

Corporate Social Responsibility**2015/2016**

Code: 43059

ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313784 Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability	OT	0	1

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Teachers

Isabel Pont Castejón

Prerequisites

To be developed

Objectives and Contextualisation

The course is an introduction to the social responsibility of organisations, mainly business organisations. The issues include the changing relation between business, society and public administrations; environmental, social and governance dimensions of the organisation's activity; and introduction to European environmental law; CSR international standards and tools for strategic management, management systems and external communication to the stakeholders groups.

At the end of the course the student is expected to have a good understanding of:

- An introduction to European environmental law.
- The basics of the concept and approaches of corporate social responsibility;
- The main international standards & tools for corporate social responsibility;

Skills

- Analyse, summarise, organise and plan projects related to the environmental improvement of product, processes and services
- Apply knowledge of environmental and ecological economics to the analysis and interpretation of environmental problem areas.
- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Work in an international, multidisciplinary context.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse best practices in corporate social responsibility.

2. Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
3. Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously
4. Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
5. Know the main concepts, regulations and international initiatives concerning the different dimensions of corporate social responsibility (economic, environmental, social, corporate governance) .
6. Work in an international, multidisciplinary context.

Content

The course is divided in two main parts (i) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) standards and tools and (ii) European environmental law.

Corporate Social Responsibility standards and tools.

European Union concept and directive on CSR

Other approaches to CSR

International standards/tools for CSR and their relationships

CSR accountability, transparency and communication: Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

European environmental law

Beginning and development of European environmental law

European Union principles and legal basis for environmental law

Instruments and policies

The European Union actors on environmental law

The role of the European Union and the role of the states and local authorities

Harmonization, enforcement and implementation

Environmental protection and substantive environmental law

Methodology

Lectures presenting the topic. Some lectures will require the discussion of academic literature that students must read in advance or will require individual or group writing exercise.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Exercise in class	4	0.16	
Lectures	33	1.32	
Type: Autonomous			

Reading articles, books and studying for each of the given lectures	90	3.6
Short essay writing, which involves reading the necessary literature to write the essays	20	0.8

Evaluation

Students will be assessed on the basis of a) the knowledge they have gained throughout the course regarding the proposed literature and the different aspects reviewed in class; b) their writing and critical thinking abilities, and c) their participation in class. In particular, they will be assessed based on:

1. Attendance to the sessions will contribute toward 10% of the final mark.

2. Participation in class contribute toward 10% of the final mark.

3. Two written essays, 500-1000 words essay corresponding. Each one will contribute toward 10% of the mark (20% of the total mark). The correspondent teacher will assess the essay following his/her own marking criteria, with marks falling between 0 (for very bad) and 10 points (for very good essays). Students will have the right to discuss the essay and the mark with the correspondent teacher.

4. A final exam that will contribute toward 60% of the final mark. It will last 2 hours and cover most aspects of the course in no more than 10 questions. Students will have limited space to answer each of these questions and will have to prove that they have understood and master key concepts and ideas introduced during the course. The contributing teachers will evaluate the exam, and each question will be marked between 0 and 1 point. Students will have the right to discuss the essay and the mark with the correspondent teacher and may complain to the MSc coordinator if unsatisfied with the final outcome.

- Each student will have to qualify in each of the evaluation part 3 and 4 and can only skip doing part 3 if it is adequately justified. An student who fails to pass as a result of a poor exam may be given an opportunity to re-take it before the final overall mark is officially delivered to UAB, but only if she/he has shown proof of progressive learning in the other evaluation parts.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Class attendance	10%	0	0	5, 6
Final exam	60%	3	0.12	1, 5, 2, 4, 6
Participation in class	10%	0	0	1, 5, 2, 4, 6
2 short essay writings	20%	0	0	1, 5, 2, 4, 3, 6

Bibliography

Bibliography - Part Corporate social responsibility

BENN, SUZANNE and BOLTON DIANNE (2011) Key concepts in corporate social responsibility, SAGE, Los Angeles (Calif.)

EUROPEAN UNION (2011) Corporate social responsibility: national public policies in the European Union / European Commission. Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs, Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, ISBN 9789279197208

HABISCH, ANDRÉ et al. (2005), Corporate social responsibility across Europe, Springer Berlin, Heidelberg (electronic format)

HOPKINS, MICHAEL (2007), Corporate social responsibility and international development: is business the solution?, Earthscan, London

OKPARA, JOHN O. and IDOWU, SAMUEL O. (2013) Corporate social responsibility: challenges, opportunities and strategies for 21st century leaders, Springer Berlin, Heidelberg

Bibliography - Part European environmental law

Jan H. JANS; Hans H.B. Vedder European Environmental Law, Europa law Publishing (Fourth Edition) 2012

DE SADELEER Nicolas. EU environmental law and the internal market. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014

MACRORY (2014), Regulation, Enforcement and Governance of Environmental Law, 2nd edition Hart Publishing, Oxford

MACRORY et al. (2004), Principles of European Environmental Law. Europa Law Publishing.

KISS, A., SHELTON, D., International Environmental Law, 3^a ed., Ardsley, NY Transnational, 2004

BIRNIE, P.W.-BOYLE, A.E., REDGWELL, C., International Law and Environment, 3a ed. Oxford University Press, 2009.

BROWN WEISS, E. (Edited), Environmental Challenge and International Law, The United Nations University Press, 1992

CAMPINS, M; CASADO, L; NIETO, J.E; PIGRAU, A; PONT, I; Environmental Law in Spain, Wolter Kluwers-kluwer Law International, The Netherlands, 2011

Webs

PNUMA (United Nations Program for Environment <http://www.pnuma.org>

European Court of Human rights <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/>

Official website European Union http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

Training Package on Principles of EU Environmental Law
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/law/principles.htm>

Official Journal of the European Union <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/oj/direct-access.html?locale=en>

Summaries of the European environmental legislation
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/chapter/environment.html?root_default=SUM_1_CODED%3D20&locale=en

European Commission (Environment) : http://ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm

European Environment Agency <http://www.eea.europa.eu>