

Course Code: ACCT 6900I

Course Title: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) in China

Instructor: Dr. SHI Han

Course Credit: 2-credit

Course Grading: Letter Grade

COURSE OVERVIEW

A series of global crises, including COVID-19, climate change and biodiversity loss, has vividly revealed the fragility of global economic systems and stark societal inequalities between and within most countries. To accelerate the transition of business from the sources of global problems towards their solutions, governments and societies have stepped up the regulations and expectations on the business concerning environmental, social and governance (ESG). This has in turn highlighted the interlinkage between sustainability, ESG risk management and long-term value creation of companies.

This course aims at equipping the next-generation business leaders with knowledge and competence to navigate the rapidly evolving ESG landscape, effectively assess and manage the rising ESG risks and opportunities, and seek long-term value creation by taking into account the needs of all their stakeholders and society at large. ESG originated in the corporate practice in Western countries and more recently started to take root in rapidly industrializing countries such as China. A unique feature of the course is its focus on the nascent but rapid development of ESG in China. The lectures highlight the uptake and trends of ESG in China; both group projects and individual student assignments must be concerned with the China-originated companies.

Case teaching is at the heart of the course to enhance experiential learning. All the teaching cases will focus on the ESG practices in the greater China.

COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the students will be able to:

- Learn and apply the basic concepts and analytical tools concerning ESG and corporate sustainability;
- Analyze and appraise the strategies and practices of leading firms, in the areas of sustainable supply chain management, ESG rating and investing, ESG disclosure and sustainability reporting;
- Identify and evaluate the drivers of ESG uptake and upscaling at the levels of individual firms, particular industries, and an industrializing country as a whole;
- Assess and rate the ESG practice and reporting of a China-based listed company and provide innovative solutions for their improvement.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 Origin, Trends of ESG and Corporate Sustainability Worldwide and in China

Week 2 Integrating ESG into Corporate Strategy

Week 3 Addressing Climate Change and Transitioning towards Net Zero

Week 4 Sustainable Supply Chain

Week 5 ESG Rating and Investing

Week 6 ESG Disclosure and Sustainability Reporting

Week 7 Sustainability-driven Business Model Innovation

Week 8 Group Project Presentation and Course Wrap-up

No new case will be presented. The course will be wrapped up after the group project presentations.

GRADING / ASSESSMENT

The assessment is made up of four components:

- 1. Individual case write-ups (2 x 10%)**
- 2. Class Contribution (20%)**
- 3. Group Project Presentation (20%)**
- 4. Individual ESG Assessment Report (40%)**