and analyze sustainability metrics. By learning how to assess ESG risks and opportunities, students will be equipped with the tools to make more informed management and investment decisions.

In addition to the practical benefits of the course, it also offers broader value in terms of developing critical thinking and information processing skills. The course teaches the fundamental concept of information disclosure and how to process information in general with a critical perspective. This will help students develop skills that are highly valued in many industries, such as the ability to identify key information, evaluate it critically, and communicate it effectively.

Overall, the course on "Sustainability Metrics and Performance Analysis" is highly relevant to the current business landscape and provides valuable skills for students seeking to work in management or investment roles. It equips students with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions based on ESG considerations and helps them to develop broader critical thinking and information processing skills that are valuable in many industries.

The specific objectives are:

- In this course we examine how companies are using sustainability reporting and metrics to disclose their environmental social and governance (ESG) performance and explore how to assess the credibility and reliability of these claims.
- We learn to evaluate the sustainability performance of companies based on the information provided in their reports and assess the credibility and reliability of sustainability metrics and reporting frameworks.
- We explore the process of analyzing sustainability reporting metrics and identify best practices for ensuring reliability of sustainability reports. Towards the end students will

be equipped to make informed decisions based on sustainability metrics and performance analysis.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the sustainability information environment, including sustainability reporting standards and regulations.
- Identify material environmental, social, and governance sustainability issues.
- Describe the use of sustainability metrics and reporting frameworks for measuring and reporting ESG performance.
- Analyze sustainability practices by examining corporate sustainability reports.
- Evaluate the reliability and credibility of sustainability reporting and develop strategies for improving sustainability practices.

Planned Teaching and Learning Activities

Learning in this course is achieved through the following components, which are not in order of importance:

1. **Seminars:** Most weeks would be spent on seminar discussions covering current topics and issues on sustainability.
2. **Cases:** Some weeks would be spent on student presentations relating to cases based on real-life business entities and issues.
3. Readings assigned by instructors.
4. Self-learning through group project.
5. Class participation.
6. Independent learning on the part of the student.

Pre-requisite:

ACC1701/ ACC1701X or EC 2204.

If undertaking an Undergraduate Degree THEN must have completed EC2204 at a grade of at least D OR must have completed ACC1701 at a grade of at least D OR must have completed ACC1701X at a grade of at least D

Topics to be covered for this course (subject to minor changes):

1. Introduction - Course Overview: Sustainability Environment
2. Climate systems and circular economy
3. Sustainability Reporting Frameworks and Standards - overview
4. Introduction to carbon accounting
5. GRI standards
6. Social and Governance Issues
7. ISSB Standards
8. Mid-term test
9. ISSB Standards
10. Corporate ESG Performance Analysis
11. Guest Lecture - Implementation issues
12. Presentation - ESG Analysis of two companies from the same industry

Course Assessment

Component	Percentage	Timing (tentative)
Participation in tutorials/projects	15	Ongoing
Project	25	Week 12
Quiz/Tests	20	Week 8 (post recess)
Final exam	40	
	100	

Email communications to/from instructors

Communications between instructors and students will be mainly via email (other than selected CANVAS announcements) — Note that email announcements will be sent to the students' NUS email accounts, and students should ensure that their NUS email mailboxes are always not “full”.