COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: School of Liberal Arts

Programme: MSc Project Management for Sustainability

***FHEQ* Level:**   7

Course Title: Sustainability

Course Code: PMG 7002

Total Hours: 200
Timetabled Hours: 39
Guided Learning Hours: 21
Independent Learning Hours: 140

Semester: Fall, Spring
Credits: 20 UK CATS credits
10 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:

This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of project management principles and practices within the context of sustainability. It aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills required to effectively plan, execute, and evaluate projects with a focus on balancing the economic needs of present and future human generations with promoting social responsibility, as well as the imperative of preserving, restoring, enhancing, and preventing undue damage to the natural environment. The course emphasizes the integration of sustainability principles into project management processes and addresses the challenges and opportunities presented by sustainability considerations in various industries. The emphasis will be on understanding and applying the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in potential projects.

Prerequisites:

N/A

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding and application of sustainability in executing project management using a systems-thinking approach. In such an approach, the interrelationship of various aspects of project development and management are examined for their overall sustainability. The specific objectives of this course are:

- Understanding the concept of stewardship of our planet and planning projects in such as way.
- The applications of the UN SDGs in project management

Programme Outcomes:
A3, A4, A5, B5, C1, D3.

A3 Identify the risks associated with complex systems that can lead to unintended consequences or negative cumulative effects.

A4 Identify the need for decisions about natural resources to involve judgements, not just about economic viability but about risks to future ecological, social or cultural wellbeing.

A5 Describe the potential for their discipline to interconnect with other disciplines or areas of expertise and make creative leaps forward.

B5 Identify the rationale for encouraging behavioural change, where existing practices are shown to have a negative impact on the human and natural environment.

C1 Develop the leadership/management skills and techniques to participate at any level of a national or international project.

D3 Effective oral and written communication in a range of traditional and electronic media for diverse audiences.

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:
https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the SDG principles and concepts of sustainability and their relevance to project management.
2. Apply advanced project management methodologies and tools to address sustainability challenges in diverse project contexts.
3. Analyse and assess the environmental, social, economic, and ethical impact of projects, and develop strategies to mitigate negative effects and enhance positive contributions to sustainability.
4. Develop project plans and strategies that incorporate sustainability goals and objectives, considering stakeholders' interests and ethical considerations.
5. Demonstrate effective communication skills in conveying sustainability-related project information to diverse stakeholders.
6. Evaluate the role of leadership and governance in fostering a culture of sustainability within project management teams and organizations.

Indicative Content:

1. Introduction to Sustainability and Sustainable Development
   - Definitions and concepts
   - Historical perspectives
   - Sustainable development goals (SDGs)
   - Environmental and sustainable ethics
2. Project Management Fundamentals
   - Project initiation, planning, execution, monitoring, and closure
   - Project management methodologies (e.g., PMBOK)
   - Risk management in project sustainability
3. Sustainability Metrics and Assessment
   - Environmental impact assessment
   - Social impact assessment
   - Economic viability assessment
4. Integrating Sustainability into Project Management
   - Sustainability integration frameworks
   - Triple bottom line (TBL) approach
   - Sustainable project management standards (e.g., ISO 21500, GPM)
5. Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
   - Stakeholder analysis and mapping
   - Sustainable communication strategies
   - Ethical considerations in stakeholder engagement
6. Leadership and Governance for Sustainability
   - Leadership styles and sustainability
   - Corporate social responsibility (CSR)
   - Sustainability reporting and disclosure

Assessment:
This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/

Teaching Methodology:
Teaching will be a combination of lectures, seminar discussions and workshops, using case studies and drawing on students' own experiences where appropriate. Lectures will be designed to cover the fundamental issues and build upon the recommended book chapters from the reading list and additional recommended readings. Students will be advised to supplement lecture notes by reading the relevant indicative text(s). Weekly discussions and learning reviews will support and enhance student learning through the exploration and application of their understanding of business strategies. This is supported by a proactive use of Blackboard VLE to support guided, independent and online learning.

Indicative Text(s):

Brzozowska, A., Pabian, A., Pabian, B. (2023) Sustainability in Project Management: A Functional Approach. CRC Press.

Dathe, T., Dathe, R., Dathe, I., Helmold, M. (2023) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Sustainability and Environmental Social Governance (ESG): Approaches to Ethical Management. Springer International.

Ditlev-Simonsen, C.D. (2022) A Guide to Sustainable Corporate Responsibility: From Theory to Action. Springer Nature.

Marques, J. F., & Dhiman, S. (Eds.). (2019). Leadership Today: Practices for Personal and Professional Performance. Springer.

Robbins, P., Hintz, J., Moore, S. (2022) Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction. 3rd ed. Wiley-Blackwell.

Schlottmann C, Jamieson D, Jerolmack C (eds) 2017 Environment and Society: A Reader. NYU Press.

Wunder, T. (2019) Rethinking Strategic Management: Sustainable Strategizing for Positive Impact. Springer International.

Journals
Sustainability (ISSN: 2071-1050) https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability

Journal of Modern Project Management (ISSN: 2317-3963) https://journalmodernpm.com/

Journal of Business Ethics (ISSN: 0167-4544) https://www.springer.com/journal/10551

Web Sites
What is Sustainable Project Management?
https://greenprojectmanagement.org

Project Management Institute
https://www.pmi.org/learning/library/project-management-global-sustainability-6393

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First Edition	Dec 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	