

MK5155 Consumption and the Consumerist Society

Module Description:

The module will provide students with a critical understanding of the foundations of consumption in society. Building on a socio-historical context, it will draw upon various theorizations of consumption and cultural works which engage with issues related to sustainability (SDG 12) and the role of consumers, businesses, and governments in responding to everyday consumption challenges.

Module Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module, the students will have:

1. A critical understanding of the intersection between consumption and sustainability in a rapidly changing consumer society with particular reference to sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12),
2. A broad overview of sustainable consumption from a variety of perspectives
3. Insight into the ways in which consumers, businesses, and governments are responding to everyday consumption challenges (e.g., globalization, consumption patterns, sustainability, social responsibility, and social factors).
4. A heightened appreciation of the role of marketing, business practices, and public policy in a consumerist society.
5. A critical understanding of the socio-historical and socio-cultural issues relevant to marketing practice in the 21st Century.

MG5145 Responsible Management and Leadership

Module Description:

With great power comes great responsibility. Managers and leaders are increasingly confronted with challenges related to ethics, responsibility and sustainability (ERS). Managing and leading responsibly is an integrative approach regarding the role of business in collaborating to achieve ERS goals, while creating long-term sustainable business models. This entails managers and leaders dealing competently in meeting and overcoming such challenges, and aligning with strategic goals. This module will facilitate you to engage in changing organisational practices to make them more responsible, with a focus on transformative change.

The module provides a foundation to mainstream management concepts and follows by illustrating the application of responsible management and leadership in practice. Using a balance of theory and practice, including application of central tools such as stakeholder management in addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), you will analyse key sustainability challenges encountered by business leaders, and generate real-life solutions towards resolving these.

Module Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to:

1. Critically appraise the role of business in society and describe the key trends that impact on the relationship between business and its stakeholder groups.
2. Discuss the key principles and theories of responsible management and leadership.
3. Apply the integrative nature of ethics, responsibility and sustainability in core business management functions and strategy.
4. Illustrate appropriate models and approaches to agile and transformative change.
5. Describe the importance of organisational culture and innovation in responsible management.

BSS2104 Introduction to Sustainability

Module Description:

The module is future oriented and explores the concept of sustainability in the face of global change. It encompasses a wide range of theory and practice, including social, economic and environmental issues, and links international examples to local context and relevance. The module will challenge students to critically reflect on sustainability and current approaches to sustainability

Module Learning Outcomes:

1. Define and explain key aspects of sustainability
2. Critically assess existing evidence in relation to how sustainability can best be promoted, in particular in the face of global change and uncertainty
3. Evaluate approaches employed to lead on environmental issues and the impacts they have
4. Apply and appraise sustainable approaches that are used to help reduce environmental pressures and promote sustainability
5. Recommend appropriate practices to create a sustainable environment

MG5144 Sustainable Innovation

Module Description:

Participants will learn about how to lead the innovation of sustainable solutions and sustainable business models. Based on an understanding of the SDGs and planetary boundaries, they will develop systems-thinking approaches to investigate the technological, social and organisational aspects of sustainable innovation. Students will work collaboratively on real-world innovation challenges from a strategic to an operational level of an organisation with an ethical perspective. Various theories, concepts, and frameworks will be examined to equip participants to better lead and manage the design and implementation of sustainable innovation.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to:

1. Analyse the key challenges of sustainability, the underlying causes, and the importance of mitigation and adaptation from an organisational and systems perspective
2. Formulate and apply knowledge of concepts from relevant innovation theory to contemporary organisational problems and opportunities
3. Apply concepts, frameworks such as life cycle thinking, circular economy, sustainable supply chain management and design thinking
4. Establish a strategic approach to sustainable innovation
5. Demonstrate understanding of the topic through critical evaluation by means of appropriate communication methods

SBE3117 Field trips: Leading sustainable business transformation

Module Description:

This module comprises several immersive learning field trips and site visits in both domestic and international locations. Participants will experience, first-hand, how small and large companies in a variety of industries and regions are transitioning towards a sustainable planet and society. Networking events allow students to build a varied and global network of contacts who possess shared values and a sustainable mindset. Guest talks afford participants exposure to, and interaction with, thought leaders in industry, who share their insights on sustainability transition strategies and actions. Assessment is continuous with participants required to maintain a critical learning reflection diary documenting their experience and learning from the immersive field trips.

Module Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to connect real world examples of sustainable business transformation to the theoretical learning gained in the classroom.
2. Formulate a strategy to effectively drive sustainable business transformation.
3. Build a professional network of associates to potentially collaborate with on future sustainable solutions.
4. Appraise the qualities required to be a sustainable business leader of the future.
5. Examine their personal and professional development resulting from the immersive field trips.

AY5138 Corporate Governance and Taxation

Module Description:

The module comprises a Corporate Governance component and a Corporate Taxation component.

The corporate governance component introduces students to the principles of corporate governance, as prescribed by regulatory frameworks. Consideration is given to the concepts of corporate sustainability and business ethics within a governance context. Students recognise the need for corporate boards to integrate wider environmental and societal concerns into their oversight functions. The wide-ranging stakeholder implications of governance failures are also examined. This element of the module will also explore common approaches to measuring and reporting corporate sustainability performance.

The corporate taxation component establishes the historical context shaping today's predominant challenges and issues related to multinational corporate taxation. Students explore critical concepts of tax dodging, tax evasion and tax avoidance. The factors defining the landscape for responsible tax, including planetary sustainability and well-being, are considered. Various views and aspects of tax havens are examined, and challenges of tax transparency are explored.

Module Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

1. Distinguish between effective and weak corporate governance through real-world examples;
2. Evaluate the role of corporate boards in overseeing and promoting ethics, responsibility and sustainability;
3. Examine different approaches to the measurement of sustainable corporate performance;
4. Identify the disclosure frameworks within which sustainability reporting operates;
5. Link the implications of corporate taxation to the UN SDGs as well as in the context of leading frameworks such as ecosystem services and planetary boundaries;
6. Understand the investment community's growing prioritisation of responsible tax behavior as a component of ESG;
7. Identify tools and frameworks to effectively support a responsible tax platform and contribute to overall sustainable performance of the organization.

MS5133 Sustainable Information Systems

Module Description:

This module aims to acquaint students on the MSc Sustainability Leadership degree with the critical role that information systems in organisations and society more broadly can play in the sustainability transformation of advanced economies and in sustainable development.

Module Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this module, you will be able to:

1. Understand the problems of pollution and e-waste behind the drive for Green IT, and end-of-use design for devices
2. Understand the principles of Green IS – the harnessing and tuning of information systems to improve energy efficiency, optimise resource use, and hone business processes for optimal sustainability
3. Be able to critically evaluate IT-enabled sustainability transformations in organisations
4. Apply sustainability principles and the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals to analyse of a range of IT related business practices
5. Evaluate sustainability transformation in strategic information systems practice

EC5145 The Economics of ESG

Module Description:

Issues related to the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) are becoming increasingly relevant to decision makers and leaders in both business and public policy contexts. This module will provide students an introduction to economics perspectives on ESG. In particular, the module combines elements of public economics, environmental economics, and financial economics. The module will start with an exploration of how markets function, and how ESG problems arise in a free-market economy due to the presence of externalities, which represent a form of market failure. The module will move to develop an understanding of potential solutions in the form of various policy instruments used to tackle ESG problems, including taxes, permits and direct forms of regulation. Students will also be introduced to economics definitions of sustainability and sustainable development, together with a review of available evidence on sustainability at the macro (national or global) level. Measuring sustainability raises important issues of how to value things that are not typically traded in markets, including ecosystems, biodiversity, and impacts on human health and wellbeing. Students will be introduced to methods for non-market valuation that are commonly used in economics, including in applications to cost-benefit type analyses for investment decisions. Transforming the global economy to make it more sustainable requires large capital investments, and the module will also discuss the critically important role of financial markets in the transition to a climate-neutral and inclusive economy. The module will explore the requirements to mobilise financial markets to align with ESG targets, and focuses on the different financial products, tools and practices that can power the transition by supporting the reallocation of capital towards green and social alternatives, while discouraging capital flows to carbon intensive and socially suboptimal projects.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to

- Articulate the economics perspective on how ESG problems arise as a result of market failures
- Critically assess existing policy instruments that are used to address ESG problems, from both an efficiency and equity perspective, including through the use of real-world examples or case studies
- Define sustainability from an economics perspective and discuss how potential trade-offs between market and non-market outcomes can be evaluated.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role for financial markets in supporting the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy.
- Assess the importance of ESG issues and risks and integrate these factors into investment decision making.
- Explain the tools of how capital can be raised for green and sustainable projects.

SBE3118 IrelandNetZero Simulator

Module Description:

IrelandNetZero is a highly interactive digital sustainability simulator that enables participants to successfully lead environmental and sustainability efforts in organisations. Students play the role of a manager who has been tasked with reducing organisational emissions by a certain amount over a certain time period, while also managing the organisation's financial performance. Students must prioritize and select a number of initiatives from a wide-ranging and evolving list including land use, energy and water consumption, transport, purchasing, waste generation, and performance issues. The simulator provides visual feedback to learners on the organisation's emissions and their underlying drivers following each decision round. Financial performance information on investments, costs, and potential improvements in revenue is also generated. Students discover that not all green initiatives have a significant impact on emissions and/or organisational performance.

Module Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

1. Identify both the challenges and the opportunities associated with emission-reducing efforts.
2. Analyse the environmental and economic consequences of different emission-reducing decisions.
3. Design various technical solutions with stakeholder involvement to reduce organisational emissions.
4. Critically assess the true emissions impact of initiatives that appear green on the surface.
5. Formulate a strategy to successfully lead organisations to a net zero target.

MK5153 Stakeholders, Partnership Development and Collective Action

Module Description:

Every country on every continent is experiencing complex, local-to-global economic, social and environmental issues. In acknowledgement, the UN's 17 SDGs declare cross-sectoral partnerships and stakeholder engagement as key to responding to and resolving systemic development challenges. This response requires a broad spectrum of stakeholders from business, society and environment to utilise their unique resources for collective action. The aim of this module is twofold a) to embed stakeholder engagement and partnership development as central to system-transformational development and b) to demonstrate the stakeholder and partnership processes available to catalyse collective action.

Module Learning Outcomes:

1. Define and differentiate between stakeholders and partnership relationships, their role and function when addressing transformational approaches.
2. Critically assess the process of transitioning from stakeholder engagement activities to impactful partnership approaches across sectors
3. Using a real-life example, conduct a systematic stakeholder, gap analysis and partnership audit, identifying and evaluating the relevant direct and indirect stakeholder and partnership activities.
4. Appraise the impact of partnership strategies on different stakeholder groups and the implications for engaging these groups in partnership collective action.
5. Demonstrate the requirements of writing and referencing a professional stakeholder engagement and partnership strategy for a particular organisation

AY5139 Financing Net Zero Summer School

Module Description:

To enable students to be able to hold your own with Professionals working in the Sustainability sector in terms of having an understand of the Concepts, Language, Structures, Process, Risks, Challenges, Opportunities for the sector. As well as understanding the role finance has in enabling the transition to Net Zero.

Module Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the module students should have an understanding and appreciation of the following:

1. **“Definitions”** – What is Net Zero and where it fits in the Sustainability Agenda.
2. **“Public or Private”**- Role of Governments and Corporates in achieving Zero.
3. **“The role of Policy”** - Review of International policy frameworks focused on addressing Net Zero.
4. **“The many shades of Green”** - Evolution of Sustainable finance
5. **“ It’s not easy being green”** - Challenges/shortcomings facing the roll out of sustainable finance.
6. **“It’s a Zoo out there”** – An understanding of ESG, and what does the future hold.
7. **“Paradigm Shift”** - Mega Trends in the Power Sector
8. **“Financing Renewables”** - How renewable energy in the power sector is financed.
9. **“Energy Markets”** Appreciation of Energy Markets and the role of Power Purchase Agreements (PPA’s) as an accelerator for Net Zero.
10. **“Risk”** - Understand why risk mitigation is so important in the Renewables sector.

General

1. Classes will be discussion led and consist of lectures, presentations, and case studies.
2. Lectures will be supplemented by Guest Speakers who are subject matter experts.
3. A prescribed reading list will support the lecture content and class discussion.
4. The class will be subject matter led, and active student participation is expected. The intention is that learning will arise through class discussion and debate.

MK5154 Systems Thinking and Practice for Sustainable Leadership

Module Description:

The United Nations (UN) along with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the World Health Organization (WHO) all declared systems thinking as the key to deal with the fundamental interconnectedness of complex, local-to-global economic, social, health and environmental issues in 2017.

The objective of this systems thinking, and practice course is to develop your understanding of provisioning systems, their dynamics and the transitions required for a sustainable future for all. We expand and deepen your knowledge of key systems concepts and their application in an organisation and a society to contribute to the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and an organisation's strategy to an accelerated NetZero future.

An important part of this module is to integrate multiple perspectives, synthesize and apply them into a framework or model that diagnoses and designs NetZero organisational solutions.

Module Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

1. Explain systems theory and practice focusing on an organisation's sustainable role and leadership responsibilities in relation to their organisation and the UN's SDGs.
2. Critically diagnose the decisions and actions that an organisation can take in order to bring low emission/carbon positive
3. Apply systems theory and concepts e.g., systemic stakeholder analysis, systems dynamic mapping, value-based exchange and network analysis, dynamics analysis and causal loop diagrams that lie at the heart of problem-solving skills and sustainable solutions in a 'real world' managerial setting;
4. Appraise the models available for mapping and measuring the impacts of collaborative/engagement/partnership strategies in a systems setting.
5. Manage partnerships, teamwork and time schedules, working in groups, mapping software and working to specific deadlines.